



WALKER RIDGE

Project Description: Widening of a state highway through mountains to improve safety. State Route 2 in Lake County, California. The regulatory environmental was CEQA and NEPA. We performed the paleontological monitoring as a subcontractor to Pacific Legacy Inc. for Caltrans.

Services Provided:

Paleontological Monitoring, Fossil Salvage, Fossil Preparation, Fossil Identification, Fossil Analysis, Interpretive Report and Curation Arrangements.

Challenges: (1) Working on high slopes in tight quarters with heavy equipment and traffic, (2) Recovering fossils from hard bedrock and (3) Curation Arrangements with facility selected by Caltrans.



Solutions: (1) We prepared a paleo sensitivity map on project cut plans to guide when monitoring was necessary and prepared a project safety plan emphasizing the special conditions. Only experienced monitors, fully versed in the sensitivity map and safety plan, were assigned to this work.



(2) Because the fossils exposed during the project were invertebrates, sampling was implemented. Use of hand tools such as hoe picks was sufficient to recover scientifically significant samples.

(3) Caltrans specified curation at the Museum of Paleontology at the University of California at Berkeley. We worked with their staff to fulfill their requirements including locality documentation and transported the specimens to attain accession numbers.