



NEWS RELEASE

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District: District 11 – San Diego and Imperial Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Fossil Discovery at SR-11/Otay Mesa East Construction Zone

SAN DIEGO — An unusual fossil deposit containing skeletal remains of extinct mammals, including camels, oreodonts, rodents, and possibly a large carnivore, was recently unearthed at the State Route 11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project, a joint venture between Caltrans and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The fossils are estimated to be 16 to 28 million years old and provide new insights into the region's geologic history.

Found by Paleo Monitors from the San Diego Natural History Museum (The Nat) fossils appear to be from a new geologic formation that has not been mapped before in the area. The deposit also contains plant fossils, as well as volcanic bombs (masses of rock ejected by a volcano). The Nat will prepare the fossils and curate and catalogue them into the paleontology collection, holding them in perpetuity for the citizens of California.

The \$xx million SR-11/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry Project will complete a direct connection to a planned new U.S. Land Port of Entry, and create a 21st century border crossing that will enhance regional mobility, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and wait times, fuel economic growth, bolster binational trade, and strengthen border security and resiliency.

The link below features b-roll footage of paleontologist from the San Diego Natural History Museum removing the fossils from the ground, interviews with San Diego Natural History Museum's Curator of Paleontology and Director of Paleo Services Thomas Deméré, Ph.D., Caltrans' Trade Corridor Project Director Mario Orso, SANDAG's SR-11/Otay Mesa East POE Project Development Program Manager Maria Rodriguez Molina.

Google Drive Link: [SR-11 Otay Mesa Fossil Finds](#)
This link will expire at 5 p.m. Friday, July 3. *Note: video file: 20200603-sr11fossils-museuminterview is over 1GB and will not be scanned by Goolge, the file is safe.*

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BE WORK ZONE ALERT





NEWS RELEASE

Construction During COVID-19 Pandemic: Public works, construction and maintenance is deemed essential and work continues during the pandemic. Our partners, contractors and workers are following U.S. Center for Disease Control and California Department of Public Health guidelines. For more information about COVID-19 visit <http://covid19.ca.gov/>

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