

## **Revised Temporal Resolution of the Late Irvingtonian Age Fairmead Landfill Fauna, Madera County, California.**

Hugh M. Wagner<sup>1</sup> and L. H. Fisk<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Paleontology, San Diego Natural History Museum. P.O. Box 121390, San Diego, CA.

<sup>2</sup> PaleoResource Consultants, 5325 Elkhorn Boulevard, #294, Sacramento, CA 95842

The Fairmead Landfill fauna is a diverse assemblage of fossils vertebrates of late Irvingtonian age recovered from deposits of the Turlock Lake Formation. A recent examination of the stratigraphy at the landfill site with special emphasis on the bone concentration, coincident with a review of the geologic literature of the San Joaquin Valley indicates that the age resolution of this assemblage can be significantly refined providing greater utility of the collection for paleontological interpretation. The fossils occur within the upper portion of, or directly above a brown clay bed located 40 feet below the ground surface. This clay bed has been identified as the Corcoran Clay, a very distinctive greenish-gray silty clay that is found at the surface and subsurface of the San Joaquin Valley covering an estimated 4,000 square miles. The Corcoran Clay is a member of the Turlock Lake Formation and is associated with a volcanic ash equivalent to the Lava Creek B ash with a radiometric date of 600,000 Ka. Directly overlying the Corcoran Clay Member is the Friant Ash Member of the Turlock Lake Formation that contains the Friant tuff radiometrically dated of 600,000+ -0.15 Ka. The Friant ash bed has been identified in the deposits overhanging the Corcoran Clay bed at the Fairmead Landfill. The Fairmead Landfill Fauna is of late Irvingtonian age and accumulated along the eastern margin of Lake Corcoran 600,000 Ka.

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Ka = kiloannum: a unit of time equal to one thousand years [before the present].