

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



3.30

On motion of Supervisor Stone, seconded by Supervisor Benoit and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the **SABER (Safeguard Artifacts Being Excavated in Riverside County)** policy is approved with revised recommendations:

1. Enact a new policy, the "SABER Policy," that mandates a preference for any paleontological fossils (non-Native American unique archeological resources) found or unearthed in the County of Riverside to be transferred to the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet for cataloguing, study, and if appropriate, display.

2. As a part of the General Plan Update (GPA No. 960) the Multi-purpose Element policies will implement the SABER Policy by showing a preference that paleontological fossils found in the County of Riverside be directed to the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet.

3. Planning Department staff shall also include the following condition, where applicable: "The property owner and/or applicant on whose land the paleontological fossils are discovered shall provide appropriate funding for monitoring, reporting, delivery and curating the fossils at the institution where the fossils will be placed, and will provide confirmation to the County that such funding has been paid to the institution."

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a full true, and correct copy of an order made and entered on October 25, 2011 of Supervisors Minutes.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of the Board of Supervisors  
Dated: October 25, 2011  
Kecia Harper-Ihem, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, in  
and for the County of Riverside, State of California.

(seal)

By: Kecia Harper-Ihem Deputy

AGENDA NO.  
3.30

xc: Supvr. Stone, Planning

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



**FROM:** Supervisor Jeff Stone

**SUBMITTAL DATE:** October 19, 2011

**SUBJECT:** SABER (Safeguard Artifacts Being Excavated in Riverside County) Policy

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Enact a new Policy, the "SABER POLICY", that mandates any artifacts (non-native American) found or unearthed in the County of Riverside be transferred to the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet for cataloguing, study, and if appropriate, display.
2. As a part of the General Plan Update (GPA No. 960), amend the Multi-purpose Element policies to implement the SABER Policy by redirecting all paleontological artifacts found in the County of Riverside to the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet.
3. Also, direct Planning department staff to include the following condition, where applicable.  
The property owner and/or applicant on whose land the artifacts are discovered shall provide appropriate funding for curating, storing, and if appropriate, displaying of the artifacts to the institution where the artifacts will be placed. Payment shall be made directly to the institution.

**BACKGROUND:** While grading a project in the San Timoteo Canyon in the County of Riverside, the skeletal remains of what is thought to be a "Saber Toothed Tiger" was discovered. Previously through the General Plan policies, the County of Riverside directed transmittals and curating of these paleontological artifacts (non-native American) to the San Bernardino Museum located in the City of Redlands. While this was the practice for decades, the County of Riverside now accommodates a world-class museum in the Western Science Center where such fossilized biotic remains of its ancient environments could be collected and displayed. Therefore, the General Plan policies need to be revised through GPA 960 to re-direct cataloging, study and if appropriate, display of these County paleontological artifacts to facilities located within the County of Riverside, including the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeff Stone, Supervisor  
Third Supervisorial District

**Prev. Agn. ref.:**

**Dist. All**

**AGENDA NO.**

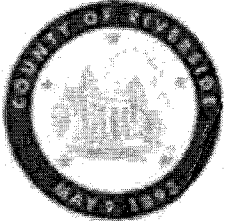
**3.30**

## Rector, Kimberly

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**From:** Harper-Ihem, Kecia  
**Sent:** Monday, October 31, 2011 8:20 AM  
**To:** Eckles, April; Rector, Kimberly  
**Subject:** FW: Saber Policy

Is that the one you were working on?



Kecia Harper-Ihem  
Clerk of the Board  
Riverside County, Ca  
ph. 951.955.1061 fax 951.955.1071  
[kharp-ihem@rcbos.org](mailto:kharp-ihem@rcbos.org)

**Embrace the process, and the end result will speak for itself. – Unknown**

**Effective August 14, 2009 the County Administrative Center will be closed every Friday until further notice.  
Business hours for the Clerk of the Board Office will be Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

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**From:** Walls, Pamela J. [<mailto:PJWalls@co.riverside.ca.us>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 30, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** Harper-Ihem, Kecia  
**Cc:** Syms Luna, Carolyn; Coyle, Frank; Lind, Katherine  
**Subject:**

Kecia:

We made some changes to the proposed SABER Policy at the Board meeting last Tuesday. Can you please have the minute order for Supervisor Stone's SABER Policy (Item No. 3.30 on the Board's October 24, 2011 Agenda) read as follows:

The Board of Supervisors:

1. Enacted a new policy, the "SABER Policy," that mandates a preference for any paleontological fossils (non-native american unique archeological resources) found or unearthed in the County of Riverside to be transferred to the Western Science Center in the City of Hemet for cataloguing, study, and if appropriate, display.

**Barton, Karen**

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**From:** joan schneider <joanschn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 8:38 AM  
**To:** COB  
**Subject:** Today's BOS meeting agenda item

To the Riverside County Board of Supervisors:  
Re: Item 3.0 on today's agenda as proposed by Supervisor Stone:

I recently read in the Press-Enterprise that the Western Science Center had dismissed its Executive Director and its Curator. If all paleontological materials and non-Native American artifacts from Riverside County are to go to the Western Science Center instead of the San Bernardino County Museum (a policy with which I agree), how will they be taken care of if there is inadequate/unqualified staff?

In addition, materials from Federal or State land in Riverside County must, by law, go to a federally approved curation facility. If the Western Science Center does not have qualified staff, it can never meet these standards.

I ask the Board to consider this before this policy resolution is passed. If County of Riverside materials are to go to the Western Science Center, then the County should consider supplementing funding staff positions at the Western Science Center so that materials sent there can be adequately cared for.

I am a resident of Riverside County, a professional archaeologist (recently retired from California State Parks), and a concerned citizen.

Thank you.  
Joan S. Schneider, PhD

## Eckles, April

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**From:** maroeder1731@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 6:43 AM  
**To:** District1  
**Subject:** All fossils recovered in Riverside Co. to go Western Science Center

Supervisor Buster

On the agenda for today is a proposal (board agenda item 3.30) requiring all fossils collected within Riverside County be deposited in the Western Science Center. Although this is a wonderful facility there are major problems.

First, to be a repository there has to be staff to receive, curate, and manage the fossil collections. Recently the Western Science Center dismissed Director Mary Henderson and Assistant Director/Curator Paisley Cato due to budget issues. Paisley was involved in curation and organization of the collections. As of now, there is no curation staff at the Western Science Center. There is a amazing fossil collection from the Diamond Valley project . So basically the museum other than the education has no curation staff.

Second, it is not wise to have only one facility to accept fossils. In the past, the San Bernardino County Museum, Riverside Municipal Museum and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County have received fossil collections from Riverside County because they have the staff and resources. We have to do what best for the fossils.

The motion calls the Western Science Center a "world class museum" which has virtually no staff or funding. Also it is not an accredited institution like the San Bernardino County Museum.

**I suggest voting no on item 3.30**

It might be better to form a committee of local paleontologists to look into the problems of the Western Science Center.

Mark Roeder  
Certified Paleontologist  
County of Orange

**Barton, Karen**

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**From:** joan schneider <joanschn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 25, 2011 8:38 AM  
**To:** COB  
**Subject:** Today's BOS meeting agenda item

To the Riverside County Board of Supervisors:  
Re: Item 3.0 on today's agenda as proposed by Supervisor Stone:

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In addition, materials from Federal or State land in Riverside County must, by law, go to a federally approved curation facility. If the Western Science Center does not have qualified staff, it can never meet these standards.

I ask the Board to consider this before this policy resolution is passed. If County of Riverside materials are to go to the Western Science Center, then the County should consider supplementing funding staff positions at the Western Science Center so that materials sent there can be adequately cared for.

I am a resident of Riverside County, a professional archaeologist (recently retired from California State Parks), and a concerned citizen.

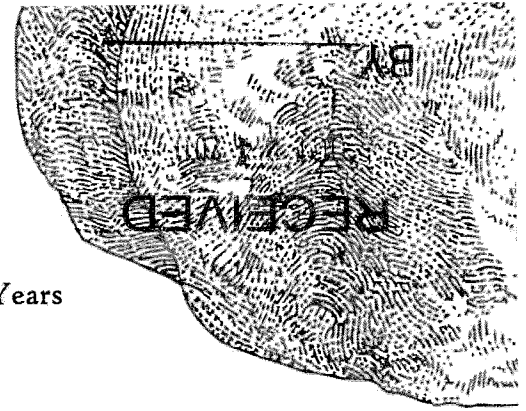
Thank you.  
Joan S. Schneider, PhD

10/25/11  
3:30

# cogstone

PALEONTOLOGY - ARCHAEOLOGY - HISTORY

Celebrating  10 Years



October 24, 2011

Dear Riverside County Board of Supervisors –

I am a mitigation paleontologist working in southern California and throughout the southwest. I am very distressed at Supervisor Stone's proposal to require that all fossils recovered from Riverside County be housed in the Western Science Center (WSC) in Hemet. Currently the WSC has virtually no staff, including no curators or collection managers, and no stable funding. Just a few weeks ago the Director Mary Henderson and Assistant Director-Curator Paisley Cato were dismissed due to lack of funding. At present the junior staff is holding things together, but this institution is in dire straits.

This situation is analogous to that in Orange County, California, where legislation enacted in the 1980s mandated that all fossils and artifacts stay within that county. Unfortunately Orange County provided no funding for permanent curatorial personnel, and consequently no long term care for the collections. Additionally the legislation did not require mitigation companies to collect data in the field, prepare and identify the materials, or provide adequate records or reports. Fossils and artifacts from Orange County have languished for decades with no staff oversight, minimal or no preparation, and usually minimal or no data. It is essentially a glorified rock collection with little or no scientific value.

Similar outcomes must be avoided in Riverside County. Lacking appropriate funding and staff to care for fossils at the WSC, no long term stability is guaranteed for these priceless resources. Without requirements for data collection, preparation, identification, or reporting for the mitigation companies collecting the fossils, the likelihood of the WSC following in the footsteps of the Orange County facility is a real possibility. The rich fossil heritage of Riverside County deserves better.

Also, without financial and staff stability at the WSC, it cannot move towards accreditation. This disqualifies the WSC from housing fossils from State and Federal lands including Bureau of Land Management land, and State and Federal parklands within Riverside County.

Another serious concern is that the proposed county mandate is not accompanied by a Board-approved fee structure for curation, which gives the WSC *carte blanche* to charge developers anything they'd like. In these lean economic times, fiscal prudence dictates that fair accounting practices be guaranteed by the County.

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Branch Offices  
West Sacramento - Morro Bay - Inland Empire

cogstone.com

Eckles, April

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**From:** STUART SUMIDA <ssumida@csusb.edu>  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 23, 2011 11:11 PM  
**To:** District1  
**Subject:** Re: the "Sabre Policy"

BY  
OCT 24 2011  
RECEIVED

Dear Supervisor Buster:

It is rare that I write to a local supervisor, but the soon to be forwarded "Sabre Policy" is a local issue that is of critical importance, and I believe you will find it to be, upon closer examination, misguided.

The "Sabre Policy" as proposed by Supervisor Stone, while at its heart may be in good spirit, has at its core a misunderstanding of scientific curation of paleontological resources. I say this as a Riverside resident, as well as a PhD in Paleontology. (I have been a professional paleontologist for 25 years.) I am currently a Professor of Biology at CSU San Bernardino, and I am also currently working with local Riverside School Teachers on a grant to improve science teaching in the Coachella Valley. So, believe me, I am loyal to Riverside. However, as a scientist I must point out the flaws of this effort.

The "Sabre Policy" will require that all non-native America artifacts be placed at the Western Science Center (which is described as a "world class museum"). Infact, *the Western Center in unaccredited, has no curatorial staff, and recently lost both its director and assistant director due to budget cuts* . Whereas the Western Center was certainly envisioned as a world class facility, it is not so at this time, and to place any specimens there would be both unscientific and verging on unethical. Any materials deposited there would be lost to science. At an unaccredited facility, they would have no potential for scientific recognition or publication. They would have little or no proper care, and would languish unattended until better economic times when any new hire would be greeted with mountains of uncataloged and confusing materials. I urge you in the strongest manner possible to continue to place Riverside County artifacts in a properly funded and *accredited* facility. The most logical facility remains the San Bernardino County Musuem. Though hit by budget cuts, they remain vital, and above all staffed and accredited. Alternatives are the Alf Museum of Paleontology (also staffed and accredited), or even Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. Furthermore, all of the above listed institutions have active research programs that would facilitate the representation and recognition of Riverside's important natural hisotry to the public in a way that is as yet not possible at the Western Center.

Sincerely,

Stuart S. Sumida  
Professor of Biology and CSU Wang Professor of Science, Mathematics and Engineering  
California State University San Bernardino  
5500 University Parkway  
San Bernardino, California 92407  
909-537-7338  
909-537-7038 (FAX)  
[ssumida@csusb.edu](mailto:ssumida@csusb.edu)



**Riverside County Board of Supervisors  
Request to Speak**

Submit request to Clerk of Board (right of podium),  
Speakers are entitled to three (3) minutes, subject  
Board Rules listed on the reverse side of this form.

**SPEAKER'S NAME:** BILL MARSHALL

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(only if follow-up mail response requested)

**City:** HEWLET **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone #:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** 10/25/11 **Agenda #** 3.30

**PLEASE STATE YOUR POSITION BELOW:**

**Position on "Regular" (non-appealed) Agenda Item:**

**Support**       **Oppose**       **Neutral**

**Note:** If you are here for an agenda item that is filed  
for "Appeal", please state separately your position on  
the appeal below:

**Support**       **Oppose**       **Neutral**

**I give my 3 minutes to:** \_\_\_\_\_