



PRESS RELEASE

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July 18, 2018

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Whale fossil discovered at Prima Deshecha landfill in San Juan Capistrano

On June 29, 2018, a Paleo Solutions' paleontologist watching construction excavations for the Prima Deshecha Landfill Project in San Juan Capistrano, California, spotted a large bone that was unearthed in the Oso Member of the Capistrano Formation.



Excavation of fossil on July 6, 2018



Plaster casting of rostrum and mandible on July 3, 2018

The area surrounding the bone was cordoned off, and additional paleontologists were mobilized to the site to assist as more bones were exposed. They are preliminarily identified as belonging to an extinct species of whale that lived during the late Miocene to early Pliocene (~7 to 4 million years ago).

To date, the paleontologists have uncovered what appears to be a partial skull including the lower jaw and snout, ribs, limb bones, portions of the backbone, and shoulder bones. The fossils are currently wrapped in a plaster and burlap jacket to stabilize the discovery during transportation from the landfill to a paleontological laboratory where they will be cleaned of surrounding sediment, stabilized, and identified.

The full scientific value of the fossil is uncertain at this early stage of the process; however, the fossil is well preserved and, in combination with fossils previously recovered from the landfill, has the potential to provide new information on the paleo-environment and biodiversity of the late Miocene and early Pliocene of southern California.

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