

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

June 3, 1957

Mr. Thomas M. Gray
84 Driscoll Road
Irvington, California

My dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you very much for sending me the copy of a letter addressed to you by Mr. Newton B. Drury, Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, of the State of California.

This letter pertains to the preservation of the Irvington fossil deposits.

I know that you realize that this is a state and local matter and one in which the federal government plays no part. However, as one interested in conservation and the history of our country and preservation of places of natural beauty, I am very much concerned with preserving this paleontological site.

I think that Mr. Drury, who at one time was head of the National Park System, will make every effort to see that they are preserved but I want to commend you and others for taking the initiative in calling his attention to this condition.

I would suggest that you also approach the Board of Supervisors and your local Assemblyman and enlist their aid in this project.

Sincerely,

Goerge P. Miller

8th District, California

*Copy to
The President of the United States of America*

L58



Rocky Way Farm
84 Driscoll Road
Irvington - California
June 7, 1957

Routing	Action	Inform.
Director		
Assoc. Dir.		
Asst. Dir. (Adm.)		
Asst. Dir. (Ops.)		
Audit		
Des. and Const.		
Interp.		
Res. Res. Etc.	✓	
MISSION 66		
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PICES		

Secretary of The Interior,
Washington, District of Columbia

INTERIOR DEPT.
RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

JUN 11 1957
INTERIOR DEPT.
SECRETARY'S
MAIL CENTER

The only thing that put this section of California on the International map was the discovery several years ago of the Irvington fossil deposits.

INTERIOR DEPT.
JUN 11 1957
ASST. SECT.

The California Highway Commission has ordered them covered with a freeway or super-highway which runs more than one mile off a direct route in order to do so.

Inasmuch as the State of California isn't interested in such a great discovery of scientific interest to all intelligent people it is my personal opinion that the federal government should do something about the matter.

The entire area should be within the National Parks System or aren't American citizens interested in the natural history of creation?

Yours very truly,

Thomas M. Gray

Copy to The President of the United States of America.



1957 JUN 12 PM 2:01

Hadley 6/19
Gadsby
Schulz 6/20

June 26, 1957

Mr. Thomas H. Gray
Rocky Bay Farm
24 Driscoll Road
Irvington, California

Dear Mr. Gray:

This is in reply to your letter to the President and to the Secretary of the Interior of June 7 concerning the Irvington fossil deposits.

We do not have sufficient information about the fossil deposits to enable us to comment on their national significance and the desirability or suitability of including them in the National Park System. In the circumstances we are sending a copy of your letter to our Regional Director, Lawrence C. Merriam, Region Four, National Park Service, 185 New Montgomery Street, San Francisco 3, California. Mr. Merriam is responsible for National Park Service activities in California and he or members of his staff may wish to look into this matter with a view to determining whether National Park Service participation is warranted or needed.

Your interest in the conservation program of the National Park Service is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Ben H. Thompson, Chief
Division of Recreation
Resource Planning

Copy to: Regional Director, Region Four (2) w/c incoming

NOTE: We have no illusions as to the merits of this proposal. Possibly the provisions of the Federal Highway Act discussed in FO-27-57 might apply.

B. H. T.

Natural History
w/c incoming
NPS Planning
w/c incoming
ICHadley:hcb (19 June 57)
Rewritten 26 June 1957

L58

RECEIVED
JUL 10 1957

Region Four
180 New Montgomery Street
San Francisco 5, California

1957 JUL 10 AM 8 52

July 8, 1957

Director
Thompson
LCN 7/15
files

Mr. Thomas M. Gray
Rocky Way Farm
84 Driscoll Road
Irvington, California

Dear Mr. Gray:

This is in reply to your letter of June 7 to the Secretary of the Interior concerning the Irvington fossil deposits. Mr. Ben H. Thompson, Chief, Division of Recreation Resource Planning of our National Park Service Washington Office, referred your letter to us.

During the spring of this year, this office was alerted to the potential damage which might be caused by the projected Irvington bypass. At that time we made inquiries into the situation and contacted the University of California Department of Geology which has been removing fossils from this locale for many years. Archeologist Paul J. F. Schumacher, of this office, visited the gravel quarry fossil site on June 23 and discussed the matter with Mr. and Mrs. Bell, present owners of the quarry.

The Federal Aid Highway Act of 1956 (Public Law 627 of the 84th Congress) Section 120, authorizes each state to spend reimbursable Federal funds for the salvage of historical, archeological, and paleontological objects which would be disturbed by the Federal highway program within the roadway prism. Through the Committee for Recovery of Archeology Remains, representatives have been designated for each major section of the United States. It is through these representatives and their local state representatives that the program of salvage will be carried out. Mr. Francis Riddell, State Archeologist for the California Division of Beaches and Parks, State Indian Museum, 2618 K Street, Sacramento 16, California, has been designated as representative in charge of highway salvage work in California. We have been in contact with him on various occasions, and it is our understanding that he has visited the Irvington fossil quarry and is extremely interested in performing any salvage work required.

The policy of the National Park Service is to preserve those features which are of outstanding value in the nation as a whole. The

WASO

Service already has several important areas under its jurisdiction which contain outstanding paleontological materials, such as Dinosaur National Monument, Utah; Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona; Death Valley National Monument, California; and Petrified Forest National Monument, Arizona. We do not feel that the Irvington quarry pits are of such a caliber as to warrant perpetual preservation by the national government. The finds from this quarry have been most interesting and have added greatly to our knowledge of the early mammalian fauna on this continent, but the salvage of whatever fossils are disturbed by the highway construction operations, we feel, will suffice as far as national interest is concerned. We suggest you make contact with Mr. Riddell or Mr. Newton B. Drury, Chief, Division of Beaches and Parks, State of California, 721 Capitol Avenue, Sacramento 14, California, if you wish further information on the work the State is doing to salvage the fossils and/or preserve the quarry site.

Sincerely yours,

Herbert Maier
Assistant Regional Director

Copy to: Director (2)
Mr. Newton B. Drury
Mr. Francis Riddell

With respect to the National Historic Sites Act of 1906 (Public Law 344 of the 59th Congress), which authorizes each state to send representatives to the National Council for the Salvage of Historical, Archaeological, and Paleontological Sites, which would be disturbed by the Federal highway program within the country. Through the Division for Recovery of Archaeological Findings, representatives have been designated for each state section of the United States. It is through these representatives and their local state representatives that the program of salvage will be carried out. Mr. Francis Riddell, State Representative for the California Division of Beaches and Parks, State Indian Bureau, 2015 F Street, Sacramento 14, California, was designated as representative in charge of historic salvage work in California. He has been in contact with the local state representatives, and it is our understanding that he has visited the Irvington quarry and is extremely interested in whatever salvage work is required.

The policy of the National Park Service is to preserve those features which are of outstanding value in the region as a whole. The

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INTERIOR DEPT.
SECRETARY'S
MAIL CENTER

JUL 15 1957

TO PARKS

Rocky Way Farm
84 Driscoll Road
Irvington, California
July 10, 1957

Thompson
Andrew

Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing copy of a letter received from the San Francisco office of the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Thank you for your prompt attention to my letter regarding the Irvington fossil deposits.

Doctor Salvage of the University of California has stated that the Irvington fossil deposits is one of the three most important paleontological discoveries in North America. Such a discovery in a few other states would have meant immediate preservation for posterity and future development regardless of the size of the site and without a request for federal aid.

In California the Department of Public Works is going to bury the area under a mass of concrete after so-called salvage operations which will be paid for by the federal government who is also paying for the concrete

In my opinion the most important work being done today is by the National Park Service under your jurisdiction. In so far as possible you leave everything just as Nature intended.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Gray