

DOCKETED

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Description:	MONTHLY COMPLIANCE REPORT (MCR No. 4) - MARCH 2026 - EVAPORATION POND LINING & BESS
Filer:	Rena Eddy
Organization:	California Energy Commission
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Appendix B4

Paleontological Resources Monthly Monitoring Summary Report (PAL-5)

April 14, 2026
Project No: 25-18267

Rena Eddy, Compliance Project Manager
California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, California, 95814
Via email: Rena.Eddy@energy.ca.gov

**Subject: Paleontological Resources Summary Report, March 2026, Midway BESS
Interconnection Project, Unincorporated Fresno County, California**

Dear Ms. Eddy:

Rincon Consultants, Inc. (Rincon) was retained by Midway BESS, LLC to provide paleontological services for the Midway BESS Interconnection Project (project) located at 43627 West Panoche Road in unincorporated Fresno County, California. The Project must comply with California Energy Commission's Conditions of Certification (CoCs) for the Project.

The following is a summary of the paleontological monitoring program during Project excavations in March 2026:

- **Worker Environmental Awareness Program.** The CEC-approved WEAP video presentation was provided to all construction personnel who begin working onsite in March 2026.
- **Monitoring.** Full-time paleontological monitoring was conducted by paleontological monitors Andrew Vasquez and Brooke Slagle-Boyd in areas where construction activity occurred in previously undisturbed sedimentary geologic units with high paleontological sensitivity. Paleontological monitoring occurred on 11 days in March 2026 (3/10–13; 3/16; 3/18–19; 3/23–26).
- **Discoveries.** No fossils were observed during monitoring.
- **Compliance.** No non-compliance activities were observed.
- **Look Ahead.** Additional excavations within previously undisturbed sediments in September 2025 will require full-time paleontological monitoring.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 805-427-9690 or amcgrath@rinconconsultants.com if you have any questions regarding this monitoring effort.

Sincerely,

Rincon Consultants, Inc.



Andrew McGrath, PhD
Midway BESS Interconnection Project
Paleontological Resource Specialist



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 9, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 10:00 Total Monitoring Hours: 4

1. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NE of the central plant.

2. Construction Activities Monitored:

No monitoring or work occurred today due to not having FR (fire retardant) clothing and the construction crew not showing up to site. Today was spent trying to find and purchase FR clothing, completing site safety training from RavenCore, and identifying work areas for the upcoming week.

3. Monitoring Actions:

NA

4. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

5. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

6. Geological Observations:

NA. Did not go inside the plant boundaries due to not having FR clothing.

7. Other Notes and Observations:

Need FR clothing



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

8. Photographs



Meeting place for safety meetings every morning.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 10, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 17:00 Total Monitoring Hours: 11

9. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant.

10. Construction Activities Monitored:

Activity today consisted of inspection of transformer yard and work area tour. A two laborer crew moved about 3inches of gravel aside for work to occur tomorrow, basically preparatory work. Two areas were prepared like this - one inside the transformer gate along the fence line and the other outside running from NE to SW. about 30ftx5ftx3in inside the gate, 40ftx6ftx3in outside the gate. Shoveling of gravel to prepare for hydrovaccing to occur.

11. Monitoring Actions:

Inspected ground/gravel for resources after shovelling.

12. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

13. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

14. Geological Observations:

Gravel.

15. Other Notes and Observations:

Hydrovaccing to occur tomorrow with more activities set to occur next week when the machinery is powered down.

Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

16. Photographs



Gravel inside the transformer gate that was moved.



Gravel running from NE to SW that was cleared for hydrovacung to occur tomorrow.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 11, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 17:00 Total Monitoring Hours: 11

17. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant.

18. Construction Activities Monitored:

Once site trainings were completed, the hydrovac truck entered the plant and set up just outside of the transformer section. Then, the crew excavated two holes (2ft depth) with the hydrovac before beginning to slowly excavate a 5ft by 6ft box at a max depth of 3ft on the west side of the transformer. Since training took most of the day, this is all activity that occurred today.

19. Monitoring Actions:

Inspected cut sections and some spoils for resources.

20. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

21. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

22. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sand and dirt.

23. Other Notes and Observations:

Since water is constantly sprayed, it is hard to determine the munsel color of the actual ground. When observing subsurface conditions, it is noted that there is evidence of high disturbance- namely from pipes and other electrical wires.

Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

24. Photographs



Holes that were excavated using the hydrovac



Box that was made, 3ft depth. Transformer is the box in the top right of the photo.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 12, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 17:30 Total Monitoring Hours: 11.5

25. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant.

26. Construction Activities Monitored:

Hydrovac resumed today operating along the NE corner of the transformer area. Trench continued, but shallower- at about 2ft to 2ft3in depth. About 15 ft were excavated today.

27. Monitoring Actions:

Inspected cut sections and some spoils for resources.

28. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

29. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

30. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sand and dirt.

31. Other Notes and Observations:

Since water is constantly sprayed, it is hard to determine the munsel color of the actual ground. When observing subsurface conditions, it is noted that there is evidence of high disturbance- namely from pipes and other electrical wires. Crew will be working tomorrow (Friday 6/13).



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

32. Photographs



Spoil dump site that was inspected. However, it's a conglomerate for all "wet spoils" from across the entire plant so it is contaminated with spoils from outside if monitoring jurisdiction.



Continuation of trench from the 3ft pit.



End of day, extent of trench



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 13, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 15:30 Total Monitoring Hours: 9.5

33. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant.

34. Construction Activities Monitored:

Hydrovac continued today operating along the Eastern side of the transformer area. Trench continued, but shallower- at about 2ft depth, 5ft across and about 20ft in length excavated today. Crew also loaded in about 2 inches of gravel into the dried sections of the trench.

35. Monitoring Actions:

Inspected cut sections and some spoils for resources

36. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

37. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

38. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sand and dirt.

39. Other Notes and Observations:

Since water is constantly sprayed, it is hard to determine the munsel color of the actual ground. When observing subsurface conditions, it is noted that there is evidence of high disturbance- namely from pipes and other electrical wires. Hydrovac is expected to resume for 2 days next week before different equipment will be used to excavate other portions.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

40. Photographs



Beginning of day, trenching continuing



End of day, extent of hydrovacuuming for the day. Crew loaded gravel into dried section of the trench.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 16, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 15:15 Total Monitoring Hours: 9.25

1. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant. Hydrovac trenching was not allowed to continue today as there was a safety issue in regards to the hydrovac truck- the safety buffer from the transformer we were originally working under was 15ft. However, the truck is actually 30ft. Instead, the crew potholed along the southwestern fence line to identify where the gas, water, and electric lines ran so that they can avoid them. They excavated 10 total potholes at depths between 4.5 and 7ft, every 10ft with a diameter of 1ft diameter. No further ground disturbance occurred today.

2. Construction Activities Monitored:

Hydrovacuming

3. Monitoring Actions:

Inspected pot holes as they were created

4. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

5. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

6. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sediment.

7. Other Notes and Observations:

Since water is constantly sprayed, it is hard to determine the munsel color of the actual ground. When observing subsurface conditions, it is noted that there is evidence of high disturbance- namely from pipes and other electrical wires.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

8. Photographs



Potholes after they were excavated and covered for safety.



Crew making the potholes at designated distances from each other



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 17, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:00 Work End Time: 10:00 Total Monitoring Hours: 4

9. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant. Due to the safety regulations in place and the plant blackout not occurring until tomorrow, ground disturbance for today did not occur. The crew staged material and equipment near the transformer GSU, therefore paleo monitoring was not required.

10. Construction Activities Monitored:

NA

11. Monitoring Actions:

NA

12. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

13. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

14. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sediment.

15. Other Notes and Observations:

Anticipating longer days for Wednesday and Thursday. There is a possibility of work continuing into Friday, but will not know until later this week.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

16. Photographs



Parking lot after the safety brief/ dismissal of paleo monitor. Did not entire project area or the plant at all today.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 18, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 05:00 Work End Time: 16:30 Total Monitoring Hours: 11

17. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant. Work occurred in the GSU transformer during the power blackout as planned. We also established the bio monitor as the designated LOTO key holder given that they are typically on site for longer periods of time. Excavation of the trench that was started with the hydrovac last week resumed at a depth of 2ft using CAT Mini excavator 2023876 and a dump truck to dispose of spoils. Additionally, CAT front loader JVu8U85 was used to lower gravel into the trench and concrete basins once the crew was ready for it. They excavated about 20ft today, tbd if they will continue excavation come Friday.

18. Construction Activities Monitored:

Trenching, 20ft length by 5ft width by 2ft depth

19. Monitoring Actions:

Observed excavation and spoils as needed

20. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

21. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

22. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sediment.

23. Other Notes and Observations:

Anticipating the same start time for tomorrow



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

24. Photographs



Beginning of day, first usage of excavator inside of the GSU



Sidewall of trench



End of day



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Andrew Vasquez Date: March 19, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 05:00 Work End Time: 11:15 Total Monitoring Hours: 5.75

25. Monitoring Locations:

43699 W Panoche Rd in Firebaugh, CA. Inside the substation, adjacent to the transformer to the NW of the central plant. Work continued in the GSU transformer during the power blackout as planned. However, the crew only excavated about 15 feet today as their main priority is to finish installation inside of the GSU transformer. After excavation was completed, we checked out with all parties and determined no further ground disturbance would occur this week.

26. Construction Activities Monitored:

Trenching, 15ft length by 5ft width by 2ft depth

27. Monitoring Actions:

Observed excavation and spoils as needed

28. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

29. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

30. Geological Observations:

Imported gravel and heavily disturbed/compacted sediment.

31. Other Notes and Observations:

No further ground disturbance for this week, excavation to resume next week along the SW fence line of the project bounds.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

32. Photographs



Spoil inspection after removal.



Conclusion of excavation for this week



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Brooke Slagle-Boyd Date: March 23, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 06:55 Work End Time: 14:25 Total Monitoring Hours: 7.5

1. Monitoring Locations:

Inside Midway Peaker Plant, along fenceline.

2. Construction Activities Monitored:

Mini CAT excavator trenching along fenceline in interior of peaker plant. Trench dimensions 5ft wide, 2ft deep, 20ft long.

3. Monitoring Actions:

Monitored spoil piles and trench walls/bottom for fossil resources.

4. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

5. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

6. Geological Observations:

Tan/brown silty sand and gravel fill. Unconsolidated.

7. Other Notes and Observations:

Bio and arch monitors present. Excavations to the south of the peaker plant not related to gen-tie Steven confirmed.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

8. Photographs



Active trenching



Depth of trench 2ft.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Brooke Slagle-Boyd Date: March 24, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 07:00 Work End Time: 16:30 Total Monitoring Hours: 9.5

9. Monitoring Locations:

Inside Midway Peaker Plant, along inner fenceline running n/s.

10. Construction Activities Monitored:

Mini CAT excavator trenching along fenceline in interior of peaker plant. Trench dimensions 5ft wide, 2ft deep, approx 55ft long.

11. Monitoring Actions:

Monitored spoil piles and trench walls/bottom for fossil resources.

12. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

13. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

14. Geological Observations:

Tan/brown silty sand and gravel fill. Unconsolidated.

15. Other Notes and Observations:

Bio and arch monitors present. Excavations to the south of the peaker plant not related to gen-tie Steven confirmed.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

16. Photographs



Gravel removal at S end of plant fenceline



Max 3ft depth at middle of fenceline



End of day trenching. Around mid point reached.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Brooke Slagle-Boyd Date: March 25, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 07:00 Work End Time: 16:30 Total Monitoring Hours: 9.5

17. Monitoring Locations:

Inside Midway Peaker Plant, along inner fenceline running n/s.

18. Construction Activities Monitored:

Mini CAT excavator trenching along fenceline in interior of peaker plant. Trench dimensions 5ft wide, 2-3ft deep, approx 65ft long.

19. Monitoring Actions:

Monitored spoil piles and trench walls/bottom for fossil resources.

20. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

21. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

22. Geological Observations:

Tan/brown silty sand and gravel fill. Unconsolidated.

23. Other Notes and Observations:

Bio and arch monitors present. Excavations to the south of the peaker plant not related to gen-tie Steven confirmed.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

24. Photographs



Start of day trenching along innerpeaker plant fence.



End of day trench (1/2)



End of day trench (2/2)



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

Monitor: Brooke Slagle-Boyd Date: March 26, 2026

Project Number: 25-18267 Project Name: Midway BESS Interconnection Project

Work Start Time: 07:00 Work End Time: 12:00 Total Monitoring Hours: 5

25. Monitoring Locations:

Inside Midway Peaker Plant, along inner fenceline running n/s.

26. Construction Activities Monitored:

Mini CAT excavator trenching along fenceline in interior of peaker plant. Trench dimensions 5ft wide, 4ft deep, approx 20ft long.

27. Monitoring Actions:

Monitored spoil piles and trench walls/bottom for fossil resources.

28. Non-Compliance Recommendation?: YES NO

29. Paleontological Resources Observed? YES NO

30. Geological Observations:

Tan/brown silty sand and gravel fill. Unconsolidated. Slightly muddy.

31. Other Notes and Observations:

Bio and arch monitors present. Excavations to the south of the peaker plant not related to gen-tie Steven confirmed. Excavation resumes Wed.



Paleontological Daily Monitoring Log

32. Photographs



End of day trench.