James P. Walker, PG
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Jim Walker has more than 20 years of paleontological and geological work experience. He is qualified as a Principal Paleontologist (Caltrans standard) and Professional Paleontologist (Society of Vertebrate Paleontology standard). Since 2009, he has worked as an independent contractor providing paleontological monitoring and salvage services for projects ranging from single-family residential and small utilities installations to major public infrastructure undertakings. Prior to that he was employed in private industry and by the U.S. Geological Survey as a geologist, paleontologist, hydrologist, and geochemist. Mr. Walker's experience includes considerable paleontological and geologic mapping work in Contra Costa County and the surrounding vicinity. He is a recognized expert on the Miocene stratigraphy of Contra Costa County. He has extensive experience writing, reviewing, and implementing paleontological mitigation programs under CEQA and NEPA, including project management, pre-construction surveys, fossil recovery and preparation, reporting, staff training, and public relations (TV and print press). He also has substantial experience developing and managing spatial databases for scientific projects. Mr. Walker has strong working relationships with staff at several area museums, including the University of California Museum of Paleontology in Berkeley, and is an adjunct professor in Geology at Diablo Valley College.

Credentials

California Professional Geologist License No. 8432
San Jose State University: MS Geology, 2004
California State University, Hayward: BS Geology, 1996

Experience

Project Paleontologist, Paleontological Monitoring and Salvage (2009 – present)

- Caltrans – Caldecott Tunnel Fourth Bore Project, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
    - Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties
    - New Irvington Tunnel Project, Alameda County,
    - Bay Division Pipeline 3 and 4 Seismic Upgrade, Alameda County
    - San Antonio Creek Project, Santa Clara County
    - Goldfish Pond Project, Santa Clara County
    - Crystal Springs/San Andreas Transmission Project, San Mateo County
    - Bay Division Pipeline 3 and 4 Seismic Upgrade, San Mateo County
    - San Joaquin Cross-Over Project, Stanislaus County
- Webcore/Obayashi Joint Venture – Transbay Transit Center, San Francisco County
- Contra Costa Water District – Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project, Contra Costa County
- Lafferty Communities – Faria Preserve Project, Contra Costa County
- Ponderosa Homes II – Podva Property Project, Danville, Contra Costa County
- URS – Redtail Ranch Project, San Ramon, Contra Costa County
- KB Homes – Elworthy Ranch Development, Contra Costa County
- Alta Bates Summit Medical Center – Summit Campus Seismic Upgrade and Master Plan Project, Alameda County

- Basin Research Associates – Facebook Main Campus Project, Menlo Park, San Mateo County
- Basin Research Associates – Stanford Redwood City Campus Project, San Mateo County
- City of San Carlos/IEC – Industrial Road Parallel Sanitary Sewer Project, San Mateo County
- City of Menlo Park, Commonwealth Corporate Center, Menlo Park, San Mateo County
- Samsung – New Samsung Corporate Headquarters, Santa Clara County
- County of Yolo – Yolo County Landfill Expansion Project, Yolo County
- Marin Municipal Water District – Biodiversity, Fire, and Fuels Integrated Plan (BFFIP) Project, Marin County
- PG&E – Project DFM 1818-01, Wilder Ranch State Park, Santa Cruz County
- Scotts Valley LLC – Woodside Development, Santa Cruz County

Geologist/GIS Specialist, Kleinfelder (2006 – 2011)

Managed efforts of geologists and GIS specialists at various locations to create a geologic map covering over 260 square miles of the San Joaquin Valley at 1:24,000 scale; analyzed and QA/QC'd data from geologic, soil, and historic performance data bases for 650 lineal miles of Delta levees; developed landslide susceptibility model using a slope model developed from Lidar data sets and a purpose-built rock strengths database.

Geochemist, Asbestos TEM Lab (2005 – 2006)

Managed a gas chromatography lab.

Geologist, Geologic Division, Earth Surfaces Processes Team, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park (1997 – 2004)

Tephrochronology Lab: analyzed volcanic glass and other samples in support of global weather change, paleoclimate, geohazards reduction, and other USGS programs.

FOQUS-LA: participated in subsurface investigations for the FOQUS-LA project, a multidisciplinary USGS effort coordinating numerous USGS projects in the Los Angeles region, including groundwater resource management, behavior and remediation of natural and industrial contaminants underground, earthquake potential of buried and exposed faults, and distribution of earthquake effects, such as surface faulting, ground failure, and amplified ground motions.

Hydrologist, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, Menlo Park (1996 – 1997)

National Oil and Gas Assessment Program: Conducted research on deep basin brines associated with oil fields and created a data base of produced water chemistry.

Research Technician/Lab Manager, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey (1994-1996)

National Water-Quality Assessment Program (NAQWA): managed day-to-day operation of clean lab and mass spectrometry facilities on project addressing origin and distribution of radiogenic stable metal and semi-metal isotopes in waters and rocks from a variety of geologic/hydrologic settings.