

Progress Report

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In Pursuit of an Early to Mid-Holocene Paleoearthquake Record for the Whittier Fault

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Research Category: Integration and Theory

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The intent of this research was to determine a Holocene paleoearthquake chronology for the Whittier fault using backhoe trenches to expose the fault in a sediment rich environment. Prior to proposal submission, we identified a very promising site to conduct the trenching in Brea, and obtained permission from the property agent to undertake the research. Unfortunately, due to the delay between proposal and funding (and satisfactory weather), the property went into escrow. The property agent gave our contact information and request to the potential new owner, and it was our hope that we would be allowed access to the property as a technical due diligence study. After waiting two months, we were instructed by the property agent that the property had been sold, and she was not at liberty to give us the new owners name.

We proceeded to research a new investigation site, and successfully located a second site within Blue Mud Canyon in Yorba Linda. After discussing and receiving permission from the oil company leasing the property, we were stunned to find this property also in escrow, and permission for our "fault study" was suspended by the owner. In this case we were able to locate the potential buyer, and approached them about permission from them to excavate the fault as part of their due diligence review of the property. Permission was granted, pending permission of their biological consultant that our study would not disrupt any sensitive biological habitat. Unfortunately, that consultant was not under contract yet.

As of the time of this progress report, we are on hold for both sites. Permission to excavate the Brea site is being pursued from the new owner. Authorization to trench the Yorba Linda site is pending, and has been promised "any day" for the past three weeks. We will take whichever site is available first. We will dig at the earliest possible opportunity where we see a two-week favorable weather forecast.

Gath has expended no funds on this project to date.