

## Storage solutions Preserving Ancient History

### The Challenge:

One of Riverside County's premiere museums and educational institutions, the Western Science Center, required a well-organized system to store the massive amount of ancient artifacts and fossils in their possession. The Western Science Center resides on an archaeological dig site and was built to house and display the Diamond Valley Lake Collection found just behind their facility. The Center is not only a museum, but also serves as a charter school for elementary grade students and includes a prep room to receive incoming artifacts and a huge repository. Containing over 1 million fossils and artifacts, the Western Science Center required a system that would provide efficient, archeological-quality storage. Being that it stores all cultural resource material found in Riverside County and with the possibility of numerous building projects and excavations on the horizon, it became imperative that the Center needed enough space to hold incoming collections.

The Western Science Center's involvement in LEED initiatives proved to be a challenge. Due to the numerous efforts made to reduce the environmental impact of their facility (solar panels, water efficient appliances, recycled and renewable building materials, to name a few) the Western Science Center was the first LEED Platinum certified museum in the country. To provide cooling for the building (while contributing to LEED points), the Center had installed a series of water pipes just below the surface of the floor, making the install much more precarious. Meticulous plans needed to be made due to the fact that any false drilling could rupture piping and lead to flooding.



### The Solution:

McMurray Stern's "Design-Build" capabilities allowed them to knowledgeably evaluate the complexities of the project and propose a superior design. First, McMurray Stern had to work around and contribute to the Center's LEED initiatives. In doing this, McMurray Stern installed compactor lights that were motion activated to reduce unnecessary use and provided a detailed installation (a rail system flushed with existing water systems) that worked around the complex flooring. To help with this complex flooring challenge, McMurray Stern brought on an expert team of sub-contractors. "The installation of water pipes just below the surface of the floor posed a challenge to us, but we had the means to bring in a power team and execute a solution" said Dave Cagle, Senior Design Consultant at McMurray Stern. "We had to be extremely careful not to puncture any holes in the pipes when adding the recessed railing beneath the floor and in the end, were successful in building a system that stands the test of time."



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In addition to the rail system installation, a Powered High Density Mobile Storage system was used to store the current artifact collection and provided space for future growth as well. With its flexible, menu-based configurability, the High Density system builds a powered storage system with only what is needed at that time, which helped the Western Science Center organize the millions of fossils and artifacts in their possession. Western Pacific Clip Shelving, Delta Design Museum Storage Cabinets and heavy duty pallet racks were also added to complete the renovation project.

## Storage Solved:

Ultimately, McMurray Stern took over a 6300 square foot repository, turning it into a customized high density storage solution that will sustain for generations to come. The project was designed in phases; phase one included the installation of all system rails and phase two included the installation of carriages and shelving. Designed with growth in mind, the new system could house the Western Science Center's current collection, allowing for growth and the opportunity



for other organizations to store their collection within the system as well.

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The project took four months to be completed, a quick turnaround that was tailored to the Western Science Center's requirements. "After years of use we have had very few issues arise, and what did come up was swiftly remedied by McMurray Stern's helpful technicians," said Abigt. "We are more than happy with our compactors and repository and would highly recommend McMurray Stern!"

To learn more about McMurray Stern's design build solutions, please visit [www.McMurrayStern.com](http://www.McMurrayStern.com) or call 800.342.8994



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