

## Preserving Ancient History and the Environment at the Western Science Center

Spacesaver® High-Density Mobile Storage Solutions Contribute to The First LEED® Platinum Certified Museum in California



### THE CHALLENGE:

One of California's premiere museums and educational institutions, the Western Science Center, required a well-organized storage system to store their massive collection of ancient artifacts and fossils. The Center sits on an archaeological dig site in Riverside County, and was built to house and display the Diamond Valley Lake Collection. The Center is not only a museum, but also serves as a charter school for elementary grade students and includes both a prep room to receive incoming artifacts and a repository to store them.

In addition to the Center's role as a community resource, it is also a key environmental resource for the state of California. The 17-acre campus is part of the Water + Life Museum project, designed by Lehrer and Gangi Design Build of Los Angeles, and has won numerous awards for excellence in design since its construction, including achieving the first LEED Platinum Certification for a museum in the state of California.

The Western Science Center required a system that would provide efficient, archeological-quality storage for over 1 million fossils and artifacts, provide enough space to hold incoming collections and cultural resource material found in Riverside County, and meet the sustainable design and operational goals of the project.

### THE SOLUTION:

McMurray Stern, the Authorized Spacesaver Representative in Riverside County, California, worked diligently to evaluate the complexities of the project and propose a superior storage system design that would help the Center meet their sustainable design and LEED Certification goals.

Spacesaver's Eclipse Powered Mobile Systems, outfitted with metal shelving, Delta Design Museum Storage Cabinets and heavy-duty pallet racks, were used to store the current artifact collection. The flexibility of the powered system helped the Western Science Center organize the millions of fossils and artifacts in their possession. Motion-activated lighting was used



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within the mobile system to help conserve energy and reduce operational costs when the system was not in use.

To provide sustainable cooling for the building, the Center installed a series of water pipes just below the surface of the floor, making the install of a high-density mobile storage solution much more precarious. Meticulous plans needed to be made because any false drilling could rupture piping and lead to flooding. To help with this complex flooring challenge, McMurray Stern brought on an expert team of subcontractors.

"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."

#### STORAGE SOLVED:

Ultimately, McMurray Stern installed Spacesaver storage systems in a 6,300 square foot repository, turning it into a

customized area that provides room for growth while still meeting the sustainable design goals of the project.

"We are constantly complimented by visiting professionals on the wonderful condition of our state-of-the-art facility," said Darla Abigt, Curator at the Western Science Center. "McMurray Stern provided us with a beautiful, efficient and accessible organization system that has made our facility a standout in Southern California museums."

The project took four months to complete, 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!"

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Darla Abigt, Curator, Western

To learn more about how a Spacesaver Storage Specialist can help you overcome your storage challenges, please visit [www.spacesaver.com](http://www.spacesaver.com) or call **1-800-492-3434**.



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