



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Matt Petty, CDM Smith*

*Date: December 7, 2015*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 7, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Matt Petty, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy to mostly sunny, with temperatures ranging from 58°F in the morning to a high of 76°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with laying rock at the base of the gabion peninsula, stockpiling and spreading basin soils, potting pickleweed plants, demolishing and cleaning portions of the stormwater inlet, and placement of fill at the stormwater inlet access ramp. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is closed and several crew members wait inside cars in Parking Lot No. 8. The biological monitor opens the construction trailer gate and the crew move personal vehicles into the staging area.

6:15 am. The initial biological survey begins. There is shallow ponding in the West Basin near the tide gates, on the east side of the NW peninsula, at the stormwater inlet, and in portions of the East Basin and southeast channel. There is less water and fewer saturated soils than in mid-November.

Very little wildlife is observed until it begins getting light at around 6:30 am. Two western gulls and one double-crested cormorant fly over the Basin.

6:30 am. The initial biological survey continues. One Say's phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet and one savannah sparrow is observed foraging on the northeast peninsula. Two house finches are observed in the northeast corner of the site, and one European starling perches on a temporary power pole above the east bank. One yellow-rumped warbler, one Anna's hummingbird, and two dark-eyed juncos are observed along the bike path. Two dark-eyed juncos, one Anna's hummingbird, and three yellow-rumped warblers are observed in trees near the pump house. One black phoebe and one American crow are observed perched along the southeast channel. A second black phoebe and a yellow-rumped warbler forage in vegetation along the south shoreline. Western gulls are observed occasionally, and two California gulls fly over the Basin.

6:55 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and keeping the site clean. Workers were reminded to clean up trash in the work area prior to the end of the work day. All 28 crewmembers present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, western gulls, American crows, and rock pigeons would occasionally fly over the staging area. Two European starlings fly east along Washington Boulevard.

7:15 am. Work begins and two large excavators begin delivering rock from the stockpile in the northwest corner to the base of the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. This rock will enable concrete crews to access the gabion peninsula for future scaffolding prior to concrete application. One black phoebe flies across the Central Basin, and gull (90% western; 10% California) flyovers increase in frequency.

7:30 am. Work begins at the northeast corner plaza and stormwater inlet. A crew also begins digging up and potting pickleweed along the south shoreline. One Allen's hummingbird is observed hovering over the north fence. One black phoebe perches on silt fence along the east bank, and one double-crested cormorant flies over the staging area. Six rock pigeons fly along Admiralty Way.

7:50 am. The sandbag dam is removed from the stormwater inlet and flow increases into the Basin. Crews begin removing the old debris grates and chain-link fence from the stormwater inlet. One black phoebe flies around the northwest peninsula, and three American crows perch on a power pole in the northeast corner of the site. One mallard flies over the staging area and lands to the northwest of the site. One black phoebe and two savannah sparrows forage in brush on the northeast peninsula.

8:10 am. One large excavator moves from the West Basin to the stormwater inlet to assist work occurring there. Two house finches and two yellow-rumped warblers are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard. Three American crows probe along the west bank. One snowy egret lands in the southeast channel and begins foraging near the pump house. Gull flyovers are still observed regularly, but are decreasing in frequency.

8:25 am. Mechanical grading and smoothing of the northern mudflats begins in the Central Basin.

Potting of pickleweed along the south shoreline ends. The snowy egret in the southeast channel leaves the site to the southeast. One mosquitofish is observed swimming down the stormwater inlet. It reaches a deeper pool at the end of the inlet before the biological monitor can capture and relocate it.

8:45 am. The large excavator working at the stormwater inlet returns to the West Basin to resume laying rock at the base of the gabion peninsula. One house sparrow flies over the West Basin, and one mourning dove perches on a power line to the north of the site. One Cassin's kingbird flies west over the north fence. The occasional western gull flyover is observed, and seven American crows fly around the staging area. Four California gulls fly west along Admiralty Way.

9:10 am. Excavators stop work in the West Basin. Two house finches forage in potted pickleweed on the west bank. American crow activity remains high; nine individuals are observed perched or foraging in the Basin.

9:35 am. One of the large excavator operators leaves for the day. Two house sparrows fly along the north fence. The occasional western gull or rock pigeon flyover is observed. American crows begin leaving the site in groups of 2-3.

10:00 am. A crew hand-carries Rain-for-Rent pump pipes to the staging area. Crews also clean out the stormwater inlet with hand shovels; one black phoebe perches nearby. Wildlife activity has slowed dramatically. A second black phoebe is observed at the northwest peninsula, and three rock pigeons fly over the Central Basin.

10:20 am. Soil is delivered to the northeast plaza from the staging area stockpile. Significant floating algae is observed in stagnant pools in the East Basin and near the stormwater inlet. Three house finches fly over the northeast corner of the site.

10:45 am. Crews clean up construction debris on the northwest peninsula. A large excavator grades and stockpiles soils south of the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. Three yellow-rumped warblers and one house finch are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard. One Anna's hummingbird hovers over the south fence in the southwest corner of the site, and one black phoebe perches on the south bank.

11:05 am. A second large excavator joins the first grading and stockpiling soils near the tide gates. One yellow-rumped warbler lands on the gabion peninsula in the Central Basin and is promptly chased off by a black phoebe. The warbler lands and begins foraging on the south bank. One monarch is observed flying along the south fence.

11:20 am. Mechanized grading and smoothing of the north mudflats in the Central Basin resumes, and a crew waters the potted plants on the west bank. Two black phoebes are observed on the northwest peninsula, and two American crows fly around the staging area. One monarch butterfly is observed flying along the east bank, and one western gull perches on a light pole along Admiralty Way.

11:30 pm. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:15 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. One excavator is used to grade and stockpile soils near the tide gates, while the other is used to pull out the stuck bulldozer in the Central Basin. The largest crew works at the stormwater inlet and northeast corner. One black phoebe is observed on the northeast peninsula, and one snowy egret circles the West Basin before leaving to the southwest.

12:40 pm. The bulldozer is freed and the second large excavator returns to grading/stockpiling soils in the West Basin. A sandbag dam is placed across the stormwater inlet; it now includes an overflow outlet pipe and reduces flows. One monarch flies across the Central Basin. One Cassin's kingbird is observed atop a power pole in the northeast corner, and one black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet.

1:00 pm. One savannah sparrow forages in vegetation along the south bank, and one Anna's hummingbird perches in the pine trees near the tide gates. Two western gull flyovers are also observed. Very few butterflies have been observed today, with only 2-3 each of cabbage white, sulphur, and monarch species.

1:25 pm. One Allen's hummingbird flies over the West Basin, and two house sparrows perch atop the construction trailer. Western gull flyovers are being observed more frequently.

1:50 pm. A water truck arrives and wets down the fill/sediment stockpiles. One black phoebe lands on the berm in the West Basin before heading to the west bank. A flock of 13 rock pigeons fly over the staging area and land on the Killer Shrimp restaurant's roof.

2:10 pm. Three house finches fly over the Central Basin. One brown pelican soars out over the West Basin before heading towards the marina.

2:30 pm. One large excavator moves from the south side of the gabion peninsula to the north side to get re-fueled. One black phoebe is observed on the northeast peninsula, and two house finches and one yellow-rumped warbler are observed in the palms along Washington Boulevard. Two western gulls and one American crow fly over the Basin.

2:50 pm. Crews cover the fine sediment stockpiles with tarps for dust control. One snowy egret lands at the stormwater inlet, roughly 100 feet away from the active work area. The egret stays for approximately five minutes before flying off-site to the southwest. One savannah sparrow and one black phoebe are observed in foliage on the northeast peninsula.

3:15 pm. Two of three large excavators stop work for the day, with the remaining large excavator continuing to spread and stockpile soils near the tide gates. One crew transports potted pickleweed to the west bank, while another places tarps over fine sediment stockpiles for dust control. Workers comment on the sulfuric odor coming from the wet basin soils, particularly when working near the excavators. Very little wildlife activity is observed other than the occasional western gull, American crow, and rock pigeon flyover and 5-6 black phoebes flying from perch-to-perch.

3:30 pm. All work stops for the day, and crews prepare to leave the site.

3:45 pm. All crew members and the biological monitor leave the site.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today. However, a brown pelican, which is a rare visitor to the site, was observed.

Three monarch butterflies were observed flying around the project site. Winds were calm for most of the day; however, butterflies were not observed often. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Three monarch butterflies were observed today, fewer than the number often observed in recent weeks. Insects were not as common, with only 2-3 monarchs, sulphurs, and cabbage white butterflies observed. Butterflies are attracted to the moist soils and flowering plants.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, Say's phoebe, and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 7, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 7, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Brown Pelican	<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	1 individual observed flying over the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2-3 individuals resting/foraging in the Basin and flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1-2 individuals observed flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1 individual observed at the stormwater inlet
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Several individuals; common in palms along Washington Boulevard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	One individual observed sitting on power line north of site
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	1-2 individuals perched on power lines or flying above the north bank
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2-3 individuals near residences around periphery of Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	4-5 individuals observed throughout the Basin
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	4-5 individuals observed in foliage near the northeast peninsula or on the south bank
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2-4 individuals observed along the bike path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	3-4 individuals observed in and around trees and perched on fences throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1-2 individuals hovering over the north fence and flying overhead



## Memorandum

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*Date: December 8, 2015*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 8, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Matt Petty, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. Weather conditions were clear and mostly sunny, with temperatures ranging from 57°F in the morning to a high of 77°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with applying concrete to west end of the gabion peninsula, stockpiling and spreading Basin soils, potting pickleweed plants, minor excavation at the boat ramp, and hauling contaminated soils off-site. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is closed and several crew members wait inside cars in Parking Lot No. 8. The biological monitor opens the construction trailer gate and the crew move personal vehicles into the staging area.

6:25 am. The initial biological survey begins. In the low light, very little wildlife activity is observed other than frequent gull flyovers by western (12), Heermann's (2) and California (2) gulls. The large pump has been effective at reducing the ponding at the tide gates; however, significant ponding remains in the East Basin. The stormwater inlet no long contains flowing water. Eight American crows fly west over Washington Boulevard, and one yellow-rumped warbler flies along

the north fence. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and two rock pigeons fly along Admiralty Way. Two yellow-rumped warblers, two Townsend's warblers, one house wren, and one Anna's hummingbird are observed along the bike path. One black phoebe and two dark-eyed juncos are observed along the southeast channel, and one yellow-rumped warbler and two house sparrows are observed along the south bank. No monarchs are observed roosting in eucalyptus trees near the pump house, but they often are not active until later in the morning after the sun warms them up. Gull and crow activity increase dramatically after sunrise around 6:45 am. One Anna's hummingbird hovers above the south fence.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and keeping the site clean. Workers were reminded to clean up trash in the work area prior to the end of the work day. All 22 crewmembers present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, western gulls, American crows, and rock pigeons would frequently fly over the staging area. Two mallards and two ring-billed gulls are also observed flying over the staging area.

7:10 am. Work begins and two large excavators begin stockpiling and spreading soils at the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. A crew unloads lumber and other scaffolding materials from a truck at the tide gates. A flock of 28 American crows circle to the northwest of the site, and two mourning doves fly over the West Basin.

7:30 am. Crews begin setting up the scaffolding along the gabion peninsula at the tide gates. Two white-crowned sparrows are observed in vegetation along the west bank. Two house finches, one yellow-rumped warbler, and two European starlings are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard.

7:45 am. Trucks line up along Washington Boulevard to haul soils off-site. A large front loader moves from the staging area to the east bank to load soils into the waiting trucks. One black phoebe is observed in the East Basin, and fairly intense western gull, American crow, and rock pigeon activity is observed, particularly to the west of the site.

8:05 am. A water truck arrives on the east bank and wets down the stockpiles and the bank itself. Loading of Basin soils into large trucks using the large front loader begins on the east bank. Two black phoebes and one savannah sparrow are observed in vegetation nearby. One Allen's hummingbird flies over the Central Basin, and one song sparrow perches and sings from a residential yard on the other side of the bike path. One great egret flies northwest to southeast over the Basin.

8:20 am. Two mallards fly south to north over the West Basin, and two mourning doves are observed perching on power lines over the north bank. Five house finches fly around the palms along Washington Boulevard, and two Anna's hummingbirds chase one another around the northeast corner pine trees.

8:40 am. A flock of 11 bushtits fly over the East Basin and begin foraging in foliage along the bike path. A crew digs up and pots pickleweed plants along the south shoreline. One least sandpiper

forages in the shallows of the East Basin. Four mourning doves are observed on the northeast peninsula, and one yellow-rumped warbler sits in a pine tree on the south bank.

9:00 am. Crews prepare the gabion peninsula near the tide gates for concrete application. Two American wigeon fly over the staging area and land to the northwest of the site. Western gull and American crow flyovers are still frequently observed.

9:20 am. The last truck hauling Basin soils leaves the site through the northeast gate. A water truck wets down the east bank, and work largely stops on that side of the Basin. One snowy egret flies west to east low over the Basin, and one Anna's hummingbird flies over the Central Basin.

9:45 am. The third large excavator begins spreading soils on the north side of the gabion peninsula in the Central Basin. A crew begins surveying the Central Basin to ensure the correct elevation is restored. Two savannah sparrows are observed on the northwest peninsula. Gull activity has decreased significantly, but American crow and rock pigeons are still observed frequently; three crows are present in the staging area and six rock pigeons fly over the West Basin.

10:05 am. The scaffolding along the gabion peninsula is completed, and the concrete pump is moved into position at the tide gates. Two house finches are observed along the north fence, and two dark-eyed juncos are observed along the east bank.

10:30 am. One excavator continues to work in the Central Basin while the other two stop to get re-fueled. Wildlife activity has decreased significantly compared to earlier in the morning; very few flyovers are being observed. Eight rock pigeons fly around the high rises across Admiralty Way, and one black phoebe is observed on the northeast peninsula.

10:50 am. All three excavators resume spreading soils in the Central Basin, and a small bulldozer is used to grade the north mudflats. Two house sparrows are observed along the south bank, and another four house sparrows are observed along the north fence.

11:10 am. Grading of the north mudflats with the small bulldozer stops. A small backhoe is used for minor excavation at the boat ramp. One yellow-rumped warbler, one Anna's hummingbird, and two monarch butterflies are observed along the bike path near the pump house. A second yellow-rumped warbler and one black phoebe are observed in the southeast channel. The occasional rock pigeon flyover is observed, and one western gull circles the staging area.

11:30 pm. All crews, except for the cement crew, and the biological monitor break for lunch. The cement crew took lunch earlier and is now preparing to apply cement to the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. One least sandpiper forages in the East Basin, as two black phoebes perch on wooden stakes nearby. No wildlife is observed in the vicinity of the cement application work.

12:20 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. The concrete crew is approximately  $\frac{1}{4}$  done with applying concrete to the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. Three excavators are used to spread soils in the Central Basin, and one crew resumes potting pickleweed plants near the southeast channel. One yellow-rumped warbler is perched on the

staging area perimeter fence, and two rock pigeon fly over the West Basin.

12:45 pm. A second cement truck arrives at Parking Lot No. 8, and the first cement truck heads to the staging area to be cleaned. The small bulldozer is used to grade the north mudflats. One monarch is observed in the Central Basin. The biological monitor alerts the nearest excavator operator who acknowledges he sees the monarch and temporarily stops work to let the monarch fly by. Two house finches fly over the West Basin, and the occasional western gull flies over the site.

1:05 pm. Minor excavation with the small backhoe at the boat ramp resumes. Two least sandpipers forage in the East Basin, and two black phoebes perch in the southeast channel. Two American crows perch atop power poles above the north bank, and one yellow-rumped warbler is observed in foliage along the east shoreline. A group of 10 rock pigeons fly over the West Basin.

1:25 pm. The last of four trucks arrive at the northeast gate to haul off Basin soils. A front loader begins to load the truck from the east bank stockpile. The small bulldozer is used to grade the north bank. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and one monarch is observed flying west down Washington Boulevard. One Cooper's hawk is observed being harassed by two American crows above the East Basin.

1:50 pm. The truck hauling off Basin soils leaves the site through the northeast gate. One large excavator stops work temporarily. The concrete crew are roughly  $\frac{1}{2}$  done with applying concrete to the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. Two Heermann's gulls fly over the Basin, and one northern mockingbird is observed in a palm along Washington Boulevard. Western gull and American crow activity increases and flyovers are becoming more common.

2:10 pm. Another cement truck arrives at Parking Lot No. 8. The previous cement truck heads to the staging area for a wash. All three excavators are spreading soils to grade in the Central Basin. One monarch butterfly is observed flying along the west bank. Two rock pigeons, one western gull, and two American crows perch in and around Parking Lot No. 8.

2:30 pm. Four California gulls fly over the Central Basin, and one Anna's hummingbird is observed hovering over the southeast channel. In a stagnant puddle near the northwest peninsula, a large number of flies are hatching and move about the water surface. No large mosquito hatches have been observed.

2:45 pm. Minor excavation at the boat ramp stops for the day; as does the potting of pickleweed plants near the southeast channel. One yellow-rumped warbler and one savannah sparrow drink from a pool near the stormwater inlet.

3:05 pm. Two of the large excavators stop work for the day. Two black phoebes chase each other around the north mudflats and north bank. Western gulls fly over the Basin with increasing frequency. Two California gulls fly east along Washington Boulevard. Rock pigeon activity is also observed frequently, particularly to the west and south of the site.

3:20 pm. All work, except for the concrete work, stops for the day. The concrete crew continues to finish up applying concrete to the gabion peninsula near the tide gates. All other crews prepare to leave the site.

3:40 pm. The concrete crew completes its work and begins to clean up and prepare to leave. All other crew members have left for the day. One snowy egret circles the West Basin.

4:15 pm. The concrete crew and the biological monitor leave the site. Large numbers of gulls – mostly California gulls – in flocks of 6-23 individuals fly east-to-west over the Basin towards the coast.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Five monarch butterflies were observed flying around the project site. Winds were calm for most of the day; however, butterflies were not observed often. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Five monarch butterflies were observed today, fewer than the number often observed in recent weeks. Insects were not as common, with less than 10 total monarchs, sulphurs, and cabbage white butterflies observed. Butterflies are attracted to the moist soils and flowering plants.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. A number of flies were seen hatching and emerging from a stagnant pool near the northwest peninsula. While no large mosquito hatching events have been observed, the presence of emerging flies suggests mosquitoes could also be breeding onsite.
6. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, white-crowned sparrow, and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be

observed at the site more frequently moving forward.

7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 8, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 8, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 individual observed flying over the East Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2-4 individuals foraging in the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Heermann's Gull	<i>Larus heermanni</i>	2-4 individuals observed flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1-2 individuals observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2-4 individuals observed flying overhead
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in a palm along Washington Boulevard
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendii</i>	2 individuals observed along the bike path
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Several individuals; common in palms along Washington Boulevard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4-8 individuals observed flying overhead or perched on power lines
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	11 individuals observed over the East Basin and along the bike path
House Wren	<i>Troglodytes aedon</i>	1 individual observed along the bike path
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	2 individuals observed in palms along Washington Boulevard
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	6-8 individuals observed throughout the Basin
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	2-4 individuals observed in foliage near the northern peninsulas or on the south bank

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Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1 individual observed in a residential yard along the bike path
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	2 individuals observed along the west bank
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2-4 individuals observed along the east bank
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	5-7 individuals observed in and around trees and perched on fences throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead

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## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

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Matt Petty, CDM Smith*

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## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 9, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Matt Petty, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were partly cloudy, with dense fog in the late afternoon. Temperatures ranged from 54°F in the morning to 72°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with stockpiling and spreading Basin soils, grading the northern banks, potting pickleweed plants, minor excavation at the boat ramp, grading and scaffolding at the east fence, and disposing of construction debris. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members wait inside cars in the staging area.

6:25 am. The initial biological survey begins. One double-crested cormorant flies west-to-east over the Basin, and two mallards fly over the staging area. One Cooper's hawk flies north-to-south over the Central Basin, and one house finch is perched on the north fence. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and two yellow-rumped warblers perch in palms along Washington Boulevard. Two yellow-rumped warblers, two bushtits, and four house finches are observed along the bike path. One dark-eyed junco, two yellow-rumped warblers, and one black phoebe are

observed near the pump house. One great egret circles the Basin before leaving the site to the south. Two Anna's hummingbirds and two house sparrows are observed near the southeast gate in Yvonne Burke Park. In addition to the frequent western gull flyovers, two ring-billed gulls are observed flying overhead. Two yellow-rumped warblers and one black phoebe are observed along the south shoreline, and one Allen's hummingbird is observed in a pine tree near the tide gates. One snowy egret circles the West Basin before leaving the site to the northwest. Seven American crows fly east-to-west over the Basin. Standing water has nearly disappeared in the West Basin; however, ponding is extensive in the East Basin and southeast channel.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and keeping the site clean. **The instance yesterday where the excavator operator temporarily stopped to avoid a monarch flying nearby was used as a good example of wildlife protection.** Workers were reminded to clean up trash in the work area prior to the end of the work day. All 25 crew members present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, one snowy egret and two rock pigeons fly over the staging area.

7:15 am. Work begins and three large excavators begin spreading soils to desired elevations in the Central Basin. One crew begins potting pickleweed in the southeast channel, while another begins minor excavation and gravel spreading at the boat ramp. Five American crows perch on temporary power poles above the west bank, and two bufflehead ducks fly west over Washington Boulevard. Elevated gull and crow activity is observed; all gulls are western gulls except for four California gulls seen flying overhead. Two western gulls perch atop light poles in the staging area.

7:30 am. One black phoebe is observed in the northeast corner of the site, and one least sandpiper forages in the East Basin. One savannah sparrow is observed on the northeast peninsula, and two yellow-rumped warblers are observed on the east bank.

7:50 am. The small bulldozer is used to grade the north bank. Two European starlings and two house finches are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard. Two mallards fly south-to-north over the staging area and land in canals to the northwest of the site. Western gull and American crow activity remains high and >10 individuals of each species perch and fly about the Basin.

8:05 am. Gravel spreading with a small backhoe begins at the northeast peninsula viewing area. Grading the north bank with the small bulldozer stops. One song sparrow is observed in residential yards across the bike path, and one Anna's hummingbird hovers above the northeast corner pine trees.

8:20 am. A crew wets down the east bank from a water truck. Western gull and American crow activity is decreasing, and rock pigeon activity is picking up. A flock of 21 rock pigeons fly around high-rise buildings to the south of the site, and a peregrine falcon flies low northeast-to-southeast over the Basin and flushes 16 rock pigeons on the Killer Shrimp restaurant roof. One double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin, and two mallards fly over the staging area and land to the northwest of the site.

8:40 am. Crews begin clearing and grading along the base of the east fence. One Anna's hummingbird, and two dark-eyed juncos are observed along the bike path. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed along the east bank. A flock of 43 American crows circle above the pump house with many landing in trees nearby. The crows stay for roughly 10 minutes before leaving the area in groups of 3-4 individuals.

9:00 am. A truck delivers large boards to the east fence, where they are placed along the bottom of the fence to form a mold for the new curb/path. One mourning dove flies over the East Basin, and two savannah sparrows are observed on the northeast peninsula. One yellow-rumped warbler and one black phoebe are observed at the stormwater inlet, and two white-crowned sparrows are observed in the southwest corner near the tide gates.

9:15 am. Two peregrine falcons circle low over the East Basin before leaving the site to the southeast. One northern mockingbird and four house finches are observed along the north fence. Three European starlings fly east along Washington Boulevard. The occasional western gull, American crow, and rock pigeon flyover is also observed.

9:40 am. Minor gravel placement using a small backhoe continues at the boat ramp, and potting up pickleweed plants continues in the southeast channel. One black phoebe and one yellow-rumped warbler are observed along the southeast channel. Three Anna's hummingbirds and one Allen's hummingbird are observed in the trees near the pump house. No monarchs are observed in or around eucalyptus trees near the pump house, but one is observed in a tree along the bike path farther north.

10:00 am. One large excavator temporarily stops work to re-fuel, and stockpiles on the east bank are shored up using a Bobcat. One yellow-rumped warbler is chased out of a palm along Washington Boulevard by two house finches. Two Cassin's kingbirds fly over the east Basin before landing in a palm at Mildred and Washington. One Allen's hummingbird flies over the stormwater inlet.

10:25 am. The small bulldozer resumes grading in the Central Basin. Observed wildlife activity is decreasing, with the occasional western gull, American crow, and rock pigeon flyover being observed. Two yellow-rumped warblers and two black phoebes forage in the East Basin, and one Cassin's kingbird flies along the north fence.

10:45 am. Two crews survey the Central Basin to ensure excavator crews are restoring to specified grades. Two mourning doves perch on power lines above the north bank, and a monarch butterfly flies along the northeast peninsula. One northern mockingbird perches on a temporary power pole in the northeast corner of the site, and a second monarch is observed flying along the south shoreline.

11:05 am. The LA County Project Manager leads a group on a tour around the Basin. One double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin, and one Anna's hummingbird and one black phoebe are present in the southeast channel. Three monarchs are observed in and around the pump house trees.

11:20 pm. A crew collects construction debris and stockpiles it on the northeast peninsula. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and three American crows fly above the staging area. Two house sparrows are observed along the north fence, and three mourning doves perch on power lines above the northwest corner of the site. One rock pigeon flies over the Central Basin.

11:30 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. Three excavators return to spreading soils around the Central Basin. Minor gravel spreading at the boat ramp takes place, as does grading and scaffolding along the east fence. One monarch butterfly is observed along the east bank. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and two yellow-rumped warblers are observed along the south bank.

12:50 pm. A crew begins potting up pickleweed plants around the northeast peninsula. Four American crows fly over the East Basin, and one savannah sparrow is observed in the northeast corner of the site. Three western gulls fly over the staging area, and three house finches are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard. Three western gulls, four European starlings, and two mourning doves fly over the staging area and West Basin.

1:15 pm. Grading with the small bulldozer resumes at the northeast peninsula. Two least sandpipers are observed foraging in the East Basin. One Anna's hummingbird and five bushtits are observed in foliage along the bike path. One monarch butterfly is observed flying along the southeast channel.

1:35 pm. Crews adjust the pump at the end of the stormwater inlet and water in surrounding pools begins to decrease. One excavator operator stops work to wet down the recently-graded northeast peninsula. Despite a thorough search, no monarchs are observed in or around the trees along the bike path and near the pump house. One house sparrow was observed at the pump house, and one ring-billed gull is observed flying overhead.

2:00 pm. Winds begin picking up; they are the strongest of the week thus far. Very little wildlife activity is observed. One American crow probes the east bank, and one black phoebe perches on a stake in the East Basin. A flock of 23 rock pigeons circles the staging area before leaving the site to the southwest.

2:20 pm. A thick fog rolls in from the coast, making it difficult to see the far Basin bank. The biological monitor stays near the heavy machinery, as they pose the greatest risk to wildlife. One yellow-rumped warbler forages in potted pickleweed plants on the west bank, and one black phoebe perches on silt fence along the south shoreline.

2:50 pm. Crews finish potting up pickleweed plants for the day. One yellow-rumped warbler forages in the wet mud near the stormwater inlet, as a black phoebe watches from a nearby perch. Western and California gull flyovers are increasing in frequency.

3:10 pm. The fog continues to thicken resulting in significantly reduced visibility. Four house finches are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard, and one Anna's hummingbird hovers over the northeast corner of the site. One mourning dove flies along the north fence, and two black phoebes perch on wooden stakes in the Central Basin.

3:25 pm. All work stops for the day, and crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site.

3:40 pm. The majority of the construction crew hold a meeting with the regional superintendent in the staging area. A great egret lands in the East Basin.

4:00 pm. The concrete crew and the biological monitor leave the site.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Seven monarch butterflies were observed flying around the project site. Monarchs were most active during warm, sunny periods in the late morning and early afternoon. Once the thick fog rolled in, no monarchs were observed. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Seven monarch butterflies were observed today. Insects more common today than the previous two days, with dragonflies and monarch, sulphur, and cabbage white butterflies observed regularly. Butterflies are attracted to the moist soils and flowering plants.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, white-crowned sparrow, and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.

6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 9, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 9, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 individual observed flying over the Central Basin
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	2-3 individuals observed flying overhead
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	2-3 individuals foraging in the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	2-3 individuals observed flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1-2 individuals observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1-2 individuals observed in the East Basin and flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2-6 individuals observed flying overhead
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1-2 individuals observed along the north fence
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	2-3 individuals observed in the East Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Several individuals; common in palms along Washington Boulevard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	7-9 individuals observed flying overhead or perched on power lines
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	5-7 individuals observed over the East Basin and along the bike path
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	7-9 individuals observed along Washington Boulevard

House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	3-5 individuals observed throughout the Basin
Savannah Sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>	2-4 individuals observed in the northeast corner of the site
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1 individual observed in a residential yard along the bike path
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	2 individuals observed in the southwest corner of the site
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2-3 individuals observed along the bike path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	6-10 individuals observed in and around trees and perched on fences throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1-3 individuals observed in trees or flying overhead

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## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Matt Petty, CDM Smith*

*Date: December 10, 2015*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 10, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Matt Petty, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 6:00 p.m. Weather conditions were partly to mostly cloudy with dense fog in the morning. Temperatures ranged from 54°F in the morning to 63°F in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with stockpiling and spreading Basin soils, installing filter fabric atop the gabion peninsula, placing fill at the base of the new concrete wall on the north bank, grading the northern banks, scaffolding and concrete placement for the new curb/path along the east fence, sidewalk repair, minor excavation at the boat ramp, and disposing of construction debris. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members wait inside cars in the staging area. According to nearby weather stations, no rain was recorded overnight; however, the pavement is wet.

6:25 am. The initial biological survey begins. Marina del Rey is under a Dense Fog Advisory, which is resulting in reduced visibility. Soils along the Basin banks are moist, but not saturated, and water levels in the Basin do not appear elevated. Two western gulls are observed flying over the staging

area. Wildlife activity generally increases dramatically as the sun rises, but the fog may cause some birds to remain bedded down. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed along the north fence, and one black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet. Despite the weather, western and California gull flyovers are a frequent occurrence. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed on the east bank. Four bushtits, two dark-eyed juncos, one Anna's hummingbird, and two yellow-rumped warblers are observed in trees along the bike path. One Townsend's warbler and one yellow-rumped warbler are observed in trees near the pump house. One dark-eyed junco and one Anna's hummingbird fly over the southeast channel, and one great egret flies over the West Basin. One black phoebe and two house finches are observed along the south bank, and two American crows perch in the pine trees near the tide gates.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and keeping the site clean. Reduced visibility due to the fog was also discussed, and crews were asked to be extra vigilant. Workers were reminded to clean up trash in the work area prior to the end of the work day. All 20 crew members present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, six western gulls fly over the staging area.

7:25 am. Work begins and one large excavator begins spreading soils to desired elevations in the Central Basin. The other two large excavators are cleaned and re-fueled in the northwest corner. A crew begins installing filter fabric atop the gabion peninsula. Two white-crowned sparrows are observed in potted pickleweed on the west bank below four American crows perched atop temporary power poles.

7:45 am. Crews spread fill over portions of the irrigation line along the north bank. One double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin. Western gulls are frequently observed flying over the site.

8:00 am. The small bulldozer is used to grade banks near the northeast peninsula. Work resumes installing curb/path scaffolding at the base of the east fence. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, and one Say's phoebe is observed on the east bank. Two house finches, two American crows, and one yellow-rumped warbler perch in palms along Washington Boulevard.

8:20 am. The grading around the northeast peninsula stops. A small backhoe is used to shape banks in the northwest corner of the site, under the watch of two mourning doves that perch on powerlines above. Three mallards fly over the Central Basin and land in canals to the northwest of the site. A flock of 31 rock pigeons circle buildings to the southwest of the site.

8:35 am. Only one large excavator continues to spread soils in the Central Basin, as crews survey to confirm the elevations are correct. One yellow-rumped warbler and one black phoebe are observed along the southeast channel. One house finch flies over the East Basin, and one Allen's hummingbird is observed in the northeast corner of the site near the bike path. Four American crows fly over the Central Basin, and one black phoebe is observed in the northeast corner of the site.

8:55 am. On the east bank, a small backhoe loads a container truck with construction debris to be hauled off-site. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed along the north bank, and one Anna's hummingbird hovers above Washington Boulevard. Four ring-billed gulls fly over the site, and western gulls continue to fly over frequently. The sun is beginning to peek through the clouds and fog.

9:15 am. A crew works on the pump at the stormwater inlet; the pools there are shrinking rapidly. One double-crested cormorant flies north-to-south over the staging area, and one northern mockingbird perches atop a light pole along the north fence. Two house finches and one Anna's hummingbird are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard, and five California gulls fly west-to-east over the Basin.

9:40 am. A small front loader places fill along the base of the new cement wall on the north bank. The truck filled with construction debris leaves the site. A group of 13 American crows flies over the staging area. Two house sparrows are observed flying along the north fence.

10:00 am. The second large excavator continues to haul excess soils from the West Basin to the Central Basin. Crews finish the curb/path scaffold along the east fence and continue along the north fence near the stormwater inlet. One Cassin's kingbird perches on a power pole above the northeast peninsula, and two yellow-rumped warblers are observed in palms along Washington Boulevard.

10:20 am. One large excavator begins spreading soils around the stormwater inlet. One northern mockingbird and three American crows land in palm trees along Washington Boulevard. One black phoebe chases a yellow-rumped warbler around the East Basin, while an American pipit hops among the large mud piles and forages along shallow pools nearby.

10:45 am. The large excavator hauling soils from the West Basin stops to re-fuel. The fog has lifted and conditions are now partly cloudy. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet. High levels of American crow and rock pigeon activity are observed, but gull activity has decreased compared to earlier in the morning. Butterfly activity is increasing due to weather improvements. Several yellow sulphur and cabbage white butterflies are observed, but no monarchs.

11:10 am. A large excavator delivers PVC pipe extensions for the stormwater outfall near the northwest peninsula. A survey crew arrives and sets up their laser on the west bank. Two black phoebes are observed near the northwest peninsula, and two house finches are observed along the west fence. One yellow-rumped warbler perches on a wooden stake in the Central Basin.

11:20 pm. One monarch lands near the scaffold crew at the north fence in the northeast corner of the site. The biological monitor alerts the crew to its presence, and work is temporarily stopped until the monarch flies up over Washington Boulevard. One great blue heron circles the East Basin before leaving the site to the southeast. Two black phoebes chase each other and then a yellow-rumped warbler around the southeast channel. A large flock of 22 American crows fly above the east fence.

11:30 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:15 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. One large excavator resumes spreading soils around the stormwater inlet, and a small front loader delivers fill to the base of the concrete wall along the north bank. A crew resumes installing filter fabric atop the gabion peninsula. One house sparrow is observed in the northeast corner of the site. American crow and western gull flyovers are frequently observed, particularly over the West Basin.

12:35 pm. Crews resume installing curb scaffolding along the north fence, and a small bulldozer is used to grade soils near the stormwater inlet. Winds begin to pick up in intensity. A flock of 16 American crows fly over the Central Basin. One Say's phoebe flies from perch-to-perch along the south bank.

1:00 pm. The second large excavator resumes delivering excess soils from the West Basin to the East Basin. The container truck returns to the east bank to pick up construction debris and haul it off-site. One black phoebe and one yellow-rumped warbler are observed along the southeast channel. A very large flock of approximately 80 American crows circles above buildings to the northwest of the site.

1:20 pm. A crew begins minor excavation and gravel placement with a small backhoe at the boat ramp. The pump and pump hose in the stormwater inlet area is removed to allow the excavator to place soils to the correct grade. Three American crows probe the east bank, and one yellow-rumped warbler perches on the stormwater inlet. One Anna's hummingbird flies over the East Basin.

1:40 pm. One monarch butterfly is observed flying around the pump house, and fresh raccoon tracks are recorded in the mud near the pump house outlet. Two yellow-rumped warblers and one black phoebe are observed on the east bank. Western gull flyovers are increasing in frequency.

2:00 pm. A concrete truck arrives at the southwest gate in Parking Lot No. 8. Grading with the small bulldozer resumes around the stormwater inlet. A large cloud bank rolls in from the coast and bring with it strong winds up to 20 mph. A flock of 11 ring-billed gulls soar high above the East Basin. Four house finches are observed in the northeast corner pine trees.

2:15 pm. Concrete is placed at the pedestrian crossing of Admiralty Way adjacent to the southwest corner of the site to fix a previously-damaged sidewalk. Other than occasional rock pigeon and western gull flyovers, no wildlife is observed in the vicinity.

2:35 pm. Grading activities around the stormwater inlet stop. The concrete truck heads to the east bank to pour the curb for the new path. One large excavator moves into the West Basin to spread soils. One Allen's hummingbird hovers above the construction trailer. One house finch flies across the Central Basin and lands in a palm along Washington Boulevard.

3:00 pm. Grading with the small bulldozer begins in the north-central and northwest mudflats. Hauling fill to the base of the new concrete wall along the north bank stops for the day. One

mourning dove perches on temporary powerlines above the east bank, and one black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet. One monarch is observed getting blown about the East Basin by strong winds, as six American crows fly overhead.

3:25 pm. Except for the concrete work along the east fence, all work stops for the day and crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site. One killdeer lands in the East Basin and probes the shallow waters there. One Say's phoebe circles the East Basin and lands on the south bank. Two black phoebes and one yellow-rumped warbler are observed on the northeast peninsula. One great blue heron flies north-to-south over the West Basin.

3:45 pm. The only work on site is the concrete placement along the east fence. One Anna's hummingbird is observed flying along the bike path, and one black phoebe perches on silt fence along the east bank. Frequent western gull flyovers are also observed.

4:15 pm. The concrete pour ends and the concrete truck heads to the staging area for wash out. The concrete crew continues to treat the concrete. California, western and ring-billed gulls head west towards the coast in large numbers.

4:45 pm. Night falls and biological monitoring ends. The concrete crew are still treating and curing the concrete by the headlights of the Bobcat.

6:00 pm. The concrete crew, construction superintendent, and the biological monitor leave the site.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Three monarch butterflies were observed flying around the project site. The thick fog in the morning and high winds in the afternoon likely contributed to the small number of monarchs seen today. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife

activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. Three monarch butterflies were observed today. The poor weather conditions likely contributed to the small number of monarchs observed.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, white-crowned sparrow, and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 10, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 10, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1-2 individuals observed flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3 individuals observed flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1-2 individuals observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1-2 individuals observed along the north fence
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the East Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1-3 individuals observed on the south and east banks

Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	1 individual perched on a power pole above the northeast peninsula
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Several individuals; common in palms along Washington Boulevard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2-3 individuals observed flying overhead or perched on power lines
Bushtit	<i>Psaltiriparus minimus</i>	4 individuals observed along the bike path
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2-3 individuals observed throughout the Basin
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	2 individuals observed on the west bank
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2-3 individuals observed along the bike path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	4-6 individuals observed in and around trees and perched on fences throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1-2 individuals observed in trees or flying overhead



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith  
Matt Petty, CDM Smith*

*Date: December 11, 2015*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 11, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Matt Petty, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were partly to mostly cloudy with high winds. Temperatures ranged from 53°F in the morning to 64°F in the afternoon. Overnight, rain was recorded but was not measurable (i.e. 0.00 in). According to NOAA, 0.01 in of rain was measured during the day; however, no rain was observed except for some intermittent rain drops between 12:30 and 1:30 pm.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with spreading and grading Basin soils, placing fill at the base of the new concrete wall on the north bank, grading the northern banks, concrete treatment for the new curb/path along the east fence, minor excavation at the boat ramp, minor vegetation removal, and disposing of construction debris. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

## Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members wait inside cars in the staging area. According to nearby weather stations, rain was recorded overnight but not in measurable amounts (i.e. 0.00 in). Bank soils are dry and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:25 am. The initial biological survey begins. One great blue heron perches on a railing atop a high-

rise building along Admiralty Way. At 6:40 am, it flies south-to-north over the Central Basin and leaves the site. Western gulls are observed frequently flying over the site, and three California gulls fly west-to-east overhead. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet, while a second black phoebe and a yellow-rumped warbler are observed in the East Basin. A trickle is coming from the stormwater inlet into the Basin. Two yellow-rumped warblers and one Anna's hummingbird are observed in the northeast corner pine trees. Two song sparrows, two house finches, and one Allen's hummingbird are observed along the bike path. One fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger*) runs along the top of the east fence before climbing a tree along the bike path. Two dark-eyed juncos, three yellow-rumped warblers, and two Anna's hummingbirds are observed in trees near the pump house. One black phoebe and one Say's phoebe are observed perched on stakes in the southeast channel. Two American crows and six rock pigeons fly along Admiralty Way. A group of eight western gulls circle above Parking Lot No. 8.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and keeping the site clean. Workers were reminded to clean up trash in the work area prior to the end of the work day. All 23 crew members present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, one double-crested cormorant flies over the staging area, and two Brandt's cormorants fly over the West Basin.

7:15 am. Work begins and crews pot up the last pickleweed and remove other bank vegetation by hand. The concrete crew works on the new curb along the east fence. One black phoebe and two house sparrows are observed on the west bank. Two house finches fly along the north fence, and 14 western gulls circle the West Basin and staging area before landing on the Hilton Garden Inn.

7:30 am. One large excavator hauls excess soils from the West Basin to the Central Basin. A large front loader fills low spots on the east side of the northwest peninsula. One black phoebe is observed in the Central Basin, and one yellow-rumped warbler is observed on the northwest peninsula. Two European starlings fly over the West Basin.

7:50 am. The small front loader delivers fill from the staging area to the base of the new concrete wall on the north bank. The large front loader now brings excess soils from the West Basin to the Central Basin to be spread by a large excavator. Four ring-billed gulls fly east along Washington Boulevard. One Anna's hummingbird is observed at the stormwater inlet. Two mourning doves and three European starlings fly over the East Basin.

8:10 am. The second large excavator begins stockpiling excess soils in the West Basin. Winds pick up as groups of rain clouds blow by the site. Five mourning doves fly over the Central Basin, and one black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet. Four mallards fly south-to-north over the West Bank, and two American crows perch atop temporary power poles in the northeast corner of the site.

8:30 am. The two large excavators spread and stockpile soils in the West Basin. Large rain clouds are passing just to the south of the site. Western gull activity remains high, but the strong winds are keeping many other birds grounded. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed in potted pickleweed in the northwest corner, and one Say's phoebe perches on temporary power lines above the west

bank.

8:50 am. The small bulldozer is used to grade the west bank. A crew begins to clean the southwest gate area. Two mourning doves perch on powerlines above the northwest corner of the site. Two black phoebes are observed at the northwest peninsula.

9:10 am. Work begins on the stormwater pipe extension near the northwest peninsula. Minor excavation at the boat ramp ends. Winds are becoming stronger and more consistent. A Cooper's hawk chases an unidentified songbird along the bike path. One house finch is observed in a palm along Washington Boulevard.

9:30 am. One double-crested cormorant circles the staging area before landing off-site to the northwest. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed in vegetation around the stormwater inlet. Three American crows and the occasional western gull fly over the West Basin.

9:55 am. Crews survey the West Basin to check the elevations of recently spread soils. The NOAA weather forecast calls for 60% rain and up to 0.60 in on Sunday – the Biological Monitor discusses rain preparations with the Construction Superintendent. A flock of 29 rock pigeons circles the staging area before landing on the Killer Shrimp restaurant. Three California gulls fly overhead, and one black phoebe flies around the northwest peninsula.

10:15 am. Dead palm fronds from trees along Washington Boulevard are becoming a hazard as they fall on-site and in the road. Clouds are clearing, but the strong winds remain. Two house finches fly over the West Basin, and one mourning dove perches atop a power pole at the northeast peninsula. Two American pipits fly over the Central Basin towards the marina.

10:35 am. Due to the high winds, there are minor dust control issues, particularly along the east bank. The hauling of fill to the base of the new cement wall on the north bank stops. Wildlife activity is very low, with only western gulls and American crows being observed, albeit infrequently.

11:00 am. One large excavator moves to the Central Basin to spread soils, leaving one large excavator in the West Basin. The hauling of excess soils from the West Basin with the large front loader stops. The stormwater pipe extension near the northwest peninsula is set in place. One black phoebe shelters on the backside of the northwest peninsula. One California gull flies over the site, and two American crows fly along the east fence.

11:20 pm. The water truck wets down the east bank. The cement crew stops work at the east fence and begins cleaning up the site. Two western gulls and four rock pigeons fly over the West Basin. Two house sparrows are observed in bushes in the staging area.

11:35 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:15 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. Two large excavators and the small bulldozer are used to spread and grade soils in the West Basin. The

concrete crew prepares to leave the site for the day. One group picks up trash and removes vegetation from the south bank. Four western gulls ride the winds high above the Basin, and two rock pigeons fly over the Central Basin. It is now raining to the north of the site; however, no water is entering the Basin.

12:35 pm. The water truck is used to wet down the southwest corner of the site. Extremely strong winds batter the site, and a few raindrops are felt. The rain is inconsistent and is not measurable. Three mourning doves perch on power poles in the northwest corner of the site. Three American crows fly over the Central Basin. A double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin and lands in the marina.

1:00 pm. The water truck is used to wet down the northwest corner and the north bank. The small bulldozer is moved to the Central Basin to grade soils. Two mourning doves fly along Washington Boulevard, and seven rock pigeons fly over the staging area. One Say's phoebe flies across the East Basin and shelters in the stormwater inlet.

1:20 pm. One yellow-rumped warbler flies around the northwest peninsula and into a palm along Washington Boulevard. One double-crested cormorant flies over the Central Basin and lands in the marina. Two California gulls and two American crows are blown east across the Basin by strong winds.

1:40 pm. Grading with the small bulldozer stops. Minor excavation begins along the south fence using a small backhoe. Winds are still strong, but are dying down some. One yellow-rumped warbler shelters in a small bush in the northwest corner of the site. One black phoebe perches on the west bank. A Cassin's kingbird lands in a bush near the phoebe, causing the phoebe to dive at the kingbird and flush it to the southwest corner of the site.

1:55 pm. The small front loader carries fill from the staging area to the base of the concrete wall on the north bank. The fill is placed around the irrigation piping. The two large excavators move from the West Basin to the Central Basin to spread soils. One Say's phoebe flies along the south bank, and one peregrine falcon flies east over Admiralty Way. One black phoebe is observed at the stormwater inlet.

2:15 pm. A small backhoe is used to load construction debris into a large dumpster on the east bank. Vector Control, which has been treating the stormwater inlet and other pools in the East Basin and southeast channel, leaves the site through the northeast gate. One black phoebe is observed along the east bank, and western gulls are observed frequently flying over the site.

2:40 pm. The large excavators stop work for the day, and the small bulldozer is used to grade the West Basin. The water truck wets down the east bank. Frequent western gull and rock pigeon flyovers are observed. Two ring-billed gulls fly over the Basin from east-to-west. One Anna's hummingbird flies along the east fence.

3:00 pm. The small bulldozer moves into the Central Basin and begins grading soils there. Two black phoebes are observed in the East Basin, and two house finches are observed flying along the

north fence. One yellow-rumped warbler is observed in foliage along the southeast channel.

3:10 pm. All work stops for the day and crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site.

3:30 pm. The construction crew working in the Basin leave the site. The crew working on the stormwater drainage on Mildred Ave arrive at the staging area.

4:00 pm. All construction crew members and the biological monitor leave the site.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed flying around the project site. The extremely high winds all day likely contributed to the absence of monarch observations. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. No monarch butterflies were observed today. Overall, no butterflies of any species were observed. The poor weather conditions, particularly the very high winds, likely contributed to the absence of butterfly observations.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. Winter species have arrived including the yellow-rumped warbler, Say's phoebe, and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to

the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.

7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 11, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 11, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	1 individual observed flying along Admiralty Way
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 individual observed hunting songbirds along the bike path
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	4-6 individuals observed flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed atop a high-rise building and flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals observed flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1-4 individuals observed flying overhead
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
American Pipit	<i>Anthus rubescens</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	1-4 individuals observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	1 individual observed in a bush on the west bank
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Several individuals; common in palms along Washington Boulevard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	10-15 individuals observed flying overhead or perched on power lines
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	2 individuals observed along the bike path
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	2-4 individuals observed near the west bank
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	3-5 individuals observed flying overhead

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Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2 individuals observed along the bike path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	3-5 individuals observed in and around trees and perched on fences throughout the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual observed in trees along the bike path

DRAFT



## Memorandum

*To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works*

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith*

*Date: December 12, 2015*

*Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project*

### Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 12, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith biological monitor, beginning at 7:30 am and ending at 3:25 p.m. Weather conditions were clear with very strong winds. Temperatures ranged from 53°F in the morning to 68°F in the afternoon. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biological monitor observed activities associated with spreading and grading basin soils, placing fill at the base of the new concrete wall on the north bank, grading the northern banks, relocation of rock material from West Basin to eastern staging area adjacent to access road, and preparation of berm for planting. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent.

The following sections provide the biological monitor's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

### Biologist's Field Log

7:30 am. Biological monitor begins initial survey. A few crew are cleaning equipment. Strong winds keep birds away from the project site. Three California gulls fly over the Central Basin. One crow flies over the southeast channel between trees and bike path, later perching on telephone wire.

8:00 am. Biological monitor conducts bio-awareness training to crew of 11. Emphasis is placed on avoiding monarchs and other wildlife. All crew sign the sign-in sheet.

8:30 am. Four gulls (Western and California gulls) circle Parking Lot No. 7 before heading northwest, away from the project site. A number of gulls soar above the Killer Shrimp restaurant heading north past Parking Lot No. 7. A California gull flies over the Hilton Garden Inn. A large excavator preps rock slope for transport while crew waters soils in the area to minimize dust. A California gull soars over Central Basin flying south toward the Marina. Another gull flies east over the Basin. A small excavator is stuck in the mud.

8:50 am. Two black phoebes land on orange fencing near pine to the south of the Central Basin along Admiralty Way. One black phoebe flies toward the berm. No work is occurring nearby. Songbirds are heard but not seen in southeast channel across the bike path.

9:00 am. Two Western gulls fly over the Basin.

9:30 am. One Say's phoebe lands on a straw waddle east of tide gate on slope adjacent to Parking Lot No. 7. Strong winds persist. Excavators at West Basin have stopped as crew discusses next steps. A bulldozer continues as crew works at northeast peninsula. No wildlife is observed. One unidentified bird is flushed as biological monitor walks across Central Basin toward northeast peninsula.

10:00 am. A Say's phoebe flies into storm channel adjacent to the northeast peninsula. A dump truck empties rock into a stockpile on access road adjacent to southeast channel.

10:13 am. The first monarch butterfly is observed in first eucalyptus tree off bike path darting around periphery of tree across to southeast channel by trash rack. Strong winds pick up again. No work is occurring in southeast channel today. The monarch is blown lower by winds and flies along southeast channel. A California gull flies over Yvonne Burke Park and bike path.

10:30 am. The crew hand shovels and smooths surface along perimeter wall adjacent to northeast peninsula followed by small roller while dozer shovels and moves material into stockpile along northeast peninsula. Another crew member continues to prep berm with geotextile fabric. A dump truck is observed on access road returning to Washington Boulevard. No monarchs are observed. No wildlife is observed in the Basin.

10:38 am. One Say's phoebe flies into the stormwater channel adjacent to the northeast peninsula. One Say's phoebe feeds in water outside channel then flies across berm to the south.

11:00 am. A dump truck unloads another load of dirt to stockpile area off access along southeast channel. A Black phoebe flies in and out of the East Basin. Crews continue smoothing surface along perimeter wall adjacent to Washington Boulevard. A dozer continues moving dirt back and forth from west to east to stabilize perimeter wall. A large dozer moves from the West to East Basins. No wildlife is observed. Winds pick up. Crew continues prepping the berm.

11:30 am. No wildlife is observed. Crew continue operations. Small dozer is leveling material in stockpiles on access road adjacent to the southeast channel. Most all rock has been removed from West Basin.

12:00 pm. Crew continue same operations. Strong prevailing winds persist. No wildlife is observed.

12:15 pm. Crew and biological monitor break for lunch.

1:00 pm. Work resumes. Four rock pigeons forage in Parking Lot No. 7. Winds have died down. Clear skies. No signs of wildlife in Basin.

1:27 pm. A Say's phoebe is observed again at stormwater outlet appearing to drink water or pick off insects--unaffected by excavator leveling soil in Central Basin.

1:39 pm. A large yellow sulphur butterfly observed flying and landing in vegetation just east of stormwater channel. A Say's phoebe returns to same location on exposed pile overlooking channel and remaining open water

2:00 pm. Four killdeer forage in shallow pools in the West Basin. No work is occurring in the West Basin.

2:30 pm. Six to eight gulls fly over Parking Lot No. 7 and Hilton Garden Inn before flying off to the north. A watering truck circles Parking Lot No. 7 spraying surfaces. Excavation along parapet wall adjacent to tide gate continues. No wildlife is observed in the Basin. Small dozer is leveling the Basin topography adjacent to northwest peninsula. Crews water West Basin and remove debris. Crew take survey measurements in Central Basin. Gulls and crows fly overhead across Parking Lot No. 7. Automated roller continues along perimeter wall adjacent to Washington Boulevard, heading towards Parking Lot No. 7.

3:00 pm. Crew shut down equipment.

3:24 pm. All crew and biological monitor leave the site after locking the gate.

## **Additional Observations**

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today. No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed flying around a eucalyptus tree adjacent to the southeast channel. The extremely high winds all day likely contributed to the low wildlife observations. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

## **Conclusions**

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. One monarch butterfly was observed today. Very high winds likely contributed to the low number of butterfly observations.
4. Some green and brown algae were observed in the East Basin, particularly in stagnant pools.
5. Winter species have arrived including the Say's phoebe and California gull. As winter approaches, it is expected that migrants and winter species will be observed at the site more frequently moving forward.
6. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where birds have likely temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
7. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; very little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

**Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 12, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 12, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals observed flying overhead; not as common as western gulls
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	4 observed foraging in Parking Lot No. 7
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	4 observed in ponds within Central Basin
Say's Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>	Several individuals observed flying in to stormwater channel to feed
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin



Photo 1: Say's phoebe perched on pipe, frequented stormwater channel



Photo 2: Killdeer foraging in ponds in Central Basin



Photo 3: Crew operating roller stabilizing soil along perimeter wall.



Photo 4: Excavators working in West and Central Basins



Photo 5: Watering truck spraying down surface in Parking Lot No. 7



Photo 6: Stockpiles along access road adjacent to East Basin and bike path.