



Memorandum

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

From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith

Date: June 29, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on June 29, 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 Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:05 am and ending at 4:25 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain predicted for June 29, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny and pretty breezy with high temperatures in the high 70s and low 80s (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the removal of old chain-link fence posts along the bike path, cutting and removal of bike path pavement, and installation of temporary power equipment at the west end of the site. A contractor crew of two worked on cutting a portion of the bike path pavement, three workers peeled up and loaded bike path pavement into a dump trucks, and a crew of two workers from Power Plus installed temporary power equipment. 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

7:05 am. The biologist arrives at Oxford Basin (site) and prepares and organizes field equipment for the initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. Low water and high algae content is observed throughout the basin. Area birds include house finch, house sparrow, European starling, mourning dove, Eurasian collared-dove, rock pigeon, dark-eyed junco, and northern mockingbird.

These are observed along the Washington Boulevard fence line. Species observed in and around the basin include American crow, great egret, barn swallow, and western gull. The female mallard noted in previous daily biological monitoring reports is observed sitting on her nest and secure. The abandoned dove nest with two eggs still appears to be abandoned with both eggs still present. At the east stormwater inlet, one great blue heron, two immature black-crowned night herons, and one black phoebe are seen. In the west basin, one snowy egret and one great egret are identified. No monarch butterflies are observed during the initial biological survey of the day.

8:00 am. The biologist conducts Biological Awareness Training with the 6-person contractor crew. In addition, training is provided to the stormwater and BMP contractor inspector. The biologist reminds the crew that the 100-foot duck nest buffers are now in place. The crew should not work within nest buffers, which are clearly flagged. The crew is also instructed to adhere to BMPs in order to prevent soil erosion into the Basin. The contractor crew signs the sign-in sheet indicating that they understand and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day include cutting bike path pavement, peeling up and loading bike path pavement, and fence post removal.

8:05 am. One water tank truck and one back hoe are delivered by a rental company to the construction site parking lot at the west end of the property.

8:30 am. Gulls, pigeons, finches, crows, and starlings fly over the basin. The back hoe and a dumpster are moved to the Washington Boulevard gate entrance. The dumpster is left at the northeast peninsula while the back hoe is taken eastward to the edge of the bike path, just west of the pump house. One crew member is working downslope of the bike trail while the concrete cutter sets up his equipment east of the pump house and along the bike trail. One great egret is seen perched above the tide gate.

8:45 am. A crew of two are working to move the fence along the bike path near the pump house. A rock pigeon, western gull, and American crow fly overhead.

9:00 am. A snowy egret flies into the southeast channel to join two crows, one great blue heron, and one immature black-crowned night heron. One great egret is now in the central basin.

9:30 am. The cutting of bike pavement begins. Egrets, herons, and crows do not appear to be alarmed. There is currently no construction activity at the west end of the basin or near the mallard nest. A western gull flies over the basin.

10:00 am. The bike path pavement cutting continues and another crew is using the back hoe to remove old fence posts. One great blue heron and one immature black-crowned night heron move to the west basin.

10:22 am. One monarch butterfly and one black phoebe are observed on the northwest peninsula.

10:25 am. The biologist met the inspector of record for the county.

10:30 am. Four additional workers are given Biological Awareness Training. These include two dump truck drivers and two electricians, who all sign the sign-in sheet. Work continues along the bike path at the east end of the basin. Activities include cutting and loading of discarded bike path pavement and old fence post removal. Snowy egret, great egret, black-crowned night heron, rays, and very small fish are observed near the Tide Gate.

11:00 am. Work continues with cutting, hauling, and loading of bike path pavement at the east end and electrical work at the west end. House finch, northern mockingbird, and crows fly over the central basin.

11:30 am. One great blue heron and one double-crested cormorant are seen perched above the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One yellow sulfur butterfly is seen flying over the area.

12:15 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch after the second dump truck load leaves the sight full of discarded bike path pavement.

1:15 pm. Bike path pavement cutting starts just east of the pump house and will continue toward the east parking lot. Crows, rock pigeons, Allen's hummingbird, western gulls, and one yellow sulfur butterfly fly over the east pump house area. Two crew members are now working to peel up and stockpile cut bike path pavement in piles to the west of the pump house.

1:37 pm. Three crews are now on three different tasks. (1) The cutting crew is at the east end; (2) The asphalt peel and stockpile crew work near the pines along the bike path east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet; and (3) The electric crew work near the contractor trailer.

2:00 pm. A lot of worker activity is observed near the east pump house area. Animals in this area are accustomed to human activity from walkers and riders using the bike path. One dump truck arrives. One sulfur yellow butterfly and crows fly over. The electric crew continues to put in temporary power lines along the west end of the basin adjacent the hotel parking lot. Crows and gulls fly over. The double-crested cormorant that was previously perched at the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet is now diving and swimming in the central basin. Two black-crowned night herons, one adult and one immature, are now perched above the tide gates.

2:30 pm. Dump truck load number three for the day is loaded with bike path pavement and leaves the site. Bike path pavement cutting is now complete east of the pump house. Back hoe and front end loader crews are now peeling up cut bike path pavement and stockpiling that material near the pines to the west of the pump house. Very little wildlife activity is observed.

3:00 pm. Two black-crowned night herons (one adult and one immature) and one great blue heron are now perched at the tide gate. One barn swallow flies over the basin. Two crows and one great egret are also in the west basin area. The female mallard is still on her nest and the two dove eggs

Mr. Rick Sun
June 29, 2015
Page 4

appear abandoned. The electric crew is now done for the day. The pavement peeling and hauling crew is still working near the bike path.

3:30 pm. Crows continue to fly over the basin. One great egret, two black-crowned night herons (one adult and one immature) persist in perching above the tide gates. One cabbage white butterfly is observed near the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet.

3:45 pm. The back hoe and front end loader crews are now pulling up and piling up old fence posts. Two other crew members are shoveling up weeds just above the silt fence on the bank of the basin, just east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Western gulls fly over the basin.

4:10 pm. The back hoe and front end loader crews are still pulling up and piling up old fence posts. Two other crew members continue shoveling up weeds just above the silt fence, just east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Three crows fly over and then two pair (two females and two males) of mallards land in the east basin and are swimming toward the west basin.

4:25 pm. All crews end work for the day.

Additional Observations

Only one monarch butterfly was observed today on the northwest peninsula. The breezy conditions may have contributed to relatively few butterfly observations.

No osprey, black skimmer, or California least tern were observed today.

There were fewer sightings of birds since the last report, possible due to very lower water levels in the basin and more breezy conditions.

The inactive mourning dove nest was not flooded by high water levels and the eggs remain in good condition. However, after over a week, no adult was observed on or near the nest. The biologist has determined that this nest has been permanently abandoned.

The mallard nest found last week on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site remains active, with the female sitting on the nest all day. Tape marking the buffer area around this nesting mallard remains intact.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on June 29, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on June 29, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual observed along the bike path
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, and flying over Basin
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3-4 observed flying throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	3 individuals (one adult and two immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	4-5 individuals observed along the bike path
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed moving throughout the Basin
Eurasian Collared-dove	<i>Streptopelia decaoto</i>	Two individuals seen in the morning
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Several observed, primarily along Washington Blvd
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; several observed along the north and east banks
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 pairs (4 individuals) resting/foraging in the Basin in late afternoon; one active nest in northwest corner of site
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin; an abandoned nest is located east of northwest peninsula
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2 individuals observed in the northern and eastern portions of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rises south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Song Sparrow	<i>Melospiza melodia</i>	1 individual observed along the bike path
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin

Conclusions

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

1. A mallard nest is located on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site, approximately 150 feet west of the inactive mourning dove and former killdeer nests. Based on field observations, knowledge of the species, and CDFW-approved mallard buffers for other projects in the region, the biologist maintains a 100-foot nest buffer around the nest.

Mr. Rick Sun
June 29, 2015
Page 6

2. The inactive mourning dove nest is deemed abandoned. The two eggs remain; however, without incubation, will not survive. The eggs were laid June 13-14, and a two-week incubation period would result in them hatching around June 27-28. Today, June 29, the eggs have not hatched.
3. Wildlife tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
4. Wildlife are most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. A bit more activity on the basin then occurs in late afternoon.
5. Significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin. Algal coverage is highest in the eastern Basin and often increases as the day goes on as the Basin is exposed to more sunlight.



Memorandum

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

From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith

Date: June 30, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on June 30, 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 Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:08 am and ending at 4:10 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain predicted for June 30, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny and pretty breezy with high temperatures in the mid-70s (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the removal of old chain-link fence posts along the bike path, removal of cut bike path pavement, piling of cut and discarded bike pavement, and loading of bike path pavement into a dump truck. A contractor crew of two heavy equipment operators worked throughout the day. 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

7:08 am. The biologist arrives at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist conducts the initial biological survey of the basin. Low water and high algae content is noted throughout the basin. House finches and western gulls are observed to the southwest near the Killer Café restaurant. One osprey is perched on top of the temporary power pole closest to the construction trailer. The osprey then flies to a perch in a pine tree directly above the tide gate. The osprey remains at that perch for over an hour. Area birds observed during the

initial biological survey of the basin include mourning dove, house finch, black-crowned night heron (three immature herons and one adult flyover), great egret, snowy egret, great blue heron, American crow, dark-eyed junco, northern mockingbird, house sparrow, bushtit, western gull, and black phoebe. The female mallard noted in previous daily biological monitoring reports is observed sitting on her nest and secure. The abandoned dove nest with two eggs still appears to be abandoned with both eggs still present.

7:55 am. The biologist conducts Biological Awareness Training with the 3-person contractor crew. The biologist stresses the protection of the mallard next and notes the taped buffer zone around the nest. The biologist also notes the presence of osprey, herons, and egrets. Caution is given for any who might encounter a California least tern or a monarch butterfly. The crew is also instructed to adhere to BMPs in order to prevent soil erosion into the Basin. The contractor crew signs the sign-in sheet indicating that they understand and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day include peeling up, piling, and loading of discarded bike path pavement.

8:15 am. In addition, training is provided to the stormwater and BMP contractor inspector.

8:40 am. The osprey continues to perch on the pine tree directly above the tide Gate. The front end loader operator is loading discarded bike pavement into a dump truck that has arrived. The back hoe operator is pulling out old fence posts and debris along the bike path. The current working area is just east of the pine trees along the bike path. Minimal bird activity is noted.

8:50 am. Four crows forage on the south shore of the basin. One western gull flies over the basin. One great blue heron lands in the west basin. One crow, two house finches, one dark-eyed junco, one female black-chinned hummingbird, and one house sparrow are noted near the pump house. Two immature black-crowned night herons fly from the east basin to the west tide gate area.

9:20 am. The loaded dump truck leaves through the east pump house gate.

9:55 am. The back hoe operator continues to peel up cut bike path pavement. Another crew member is reinstalling wattles along the edge of the new fence where bike path pavement has been removed. Dark-eyed juncos forage around the wattles.

10:25 am. Just east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet, crows and mourning doves fly over the basin. House finches and one northern mockingbird are heard. The back hoe operator is now peeling up discarded and cut bike path pavement and loading it into the bucket of the front end loader. The front end loader operator then piles the material just east of the pines along the bike path.

10:40 am. Two crows, two mourning doves, and one yellow Sulphur butterfly fly over the work area. One violet-green swallow flies over the residential area, just north of the bike path.

10:50 am. Crows and mourning doves continue to fly over the work area. One snowy egret and one great egret forage near the tide gate. At this time, only the back hoe operator is working. Calls of house finch are continuously heard from the residential area north of the bike path.

11:00 am. Both equipment operators take a break. One great blue heron and one female mallard, along with the egrets noted before, forage in the east basin. The mallard flies off to the northwest. One western gull and one cobble white butterfly fly over the central basin.

11:15 am. The dump truck returns. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator load pavement material into the dump truck.

11:40 am. The dump truck is loaded and leaving the site. The back hoe operator continues to peel up and pile up cut bike path pavement. One northern mockingbird calls from a perch above the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet.

12:00 pm. All workers break for lunch.

1:10 pm. Wind speed has increased. Work continues with peeling up and piling up of discarded bike path pavement.

1:20 pm. One double-crested cormorant and one great blue heron perch on either side of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. These perches are just west of the work area. The dump truck returns to the pavement loading area located west of the pump house and east of the pine trees along the bike path.

1:30 pm. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator load the dump truck with pavement material. The great blue heron moves to the western edge of the west basin. An additional great blue heron and three crows fly over the basin. Dark-eyed juncos call from the residential area north of the bike path. Western gulls and more crows fly over the area.

1:50 pm. The loaded dump truck leaves the site. One crow lands on the temporary power line above the work area. House finch continue to call on the residential side of the bike path.

2:00 pm. The back hoe operator slowly removes debris and cut pavement to the west of the pine trees. The other work crew member secures wattles along the fence line. One adult black-crowned night heron is noted in the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One snowy egret joins two great blue herons and one immature black-crowned night heron above the tide gate.

2:15 pm. The mallard is secure on her nest and the two dove eggs remain abandoned. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator work together to pull up debris and cut pavement. The material is then piled up. Three house finches, including one orange variant, forage in the grape vines near the tide gate. One western gull perches on the lamp post just outside the tide gate fence. Two great blue herons, one snowy egret, and one great egret forage in the west basin. One

immature black-crowned night heron flies to a perch above the tide gate. One cobble white butterfly flies to the north.

2:45 pm. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator continue to pull up, haul, and pile up discarded bike path pavement. Wildlife activity is minimal in the basin. Two American crows land in the trees above the work area.

3:15 pm. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator continue to pull up, haul, and pile discard bike path pavement. One gull and one crow fly over the basin. One great egret and one great blue heron forage near the tide gate. One monarch butterfly flies toward the work area and continues into the residential area along Washington Boulevard.

3:35 pm. One western gull and four mourning doves fly over the work area. The crew is pulling up the western most edge of the cut bike path pavement. One great blue heron flies from the west basin to the southeast channel area. Two rock pigeons fly south over the basin. The back hoe operator is now breaking up piled pavement into smaller pieces. The other operator is installing wattles along the fence line.

4:00 pm. All work is done for the day. One female mallard lands in the central basin. An additional mallard pair (one male and one female) also land in the central basin.

Additional Observations

Only one monarch butterfly was observed today flying over the west edge of the bike path.

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

The mallard nest found last week on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site remains active, with the female sitting on the nest all day. Tape marking the buffer area around this nesting mallard remains intact.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on June 30, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on June 30, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
Black-chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	1 individual observed in trees of the residential area along the bike path
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	4 individuals (one adult and three immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Bushtits	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Observed on the northeast peninsula
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	6-8 individuals observed along the bike path
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed moving throughout the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; several observed along the north and east banks
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals – a female and a pair in the central basin and one female incubating a nest in the northwest corner of site
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin; An abandoned nest east of northwest peninsula
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2 individuals observed in the northern and eastern portions of the Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One perched above the tide gate and on a temporary power pole.
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rises south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	1 observed flying over the residential area
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin

Conclusions

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

1. A mallard nest is located on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site, approximately 150 feet west of the inactive mourning dove and former killdeer nests. Based on field observations, knowledge of the species, and CDFW-approved mallard buffers for other projects in the region, the biologist maintains a 100-foot nest buffer around the nest.

Mr. Rick Sun
June 30, 2015
Page 6

2. The inactive mourning dove nest remains abandoned. The two eggs will not survive without incubation. The eggs were laid June 13-14, and a two-week incubation period would result in them hatching around June 27-28. Today, June 30, the eggs have not hatched.
3. Wildlife tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
4. Wildlife are most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
5. Low water levels and significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin.



Memorandum

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

From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith

Date: July 1, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on July 1, 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 Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:04 am and ending at 4:10 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain predicted for July 1, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-70s (°F). No measureable rain was recorded, however in the morning a few sprinkles of rain fell.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the piling up of old chain-link fence posts along the bike path, piling up of cut and discarded bike pavement, and the piling up of vegetation debris. A contractor crew of two heavy equipment operators worked throughout the day. 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

7:04 am. The biologist arrives at Oxford Basin (site) and prepares and organizes field equipment for the initial biological survey.

7:10 am. The biologist conducts the initial biological survey of the Basin. Bird species present in the West Basin include snowy egret, rock pigeon, house finch, western gull, great egret, black-crowned night heron, and great blue heron. Two American crows are on a lamp post on the north side of the Basin. Two mallards forage in the East Basin. One great blue heron is at the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Two mourning doves forage near the fence on Admiralty Way. Dark-eyed juncos

Mr. Rick Sun
July 1, 2015
Page 2

call from the residential area north of the bike path. House finches forage adjacent the southeast channel, including one orange variant. One bushtit and seven crows forage on the south bank adjacent the southeast channel.

7:33 am. A group of seven snowy egrets, one great egret, and two immature black-crowned night herons fish at the east stormwater inlet. Mourning doves and crows are present on the banks of the southeast channel. One northern mockingbird sings from a perch near the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Two (one immature and one adult) black-crowned night herons perch above the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One great egret, one great blue heron, and one black-crowned night heron forage in the Central Basin. House finches and mourning doves feed on seeds, east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Four house sparrows and two black phoebes are observed near the same area. One rock pigeon flies over the area. Dark-eyed juncos are heard singing nearby. House finches call from the residential area near Washington Boulevard. The two previously identified dove eggs remain in the abandoned nest. The female mallard is not on her nest. Down, grass, broken shells, and two eggs are in the nest.

8:00 am. The biologist conducts Biological Awareness Training with the 3-person contractor crew and the BMP contract inspector. The biologist notes the mallard is not on her nest and stresses caution to all. The biologist also notes the presence of osprey, herons, and egrets. Caution is given for any who might encounter a California least tern or a monarch butterfly. The crew is also instructed to adhere to BMPs in order to prevent soil erosion into the Basin. The contractor crew and the BMP contract inspector sign the sign-in sheet indicating that they understand and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the activities for the day include gathering, hauling, piling up, and loading of various types of debris (i.e., pavement, fence post, and vegetation).

8:30 am. One osprey perches on top of the temporary electric pole closest to the construction trailer with a large fish. He is eating the fish and does not appear disturbed by members of the crew walking by.

8:47 am. One female mallard duck and four ducklings are swimming in the Central Basin. These are presumed to be the mother and young of those in the previously mentioned mallard nest. It appears the nest protection procedures (including biological awareness training and taped flagging along buffers) have been successful in providing for the safe hatching of four healthy mallard ducks. Now awareness needs to account for the presence of the hen mallard and her four ducklings. It is not uncommon for some eggs in a waterfowl nest not to develop to maturity, which accounts for the two eggs remaining in the nest. The front end loader operator and the back hoe operator are peeling up pavement, hauling pavement, and piling up pavement.

9:22 am. The osprey continues to perch on top of the temporary power pole while eating a fish. One northern mockingbird and house finches continue to call near the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. The back hoe operator works slowly in tight quarters to pull up the last

Mr. Rick Sun
July 1, 2015
Page 3

remaining cut bike path pavement. The front end loader has a flat tire. The front end load operator starts clearing brush manually, just above the silt fence above the Basin.

9:30 am. The hen mallard and four ducklings are swimming in the west Basin. One great egret and two black-crowned night heron are perched above the tide gate. One snowy egret is foraging in the West Basin. Two barn swallows fly over the work area.

9:47 am. The osprey is still eating a fish on top of the temporary power pole near the construction trailer. One decomposed raccoon carcass is still present near the abandoned dove nest. The hen mallard and four ducklings are on the shore next to the tide gate.

10:15 am. One violet-green swallow and one Anna's hummingbird fly over the residential areas north of the bike path. One crow and two mourning doves perch on power lines above the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. The osprey continues to eat a fish on top of the temporary power pole. The hen mallard and young continue on the shore next to the tide gate. Two barn swallows fly over the Central Basin. One great egret flies to the southeast channel.

10:30 am. The back hoe work of peeling up, hauling, and piling up of cut bike path pavement is now complete. Now the operator is cleaning up small pieces of bike path pavement. A tire service has arrived to fix the flat on the front end loader.

10:45 am. One northern mockingbird sings from a perch on top of a temporary power pole adjacent the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Barn swallows forage over the Basin. Two mourning doves fly over the work area. A few sprinkles of rain fall. Crows fly over the Basin. One great egret and one snowy egret forage in the West Basin. The osprey continues to eat a fish on top of a temporary power pole at the west end near the construction trailer.

11:00 am. The hen mallard and four ducklings are in the Central Basin. One northern mockingbird is perched above the work area. Two barn swallows fly over the Basin.

11:15 am. The flat tire on the front end loader has been fixed. The front end loader operator is now hauling and piling up old fence posts and debris in the area just west of the pump house. The back hoe operator is piling up discarded bike path pavement, just east of the pines. The hen mallard and four ducklings are in the west end of the southeast channel. The osprey has left his perch. One great egret forages on the north shore of the Basin. Seven crows fly over the Basin.

11:38 am. The back hoe operator is now moving vegetation debris from the banks of the Basin into a pile up slope. The front end loader operator continues to pile up old fence posts. The hen mallard and four ducklings are in the East Basin. One great egret forages in the Central Basin. One western gull and one sulfur yellow butterfly fly over the work area. One double-crested cormorant lands on a perch at the outlet of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet.

12:00 pm. All workers break for lunch.

1:10 pm. The biologist removes all nest flagging tape and advises the work crew that the buffer area flagging for the mallard nest has been removed. One great egret and one snowy egret fly over the West Basin. House finches continue to call from the Washington Boulevard area. The back hoe operator and the front end loader operator continue the cleanup of pavement, fence post, and vegetation debris.

1:40 pm. One great egret and one black-crowned night heron are perched above the tide gate. One barn swallow flies over the West Basin. Two rock pigeons fly north over the West Basin. Two barn swallows fly over the southeast channel. The hen mallard and four ducklings are at the outlet of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. The back hoe operator continues to pile up vegetation debris. The front end loader operator is now taking loads of vegetation debris to the dumpster on the northeast peninsula. One western gull flies over the work area. House finches call from the residential area on the north side of the bike path.

2:10 pm. One northern mockingbird is observed near the work area. Four crows fly over the Central Basin.

2:40 pm. The piling up and hauling of vegetation debris continues. Two mourning doves perch on the power lines above the northeast peninsula. Minimal wildlife activity is noted.

3:00 pm. Two western gulls fly over the Basin. One crow lands on the northeast peninsula. One great egret forages in the West Basin. One black-crowned night heron perches above the tide gate. Two rock pigeons perch on a lamp post near the tide gate. Two western gulls fly over the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One barn swallow flies over the Basin. One cobble white butterfly flies over the East Basin.

3:20 pm. The hen mallard and four ducklings are swimming from the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet westward in the Basin. One western gull and one crow fly over the work area.

3:30 pm. The hen mallard and four ducklings are now in the East Basin. Two snowy egrets fly to the east inlet and then fly westward over the West Basin. The mallards seem undisturbed by the work going on nearby.

3:36 pm. One western gull flies over the work area. One northern mockingbird calls from a perch above the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Three crows fly over the Basin. One violet-green swallow flies quickly over the East Basin.

4:00 pm. One northern mockingbird continues to sing from the top of the power pole just west of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. The mallards are in the East Basin. One western gull flies over the Basin.

4:10 pm. All work is done for the day.

Additional Observations

No monarch butterflies, black skimmers, or California least terns were observed today.

The mallard nest found last week on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site is no longer active. Four ducklings hatched and now roam the Basin with their mother mallard. Nest tape marking the buffer area around this nesting mallard was removed.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 1, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, and flying over Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed flying over residential area along the bike path
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2-4 Individuals forage around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3-4 individuals foraging around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5 individuals (two adults and three immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Bushtits	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Observed on the northeast peninsula
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	6-8 individuals observed at various places in the eastern portion of the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed moving throughout the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2 individual observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin; heard singing from the Washington Boulevard area
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; several observed along the north and east banks
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	8 individuals – a female with four ducklings and an additional pair
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin; an abandoned nest east of northwest peninsula
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2 individuals observed in the northern and eastern portions of the Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	One perched on a temporary power pole near the construction trailer
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	7 individuals observed foraging in Basin

Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	1-2 observed flying over the residential area
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin

Conclusions

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

1. The protective measures of Biological Awareness Training and the installation of flagging to mark 100-foot nest buffers were successful in protecting the mallard nest. These measures contributed to the successful safe hatching of four healthy mallard ducks. Now biological awareness needs to account for the presence of the hen mallard and her four ducklings in the Basin. **Nest tape marking the buffer area around this nesting mallard was removed.**
2. The inactive mourning dove nest remains abandoned. The two eggs will not survive without incubation. The eggs were laid June 13-14, and a two-week incubation period would result in them hatching around June 27-28. Today, July 1, the eggs have not hatched.
3. Wildlife tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
4. Wildlife are most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
5. Low water levels and significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin.



Memorandum

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

From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith

Date: July 2, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on July 2, 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 Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:06 am and ending at 4:10 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain predicted for July 2, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-70s (°F). No measureable rain was recorded, however in the morning a few sprinkles of rain fell.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the removal of vegetation debris from the area of the northeast peninsula to the pump house. Some clearing of brush also took place in the northwest corner of the Basin. Cleaning up along the fence line of Washington Boulevard also took place. A contractor crew of two heavy equipment operators worked throughout the day. 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

7:06 am. The biologist arrives at Oxford Basin (site) and prepares and organizes field equipment for the initial biological survey.

7:19 am. The biologist conducts the initial biological survey of the Basin. Bird species present in the West Basin include the mallard hen and four ducklings and one double crested cormorant. House finches are heard from the Washington Boulevard area. One additional mallard joins the hen and young. One American crow is now in the west. Dark-eyed juncos and one black phoebe are on the

Mr. Rick Sun
July 2, 2015
Page 2

south bank of the Central Basin. One northern mockingbird is heard singing from the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet area. Intense egret and heron feeding activity is observed in the southeast channel. Eighteen snowy egrets, two great egrets, two great blue herons, three black-crowned night herons, and two immature black-crowned night herons feed in the channel. Crows and western gulls fly over. One mallard is in the East Basin. Light sprinkles of rain fall for a few moments. One black phoebe is near the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. House finches and house sparrows are foraging on the northeast peninsula. One western gull flies over the Basin. House sparrows pick at the fiber rolls along the Washington Boulevard fence line. House finches are present on the southwest peninsula. One rock pigeon, one crow, and one barn swallow fly over the West Basin.

7:55 am. The biologist conducts Biological Awareness Training with the 3-person contractor crew and the BMP contract inspector. The biologist notes the mallard is now on the Basin with her four ducklings. The biologist also notes the presence of many herons and egrets in the southeast channel. The biologist cautions the crew about agency protection measures for a California least tern or a monarch butterfly should they be encountered. The crew is also instructed to adhere to BMPs in order to prevent soil erosion into the Basin. The contractor crew and the BMP contract inspector sign the sign-in sheet indicating that they understand and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the activities for the day include gathering, hauling, piling up, and loading of pavement and vegetation debris.

8:20 am. Another larger CAT back hoe has been brought to replace the smaller Volvo back hoe. A dump truck is now present as well. The work area is between the northeast peninsula and the pump house. Unloading of the CAT and loading of the Volvo occurs at the eastern Washington Boulevard gate. The back hoe operator and front end loader operator are now loading part of the last pile of pavement debris into the dump truck.

8:38 am. One mourning dove is observed along the Washington Boulevard fence line. House finches and house sparrows continue to call in the area. One western gull flies over. One violet-green swallow flies over the work area. One Anna's hummingbird flies over the bike path.

8:48 am. The loaded dump truck leaves the site. Two adult mallards and four ducklings are in the East Basin, east of the tide gate. One double-crested cormorant is also present.

9:02 am. The back hoe operator is clearing and piling up vegetation debris. The front end loader operator is moving vegetation debris into piles and then taking loads to the dumpster on the northeast peninsula. The two adult mallards and the four ducklings are now in the Central Basin. The mallard that has joined the hen and her four ducklings appears to be the male of the pair. This male is currently in eclipsed plumage and therefore looks similar to a female mallard. His bill color and head indicate he is indeed a male mallard.

9:30 am. One great blue heron perches at the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One black

Mr. Rick Sun
July 2, 2015
Page 3

phoebe is also present. One western gull flies over. One mourning dove is seen just east of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One barn swallow, one house finch, and one house sparrow are encountered along the Washington Boulevard fence line.

10:00 am. One great egret perches above the tide gate. Cleaning, hauling, and piling of vegetation debris continues. One crow lands in the West Basin. Crows, one house finch, and one mockingbird are encountered near the work area. The male mallard is swimming in the central. Two mourning doves fly over the work area. One great blue heron is at the tip of the northeast peninsula. One black-crowned night heron and one great egret fly over, heading southwest. The hen mallard and ducklings are now at the outlet of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One snowy egret is also present. One snowy egret lands in the West Basin and another snowy egret lands on the fence that surrounds the construction trailer. One mourning dove flies over the work area.

10:25 am. The crew chief is now weed-wacking along the Washington Boulevard fence line, near the northwest peninsula. One snowy egret flies to the east inlet. One sulfur yellow butterfly flies over. Dark-eyed juncos are heard calling near the work area. One crow and one mourning dove fly over the work area. The front end loader operator continues to move, pile, and haul vegetation debris.

10:40 am. The dump truck has returned. Two western gulls fly over. One immature black-crowned night heron flies out of the southeast channel and heads north. The hen mallard and four ducklings are in the West Basin. Both operators are now loading piled pavement into the dump truck. One great blue heron flies over the work area.

11:03 am. The front end loader operator is now loading the dump truck. Three snowy egrets, one great egret, and one great blue heron are at the outlet of the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. Two adult mallards and four young mallards are in the West Basin. The loaded dump truck has now left. One crow lands on the southeast peninsula. The mallards are now on the shore next to the tide gate. One snowy egret lands in the Central Basin and then flies northwest out of the area.

11:25 am. Vegetation debris hauling and piling continue. One northern mockingbird calls from a perch near the Washington Boulevard stormwater inlet. One mourning dove flies over to the northeast.

11:39 am. One sulfur yellow butterfly flies north. House sparrows and one mockingbird sing from Washington Boulevard.

11:55 am. Ducks, herons, and egrets seem undisturbed by the nearby work.

12:00 pm. All workers break for lunch.

12:45 pm. Two crew members manually clear vegetation debris from the northwest peninsula area. One black-crowned night heron is at the tide gate. One crow and one western gull fly over the West

Basin.

1:00 pm. The biologist participates in a coordination meeting with the County and Contractor (via phone). The biologist describes the successful hatching of the mallard ducklings and the 50-60 days needed for young mallards to be able to fly.

1:30 pm. The dump truck arrives and is loaded with pavement by the front end loader. The male mallard, the hen mallard, and the four ducklings are in the East Basin and appear undisturbed by the nearby work activity. One barn swallow flies over the East Basin. Two crows fly over the West Basin. One snowy egret is at the tide gate. One sulfur yellow butterfly, two mourning doves, and three rock pigeons fly over the West Basin.

1:50 pm. The dump truck leaves the site loaded with the last of the piled bike path pavement. One western gull flies over the East Basin. House finches call from along Washington Boulevard. One black-crowned night heron flies north over the Central Basin.

2:00 pm. The front end loader operator is now clearing and hauling vegetation debris. The back hoe operator is now clearing vegetation debris on the northeast peninsula. One nearby great egret is undisturbed by the work activity. Three house finches are at the northeast peninsula. One great egret flies to the tide gate. The hen mallard and four ducklings are in the Central Basin. One great blue heron is on the northeast peninsula.

2:15 pm. All work has stopped as Marco discusses the plans for the rest of the day.

2:30 pm. The two man crew is now removing some of the green fence liner and cleaning up along the fence line. These work activities have no impact on Basin wildlife.

3:20 pm. One great egret, one snowy egret, one great blue heron, and one male mallard are near the tide gate. Two mourning doves fly over the Central Basin. Four snowy egrets forage near the northeast peninsula. A mechanic is looking at the back hoe parked on the northeast peninsula. Now the back hoe operator is clearing vegetation debris and placing it into piles. The other crew member continues cleanup along the Washington Boulevard fence line.

3:40 pm. One osprey has landed on a perch in the pine tree above the tide gate. One mourning dove is perched above the grape vines on the west bank of the West Basin. Four crows and one western gull fly over the West Basin. House finches land on the grape vines at the west end. One mourning dove is perched on power lines above the northwest peninsula. A mallard pair flies over the West Basin, heading south.

4:10 pm. All work is done for the day.

Additional Observations

No monarch butterflies, black skimmers, or California least terns were observed today.

The mallard nest found last week on the north bank in the northwest corner of the site is no longer active. Four ducklings hatched and now roam the Basin with their mother mallard. Nest tape marking the buffer area around this nesting mallard was removed.

Conclusions

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

1. The protective measures of Biological Awareness Training and the installation of flagging to mark 100-foot nest buffers were successful in protecting the mallard nest. These measures contributed to the successful safe hatching of four healthy mallard ducks. Now biological awareness needs to account for the presence of the hen mallard and her four ducklings in the Basin.
2. The inactive mourning dove nest remains abandoned. The two eggs will not survive without incubation. The eggs were laid June 13-14, and a two-week incubation period would result in them hatching around June 27-28. Today, July 2, the eggs have not hatched.
3. Wildlife tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
4. Wildlife are most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
5. Low water levels and significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 2, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 2, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, and flying over Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed flying over residential area along the bike path
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2-4 Individuals forage around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3-4 individuals foraging around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	6 individuals (three adults and three immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	6-8 individuals observed at various places in the eastern portion of the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed moving throughout the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2 individual observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin; heard singing from the Washington Boulevard area
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; several observed along the north and east banks
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6 individuals – a female with four ducklings and a male associated with the new family
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin; an abandoned nest east of northwest peninsula
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2 individuals observed in the northern and eastern portions of the Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 individual arrived late in the day to perch on the pine tree above the tide gate
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	18 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Violet-green Swallow	<i>Tachycineta thalassina</i>	1-2 observed flying over the residential area
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin