



## Memorandum

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

*From: Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith*

*Date: July 6, 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 6, 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 Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:15 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain predicted for July 6, 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 by-hand removal of vegetation debris from between the northeast and the northwest peninsulas, and grading and earth moving activities along the north edge of the project site from the northeast peninsula to the pump house. A contractor crew of two heavy equipment operators, and 5 additional workers 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

7:15 am. Biologist arrives on site to collect equipment and paperwork to conduct initial biological survey. The following bird species were observed during initial biological survey: Five mallards flying overhead northeast towards residential area, one great egret foraging in Central Basin, one black crowned night heron near stormwater culvert under Washington Boulevard, one juvenile great blue heron, and two additional black crowned night heron along southern slope towards the tide gates. Twelve crows are observed foraging on the northern bank near Washington Boulevard and resting on temporary power lines.

8:00 am. Conduct Bio-awareness training for the seven construction crew members and the Qualified SWPPP Professional. There are two new construction crew members on site today, so the biological monitor discusses observations made throughout the project and stresses the importance of not disturbing the female mallard and her ducklings, if they should arrive on site. The biological monitor explains that she will stop work if it appears as though any wildlife may be harmed by construction activities. 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 construction superintendent informs the biological monitor that the water level is at its lowest since beginning construction. 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 vegetation removal along the north bank and grading and earth moving activities in the northeast portion of the site, adjacent to the pump house.

8:15 am. Workers are installing sediment fence and removing vegetation by hand along the northwest peninsula. The great blue heron and a black crowned night heron have flown eastward towards the southeast channel.

8:25 am. Five house sparrows who were foraging on the northeast peninsula flew northwest toward the residential community. A snowy egret lands and begins to forage near the southern slope towards the tide gate. Two female mallards fly in from the southeast and land in the East Basin. Two adult and one juvenile black crowned night heron are foraging in the algal blooms near the southeast channel.

8:45 am. The snowy egret has moved to the end of the northeast peninsula and continues to forage. No wildlife seem disturbed by vegetation clearing that has begun along northwest peninsula. Two rock pigeons fly overhead from south to north, towards the residential community. A black phoebe forages on the northeast peninsula. Black phoebes are heard calling from northeast. Dark-eyed juncos calling from the north across Washington Boulevard. Heavy equipment begins working on the northeast peninsula.

8:50 am. Water truck enters site on northeastern slope to assist with earth moving and grading activities. A barn swallow enters the Basin from the northeast and forages near the storm water culvert under Washington Boulevard. Wildlife continues to forage, does not seem disturbed by heavy equipment. Western gull flies overhead from southeast towards northwest.

9:00 am. Construction crew begins to water down woody debris and ground for removal and grading activities. Light sprinkles begin to fall, but not enough to be considered measurable rainfall.

9:20 am. A great blue heron and two black crowned night heron (1 adult, 1 juvenile) are foraging in the East Basin. Construction work includes hand clearing of debris on the northern slope between the two peninsulas and grading and earthwork along the northern slope along the northeast slope. The great blue heron calls as it flies from East Basin to the northeast peninsula, joining the great and snowy egret foraging.

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9:30 am. A snowy egret walks westward along northern slope adjacent to vegetation clearing activity seeming generally undisturbed by the activity. Majority of the wildlife is located in the East Basin and directly off the northeast peninsula.

9:40 am. Killdeer call from across Washington Boulevard. A black phoebe calls and forages near the storm water culvert. Light sprinkles continue, but not enough to constitute measurable rainfall. The mallard and her ducklings are not observed onsite. Two female mallards fly west/northwest over the Basin.

9:50 am. Earthwork construction activity continues on northern edge of property adjacent to the bike path, approximately 250 feet from pump house. One American crow forages near the storm water culvert.

10:05 am. A front end loader begins collecting vegetation debris from the northern slope and loading it into the dumpster located on the northeast peninsula. An American crow flies from north to south over the Basin. Hand clearing of vegetation continues along northern slope between peninsulas. A second American crow flies north to south over the Central Basin and back again. Four house sparrows fly east to west over the Basin. Sprinkling rain has stopped.

10:20 am. Two Anna's hummingbirds are seen flying and calling on the north side of the bike path near the pump house. One snowy and one great egret are foraging in the Central Basin. House sparrows call from the residential area across from the bike path.

10:30 am. Wildlife activity has significantly decreased. A house sparrow forages just outside the construction area. Only one great egret and one snowy egret remain foraging in the Central Basin.

10:40 am. A second and third snowy egret enter the Basin on the southwest end of the West Basin. The snowy egret in the Central/East Basin flies toward a newly arriving egret in an attempt to flush it out of the Basin. The egret remains and the three egrets begin to forage in West Basin adjacent to tide gate.

10:55 am. Dark-eyed juncos are heard calling from across Washing Boulevard. One dark-eyed junco is seen perched on top of a palm tree adjacent to the stormwater inlet. Three mallards (1 male and two female) fly over the Basin from west to east and land in the East Basin near the southeast channel. Four house finches forage in the sea lavender adjacent to the work area. Caution is taken while approaching the birds. Eventually they fly off toward the north.

11:15 am. Four American crows forage on the slopes of the southeast channel just east of the work area. Caution will be taken while work occurs, as grading and earth moving activities are currently underway in this section of the project area.

11:30 am. Hand clearing of vegetation continues on the north bank between the two peninsulas. A great blue heron rests on the end of the western peninsula. A black phoebe perches on the sediment fence posts and occasionally forages in the sea lavender and north mudflats. Dark-eyed juncos and house finches are heard calling from the northern side of Washington Boulevard.

11:45 am. The biological monitor has spent the majority of the morning walking between construction activities including: Installing sediment fence and hand clearing of vegetation on the northern slope between the two peninsulas and the grading and earth moving activities on the northeastern slope. On the northern slope between the two peninsulas, two house finches and a black phoebe continue to forage in the mudflats and sea lavender. The great blue heron continues to rest on the end of the northwest peninsula. One male and two female mallards fly off towards the northwest. Two mourning doves are seen sitting on an electric line over the Central Basin. Four crows can be seen foraging on the northeast slope, just west of the active construction activity.

11:55 am. A northern mockingbird has flown in from the south and has landed on a palm tree on the edge of the Central Basin. It can be heard calling throughout the Basin. A western gull flew over the East Basin.

12:00 pm. Construction has stopped and all workers break for lunch. The biological monitor stops for lunch.

1:00 pm. Work continues. A double-crested cormorant is seen flying over the West Basin. It circles the Basin once and flies off towards the southwest. Three mourning doves are resting on the south shore. A cabbage white and a sulfur butterfly are exploring the south bank.

1:30 pm. An American crow is seen flying over the Basin from south to north. A great egret is foraging on the south shore, close to the tide gates. Wildlife activity has slowed. A few juncos and house sparrows can be heard on the north side of Washington Boulevard. The great blue heron still rests on the end of the northwestern peninsula. A snowy egret forages on the tide gates.

1:45 pm. Two house sparrows perch on the construction fence on the edge of the property near the northeast peninsula. They enter the Basin to forage from time to time. A mourning dove sits on a power line over the Central Basin. Hand clearing of vegetation continues on the northern slope near the northwest peninsula. Earth moving and grading activities are continuing at the north eastern section of the site. Two crows forage the north bank near the Southeast channel. Anna hummingbirds can be heard calling from the residential neighborhood across the bike path.

2:00 pm. A barn swallow flies from the north to the southeast channel and back to the north. The swallow does not appear to be disturbed by the construction activity. The crows that were foraging adjacent to the construction work have moved off site.

2:15 pm. A Cole equipment rental maintenance operator is onsite to make a repair to the water truck. The biological monitor discussed his activities and informed him of the potential sensitive wildlife. Bio-awareness training is given. He signs the sign-in sheet.

2:30. A snowy egret and a great egret are foraging near the tide gate. Construction work along the northeastern bank continues with CAT excavator and includes loosening earthen material for grading. A barn swallow flies from northwest to southeast over the East Basin.

2:55 pm. Construction activity continues with both the front end loader/grader and the excavator. The construction crew is watering down the earth material before digging and moving, which successfully reduces dust. A mourning dove flies over construction activities and over the southeast channel. It lands on a light post on Admiralty Boulevard. Two American crows fly from west to east over the Basin.

3:25 pm. Very minimal wildlife activity. Grading and earth moving activities continue on the northern bank adjacent to the pump house. A western gull flies overhead from south to north over the southeast channel. A snowy egret forages along the southwestern bank. A barn swallow flies along the northeastern bank west of the southeast channel. The swallow made three loops around the East Basin and then landed in a tree at the southeast edge of the construction site.

3:35 pm. The barn swallow returns and completes an additional two passes. A mourning dove lands on the southern bank of the southeast channel. Two barn swallows return and forage over the Basin. A western gull flies overhead from northeast to southwest.

3:45 pm. A western gull flies over the northeast peninsula and associated mudflats, continues over construction activities and does not appear to be disturbed by the activities.

3:50 pm. A female mallard flies across the length of the Basin from east to west and then flies out of Basin toward the northwest. A western gull flies over the southeast channel and continues along south bank. Hand clearing of vegetation continues on the northern bank between the two peninsulas.

4:00 pm. An American crow flies across the southeast channel and across the Central Basin and lands in a tree on the southern bank. A great egret and a snowy egret are foraging on the southern bank.

4:10 pm. Two female mallards are swimming through the East Basin from east to west. A snowy egret forages on the southern bank across from the storm water culvert. A double-crested cormorant lands in the East Basin.

4:15. Work ceases for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

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

## **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.
2. 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. They do not seem disturbed by the construction activities.

3. The mallard abandoned her nest with her ducklings last week. A significant amount of vegetation removal has occurred in the areas where the inactive mallard nest and inactive mourning dove nest were located.
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 6, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 6, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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>	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>	4 individuals ( 3 adults and one immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	1 individual observed adjacent to the east basin.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	2 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2-4 individuals 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 east and northern bank adjacent to the mudflats
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	8-10 individuals, primarily females with one male mallard observed
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in the northern portion of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	2-4 observed flying over Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	4-6 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin



## Memorandum

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

*From: Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith*

*Date: July 7, 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 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 Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain for the morning, and a 3 percent chance of rain for the afternoon for July 7, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-70's (°F) in the morning, and sunny with temperatures in the low 80's (°F) in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded, however in the morning light sprinkles of rain fell.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with the by-hand removal of vegetation debris along the west bank, and vegetation debris clean-up along the northwest and northeast peninsula. A contractor crew of two heavy equipment operators, and one additional worker 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

6:50 am. The biological monitor arrives on site and prepares equipment for the day. Unlocks gates and enters the site.

7:10 am. As the biological monitor enters the Basin, two great blue herons fly from the northern end of the West Basin towards the south and one exits the site. The second great blue heron lands and forages on the south bank. A great egret is foraging near the tide gate and a snowy egret is

patrolling the south bank foraging for food. A black phoebe is hunting over the western mudflats and the West Basin. A third great blue heron is roosting on the end of the storm water culvert. A crow leaves the east bank and flies over the Central Basin from northeast to southwest. A great blue heron flies over the Central Basin, circles the Basin and lands on the northeast bank just east of the storm water culvert. A snowy egret is foraging in the storm water culvert. One black-crowned night heron is foraging on the south bank. The most recent great blue heron to arrive has moved toward the southeast channel. As the biological monitor approaches the area, the heron flies and lands on the tide gate. Eight American crows are foraging on the northeastern bank. A black phoebe rests on the construction fence on the southeast channel. A dark-eyed junco is foraging through the straw on the south bank of the southeast channel. A black-crowned night heron enters the Basin from the east and begins to forage in the East Basin. Six mallards (two male and four females) and a double-crested cormorant are foraging in the Central Basin. Two black crowned night heron (one adult and one juvenile) fly from east to west along the southern bank and land to forage in the Central Basin.

8:00 am. Conduct bio-awareness training for the site superintendent and the two additional construction workers, as well as the Qualified SWPPP Professional. There is also a CAT equipment maintenance operator on site. The biological monitor reviews the bio-awareness training and stresses the importance of not disturbing the mallard and her ducklings if they should arrive on site. All present for the training sign the sign-in sheet. The excavator will be moved from the southeast section of the site to the western most section of the site. A puddle of water with an oil sheen is gathering underneath the water truck parked in the parking lot, and is spreading north towards the storm water drains. The construction crew installs storm drain inlet protection to avoid contamination of the storm water within the drain.

8:20 am. A black-crowned night heron and a great egret are foraging near the tide gate. The black-crowned night heron flies east and lands in the pine tree adjacent to the tide gates on the southern bank. The great blue heron has flown to perch on the end of the northwest peninsula. Light sprinkles begin to fall, but not enough to be considered measurable rainfall.

8:35 am. Two great egrets fly in and land in the southeast channel. An American crow flies overhead from west to east. Hand-clearing of vegetation begins on the western bank, close to the construction trailer.

8:45 am. Construction activity within the Basin is slow to start this morning. No activity is happening at this time. Currently, there are a great blue heron, a great egret and a snowy egret within the Central Basin and West Basin. A barn swallow is foraging over the Central Basin. Two rock pigeons fly over the Basin from southeast to northwest.

9:00 am. Since the mallard and mourning dove nests were determined to be inactive last week, nest buffers were removed, allowing construction activities to proceed. Biological monitor works with the site superintendent to confirm the location of the inactive mallard and inactive mourning dove nest. The mallards nest was located under thick debris, the vegetation has been cleared from the

area, and the monitor and the site superintendent had to clear vegetation from the nest in order to confirm the location. The two eggs still remain within the inactive mallard nest. Eggshells from the successful hatching of four ducklings remain. The biological monitor also confirmed the location of the abandoned inactive mourning dove with the two eggs still remaining unhatched. Use of the tractor to clear vegetation debris begins on the north bank between the two peninsulas. There are two house finches foraging in the vegetation debris on the northwest peninsula.

9:15 am. A snowy egret flies across the Central Basin to the south bank. A great blue heron, a great egret, and a black crowned night heron are foraging in the Basin at the end of the northeast peninsula. Two American crows enter the Basin area and land on the permanent power pole on the northeast peninsula. Two house finches are foraging in the northwest mudflats.

9:30 am. Four crows are foraging on the southern bank. A snowy egret is foraging near the tide gate.

9:45 am. The great blue heron and great egret that were located near the tide gate have moved to the storm water channel. A black phoebe is foraging in the northeast mudflats. A black-crowned night heron is foraging in the Basin near the southern bank.

9:50 am. A juvenile northern mockingbird has entered the construction zone, and is very close to the heavy equipment. The juvenile is standing on the construction dumpster and observing the construction activity. The heavy equipment is approaching the bird within fifteen feet, therefore the biological monitor asks the equipment operator if he can relocate to another area. Additionally, there is a great blue heron adjacent to construction activities (approximately fifty feet east of the activity). The tractor moves to the northwest peninsula to clear vegetation in that area. The northern mockingbird and great blue heron seem undisturbed by the construction activities.

10:10 am. A snowy egret is foraging for fish in the East Basin. A female mallard flies over the entirety of the Basin from south to north. A black phoebe flies overhead from east to west.

10:20 am. A black phoebe is foraging over the north mudflat, and a snowy egret is wading through the Central Basin. The juvenile northern mockingbird has moved away from the northeast peninsula. Two barn swallows are flying over and hunting the northeast mudflats and East Basin.

10:45 am. Vegetation clearing with the tractor continues on the northeast peninsula. A northern mockingbird perches on a temporary power pole near the storm water culvert. It calls from the top of the pole. After a few minutes the mockingbird flies offsite to the northeast.

11:00 am. Vegetation debris removal has moved from the northeast peninsula to the northwest peninsula. A mourning dove flies overhead and lands on the electric power lines over the northern mudflats. A house mouse is seen rummaging in the grasses. An American crow forages on the bank of the northwest peninsula. As previously observed, wildlife activity slows this time of the day. A

great egret and a snowy egret are foraging at the tide gates. The slope where the inactive mallard nest is located is being cleared of vegetation and debris.

11:15 am. A crow calls from atop a light post on Washington Boulevard. Two mourning doves sit on permanent power lines over the Central Basin.

11:20 am. A third mourning dove joins the previous two on the power lines. A western gull flies from west to east over the Basin. A great egret flies from the tide gate to the north mudflats, where an American crow is foraging. Hand clearing of vegetation on the western slope, between the tide gate and the construction trailer.

11:35 am. Construction activities with the tractor cease and the workers take a short break. The excavator repair is complete and the machine is being moved back onto the Basin site.

11:50 am. Excavator is moved from the west side to the east side of the site along the northern bank. A black phoebe is foraging over the north mudflats. A great egret is foraging in the Central Basin. A great blue heron flies across the Basin from east to west and lands at the tide gate.

11:55 am. All workers break for lunch. Biological monitor breaks for lunch.

1:00 pm. Work reconvenes. Vegetation debris collecting with the tractor on the northwest bank, and hand removal of vegetation on the West Bank adjacent to the tide gate. There is a great egret perched on the tide gate, and a great blue heron perched on the end on the northwest peninsula.

1:15 pm. A house finch calls from the temporary power pole near the construction trailer. Two mourning doves sit on the permanent power lines over the Central Basin. A western gull flies overhead from northeast to southwest. Two house finches are foraging in the north mudflats. Work now consists of an excavator gathering vegetation debris on the northeast peninsula and a tractor gathering vegetation debris on the north bank and northwest peninsula.

1:25 pm. A Cole equipment maintenance operator is on site to make repairs to the John Deere tractor. Biological monitor reviews bio-awareness training with him and has him sign the sign-in sheet. House finches call and fly over the northwest mudflats. A great egret, a snowy egret, and a great blue heron are foraging at the tide gate. A mourning dove is flushed from the vegetation debris on the west bank and flies north over the northwest mudflats.

1:40 pm. An Allen's hummingbird is seen flying from east to west along the north shore towards the construction trailer. A black-chinned hummingbird is observed investigating a vegetation debris pile on the north bank, adjacent to the northeast peninsula.

1:55 pm. Work on the northeast peninsula ceases so that a small repair can be made to the excavator. Work with the tractor continues on the north bank west of the northwest peninsula. The great egret, and the snowy egret continue to forage at the tide gate.

2:05 pm. The tractor leaves the Basin work area. No heavy machinery or construction work of any kind is occurring within the Basin.

2:15 pm. Work is still ceased within the basin.

2:20 pm. Workers are moving two large metal plates, one at a time, with the John Deere tractor. The plates are being moved from the parking lot near the construction trailer to the southeast corner of the site by way of Admiralty Boulevard. The tractor enters the southeast corner of the site through the construction gate at Lot 7. A sulfur butterfly is seen flying along the southeast channel. The tractor then drives through the construction site along the north bank of the Basin back to the parking lot adjacent to the construction trailer.

2:20 pm. A great blue heron flies in from the west and lands in the southeast channel. A great egret still forages at the tide gate.

2:40 pm. The second plate is loaded onto the tractor and is moved along Admiralty Boulevard. The great blue heron from the southeast channel flies toward a second great blue heron that has soared above the East Basin. The two great blue heron fly over the Basin toward the tide gate. The second great blue heron is flushed out of the Basin by the first great blue heron. The great blue heron now perches on the tide gate. A sulfur butterfly is flying along the north bank.

2:55 pm. The tractor unloads the plate and begins to travel through the site along the north bank back to the parking lot adjacent to the construction trailer. Wildlife activity is very minimal, but a black phoebe is foraging along the northeast mudflats.

3:05 pm. The great egret and the great blue heron are still perched and foraging on the tide gate. A black crowned night heron is also perched on the tide gate. The tractor has exited the Basin and is now parked in the parking lot. No construction activities occurring at the present time.

3:15 pm. The tractor re-enters the site and begins debris removal on the west bank directly behind construction trailer. Removing fencing and fence posts. Approximately twenty rock pigeons fly over the West Basin and fly off over the parking lot. A snowy egret flies and joins the great blue heron, black-crowned night heron, and the great egret. The black phoebe continues to forage over the north mudflats.

3:30 pm. Debris removal continues on the west bank, adjacent to the construction trailer and the north bank and also the northwest peninsula. Very minimal wildlife activity.

3:45 pm. Debris removal ceases while equipment in the parking lot is reorganized. No construction activity is occurring within the Basin.

4:15 pm. Construction activities are completed for the day. A deceased great blue heron, not due to construction activities, is observed approximately sixty feet northwest of the tide gate. No construction with heavy equipment occurred within or adjacent to that area today, and all activities along the west slope were observed by the biological monitor.

## **Additional Observations**

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

## **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. 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. They do not seem disturbed by the construction activities.
2. The mallard abandoned her nest with her ducklings last week. A significant amount of vegetation removal has occurred in the areas where the inactive mallard nest and inactive mourning dove nest were located.
3. A deceased great blue heron was observed within the basin approximately sixty feet northwest of the tide gate. The heron was not located directly adjacent to areas where construction work was completed today. Neither the biological monitor, nor the construction crew witnessed a great blue heron in distress while on site today. The lack of construction activity in the area of the tide gate or adjacent to where the heron was located leads to the conclusion that the death of the heron was unrelated to construction activities.
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 7, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 7, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, and flying over Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed flying along the north shore
Black Chinned Hummingbird	<i>Archilochus alexandri</i>	1 individual observed investigating debris on the north bank between the two peninsulas
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	3 Individuals forage around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	5 individuals foraging around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5 individuals ( 3 adults and one immature) observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	1 individual observed on the southern bank of the southeast channel.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed in the morning in the Central Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	4-5 individual observed foraging in Basin; 1 deceased individual NW of the tide gate, not due to construction activities
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2-4 individuals 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 east and northern bank adjacent to the mudflats
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6 individuals, primarily females with two male mallard observed
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	2 individuals observed in the northern portion of the basin, generally between the two peninsulas perching on electric power poles and light posts along Admiralty Boulevard
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed many flying over Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2-4 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin



## Memorandum

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

*From: Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith*

*Date: July 8, 2015*

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

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This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on July 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 Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain for July 8, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-70's (°F) in the morning, and sunny with temperatures in the low 80's (°F) in the afternoon. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading and earth moving on the north bank adjacent to the southeast channel, and vegetation debris clean-up along the northwest west bank. A contractor crew of three heavy equipment operators, and one additional worker 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

7:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site, opens the gate and prepares equipment. Bird species observed within the basin include one juvenile black-crowned night heron. One American crow flies from southeast to northwest, another American crow has landed on the permanent power lines over the Central Basin. A western gull flies across the entirety of the Basin from west to east. Six female and one male mallard are foraging in the East Basin. House finches can be heard calling from the north across Washington Boulevard. A northern mockingbird is calling from the northeast area of the site. Three barn swallows are foraging over the southeast channel. Two American crows

forage on the northeast bank. Two dark-eyed juncos forage on the southern bank, picking through the straw wattles. Anna's hummingbirds can be heard calling from the northeast corner of the site, from across the bike path. Six additional American crows have joined the two on the northeast bank. A northern mockingbird sits on the temporary power lines on the northern bank. Two house finches call and forage on the bank adjacent to the storm water culvert. A black phoebe is foraging on the north mudflats. A great egret and a snowy egret have entered the West Basin. The snowy egret is perching on the tide gate, while the great egret is foraging in the Basin.

7:55 am. The biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the site superintendent, his crew of five workers, and the Qualified SWPPP Professional. There are two new workers onsite, so the biological monitor stresses the importance of watching for the mallard and her ducklings. The monitor also stresses to be cognizant of the monarch butterfly and the California least tern, should they appear onsite. The monitor reminds the workers that if these species enter the site, work at that location will be halted. Today, grading and earth work along the northeast portion of the site and clearing of vegetation debris will occur. Some by-hand vegetation removal will occur adjacent to the tide gate. A fencing crew will continue to place fencing along the bike path, outside of the Basin area.

8:15 am. Five American crows are foraging on the northeast peninsula. Barn swallows are foraging over the Central Basin.

8:25 am. By-hand removal of vegetation begins at the tide gate. A black phoebe calls from the western bank. The great egret has moved and is foraging along the northwest peninsula. The snowy egret is patrolling the south bank. The raft of mallards has moved toward the south bank. Earth moving activities begin on the northeast bank on the southeast channel. The earth moving and grading are associated with a trench to be installed along the fence line. The water truck is in the area to water down the material as it is moved.

8:45 am. Two barn swallows are flying through the southeast channel and adjacent to the construction zone. The monitor is carefully watching them to ensure they do not enter the path of construction equipment. A western gull flies over the site from north to south over the East Basin.

9:00 am. Grading and waterworks continue. The two barn swallows occasionally fly over the southeast channel and near the northern slope. The monitor continues to cautiously watch the swallows. Wildlife activity in the area is minimal. An Anna's hummingbird is seen flying overhead of the construction activities, but is not close enough to cause alarm.

9:15 am. The grading and earth moving work has moved away from the southeast channel and is now adjacent to the bike path near Washington Boulevard. Fencing crews are installing fence outside the construction fence on the perimeter of the bike path. The earthen material is continuously watered down to minimize dust. A new dumpster has been delivered to the site, and the full dumpster is being hauled away. The biological monitor discussed the sensitivity of the

wildlife within the basin, and that she will be monitoring the work to ensure no wildlife is harmed during the work process. The worker signs the sign in sheet.

9:30 am. Construction activities with heavy equipment has ceased for a period. Work is predominately hanging privacy sheeting along the construction fencing. The juvenile black-crowned night heron, the great egret, and the snowy egret are still foraging and are currently adjacent to the tide gate.

10:00 am. Construction activities are still at a minimum and include arranging fencing outside the Basin on the sidewalk near the stormwater channel. An American crow flies over the Basin from south to north, and a house finch flies over the Central Basin while calling.

10:10 am. The John Deere tractor is moving construction plating from adjacent to the pump house to the area near the storm water culvert. Minimal wildlife activity is observed. One barn swallow still patrols the East Basin. A female mallard calls from the East Basin. An Allen's hummingbird is heard calling from across the bike path in the residential area. An American crow flies from north to south.

10:30 am. The tractor is being used to remove fence posts from the original construction fencing. The water truck is moved close to the area to allow for watering of the earthen material. A western gull flies overhead from northeast to southwest. The mallard in the East Basin flies west and exits the site.

10:45 am. Grading and earth moving activities continue near the stormwater culvert. A double-crested cormorant flies from south to north over the southeast channel. The great egret is foraging near the tide gate.

11:00 am. The great egret has flown to the stormwater culvert. Construction work is moving to the northwest peninsula and includes vegetation debris clearing with the tractor and the excavator.

11:20 am. A double-crested cormorant flies in from the east and lands in the West Basin. The snowy egret still perches on the tide gate and the great egret is foraging on the south bank of the Central Basin.

11:30 am. The snowy egret has flown to the bank adjacent to the cormorant. The egret tried to flush the cormorant out of the basin. The cormorant remains. A female mallard forages in the Central Basin. A western gull flies overhead from east to west over the entirety of the Basin.

11:50 am. A mourning dove flies into the northwest mudflats. Vegetation debris clearing continues on the northwest peninsula.

12:00 pm. Construction ceases for lunch. Biological monitor breaks for lunch.

1:00 pm. Work reconvenes. Workers are marking out measurements for work tomorrow. No heavy equipment activities are currently occurring. A California towhee is heard calling from the residential neighborhood across Washington Boulevard.

1:20 pm. The great egret was foraging in the northwest mudflats, it flies around the northwest peninsula to the north mudflats. A mourning dove flies overhead and lands on the permanent power lines over the Central Basin.

1:30 pm. A western gull flies overhead from east to west. Two American crows fly over the West Basin. The excavator is running now and is moving vegetation debris into the trash bin. The tractor begins clearing vegetation debris as well.

1:45 pm. A snowy egret and a great egret are foraging adjacent to the tide gate. Vegetation debris clearing and clean-up is still occurring on the northwest peninsula and the north bank between both peninsulas.

2:00 pm. A second snowy egret flew into the Basin from the northeast and landed on the Central Basin near the south bank. The snowy egret foraging near the tide gate flew east towards the newly arriving egret and flushed it out of the Basin. Both egrets exit the Basin. There is one great egret near the tide gate foraging.

2:15 pm. A female mallard enters the Central Basin. There are now two female mallards in the Basin. Construction activities cease for a moment. No activity within the Basin. A metal cutting saw is used to cut pipe pieces laying along the west bank. A group of five house finches fly over the northwest mudflats from east to west.

2:25 pm. A western gull flies over the West Basin and circles back over the Central Basin. Three house sparrows fly overhead from the south and land on top of the construction trailer. The excavator and tractor are starting to clear debris from the west bank near the construction trailer.

2:35 pm. An American crow flies from north to south over the Central Basin. Vegetation debris is being cleared from the west bank and the northwest bank.

2:40 pm. An American crow is foraging on the northwest peninsula. The great egret is foraging in the northwest mudflats and a house finch is perching on a temporary power line. The Inspector of Record has asked the construction crew to move the temporary transformer away from the sewer manholes. The John Deere tractor moves the transformer.

2:55 pm. The tractor begins moving vegetation debris on the west bank adjacent to the construction trailer. There is very minimal wildlife activity. A great egret forages near the tide gate.

3:10 pm. A mourning dove flies into the site from the south and lands on the temporary constitution power poles. A house finch perches on a light post on Lot 8 adjacent to the west bank.

3:20 pm. The great egret and the snowy egret are both foraging near the tide gate. There are two female mallards foraging in the Central Basin.

3:40 pm. A western gull flies over the Basin from west to northeast. The two female mallards are foraging in the Central Basin. The snowy egret and the great egret are still perched on the tide gate. Construction activities consist of removal of vegetation debris with the tractor and the excavator.

3:55 pm. A third female mallard enter the Central Basin. A great egret still forages at the tide gate. Construction work is still occurring on the west bank.

4:15 pm. A barn swallow flies over the west bank. House finches are heard calling from the residential neighborhood across Washington Boulevard. A snowy egret flies and lands on a light post on the southern edge of the property. A juvenile black-crowned night heron has joined the snowy egret and the great egret on the tide gate. A towhee can be heard calling from across Washington Boulevard.

4:20 pm. Work ceases for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

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

## **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. 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. They do not seem disturbed by the construction activities.
2. The mallard abandoned her nest with her ducklings last week. A significant amount of vegetation removal has occurred in the areas where the inactive mallard nest and inactive mourning dove nest were located.
3. 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.
4. 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 8, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 8, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
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 along the north shore
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	4 Individuals forage around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 individual foraging around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2 individuals (one adult and one immature) observed foraging in Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	2 individuals observed on the southern bank of the southeast channel.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed in the West Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2-4 individuals 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 adjacent to the basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	7 individuals, primarily females with one male mallard observed
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed on the north bank near the northwest peninsula.
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2-4 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin



## Memorandum

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

*From: Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith*

*Date: July 9, 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 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 Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 3:50 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain for July 9, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were partly cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grapevine re-planting and vegetation debris clean-up along the west bank, and northwest peninsula. A contractor crew of four workers 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

6:50 am. Biological monitor opens gate and enters site. Gathers equipment and begins initial assessment. A great blue heron and a snowy egret are perching on the tide gate. Four mallards (one male and three females) are foraging in the Central Basin. House finches can be heard calling from the residential neighborhood across Washington Boulevard. An American crow can be heard calling from the southwest. House finches are perched on the temporary power lines along the west bank. An American crow patrols the southern bank of the southeast channel. The mallards exit the Basin, flying northwest.

7:30 am. Biological monitor meets with site superintendent and workers to discuss activities for the day. The crew discusses the honey bee nest on the west slope with the biological monitor. The CDM Smith Project Manager discusses the honey bee hive with CDFW. Per CDFW guidance, a bee keeper will be called to remove the bees. Additionally, per CDFW, the deceased raccoon and deceased great blue heron, not due to construction activities, will be placed in trash bags and animal control will be contacted to retrieve the individuals.

8:15 am. Still no construction activities are occurring. Crew is preparing for the day and fixing an excavator and moving some equipment around the parking lot.

8:45 am. Biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the crew of the site superintendent and four additional workers. The Qualified SWPPP Professional is on site, as well as a diver to discuss the installation of the plug and the patch within the tide gate. The biological monitor discusses the importance of awareness during construction activities in regards to wildlife, especially birds. The monitor summarizes the past presence of the California least tern, the monarch butterfly, and the female mallard and her ducklings. She states that if any of these individuals enter the Basin, all work will cease. The workers sign the sign-in sheet and work begins. The site superintendent discusses that work for the day will include grading and removing of vegetation on the west bank. The crew will transplant the grape vines located adjacent to the tide gate to planters so that they may be replanted during the landscaping process.

9:00 am. Work begins on the west slope with the excavator and some hand clearing of vegetation. The great blue heron has flown off site, a black-crowned night heron enters the site and perches on the tide gate. The snowy egret remains. Barn swallows continue to forage over the Central and West Basin.

9:30 am. The deceased animals are placed in trash bags and a beekeeper for removal of the honey bee hive is being contacted. Work continues on site and consists of vegetation debris clearing and removal and earthwork.

9:50 am. A great egret enters the Basin from the northeast and perches on the tide gate. Work on the west bank mostly consists of by-hand removal of vegetation and some excavation work removing roots and debris. A crow flies over the basin from east to west. The snowy egret and the great egret are foraging at the tide gate.

10:10 am. An American crow forages on the south bank. A barn swallow flies over the West Basin. The workers are replanting the grape vines and clearing additional vegetation. The great egret has flown from the tide gate to the northwest mudflats.

10:30 am. There appears to be some fish activity in the basin today, as the monitor is noticing movement on the surface of the water ("fish jumps"). The great egret is still fishing in the West

Basin. House finches are heard calling from the residential neighborhood across Washington Boulevard.

10:50 am. Two lesser goldfinch are observed on the southern bank of the southeast channel, as well as a black-crowned night heron and a great blue heron, which are presumably the same individuals from the tide gate earlier this morning.

11:00 am. Two mourning doves sit on the permanent power lines over the West Basin. The mourning doves fly over to the tide gate and exit the basin to the south away from the construction. The great egret moves away from the construction, flying east along the southern bank and lands in the Central Basin. An American crow flies and lands on the temporary power lines on the west bank, then immediately flies to a palm tree along Washington Boulevard.

11:10 am. A great blue heron flies in from the southwest and lands on the end of the northeast peninsula. A western gull flies over from the northwest and lands in the East Basin. It flies off to the southeast a moment later.

11:30 am. A mourning dove flies across the Basin from south to north over the Central Basin. The snowy egret is still foraging at the tide gate. The great egret continues to forage in the Central Basin. A rock pigeon flies overhead from south to north.

11:45 am. A house sparrow flies over the West Basin and lands on the permanent power pole on the west bank.

11:50 am. All work ceases for lunch. Biological monitor takes lunch.

1:00 pm. Work resumes. Workers are moving grape vine plantings to the top of the slope and clearing vegetation debris by hand. Vegetation clearing work with the tractor will begin on the northern slope from the northwest peninsula east. A great egret is foraging in the West Basin and a black-crowned night heron is perched on the tide gate. A snowy egret is foraging in the Central Basin near the south bank. A western gull flies overhead from west to east, and exits to basin area to the south.

1:30 pm. Two mourning dove are resting on the northwest peninsula. The excavator moves to join work on the north shore adjacent to the northeast peninsula. Vegetation debris removal continues. A western gull flies overhead from north to south.

1:50 pm. A barn swallow flies over the East Basin. Vegetation debris clearing with the excavator and the tractor is occurring on the northeast peninsula and north bank. Two western gulls fly over the Central Basin.

1:55 pm. There is an on-site meeting with LACDPW, CDM Smith, and C.S. Legacy from 1:55 pm to 3:10 pm.

3:10 pm. A great egret and a snowy egret are perched on the tide gate. A double-crested cormorant has entered the West Basin. A female mallard flies overhead from southeast to northwest. The excavator and the tractor are clearing vegetation debris on the north bank near the southeast channel. By-hand vegetation removal is occurring adjacent to the tide gate.

3:20 pm. No current heavy equipment work is occurring at this time. An American crow flies over the southeast channel and into the residential neighborhood. A group of several barn swallows (mixture of juvenile and adults) are circling and patrolling the north bank of the southeast channel.

3:35 pm. A juvenile great blue heron flies over the Central Basin and lands on the south bank across from the storm water culvert. A western gull flies overhead from west to east.

3:45 pm. A western gull flies over the West Basin and circles overhead several times. The gull exits the site to the north. A great egret and a double crested cormorant land on the storm water culvert. And the great egret has begun foraging on the northeast peninsula. Two additional western gulls have flown overhead from west to east.

3:50 pm. Work ceases for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

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

## **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. 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. They do not seem disturbed by the construction activities.
2. 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.
3. 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 9, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 9, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 Individuals observed throughout the basin
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	5 Individuals forage around Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Lesser Goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	2 individuals observed on the southern bank of the southeast channel.
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed in the West Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	2-3 individuals observed foraging in the basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1-2 individuals observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	2 observed and several heard singing from the Washington Boulevard area
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	1 observed adjacent to the basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	6 individuals observed throughout the basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2 observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed on the north bank near the northwest peninsula.
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin



## Memorandum

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

*From: Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith*

*Date: July 10, 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 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 Danielle Gallant, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:50 am and ending at 2:45 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0 percent chance of rain for July 10, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were partly cloudy with high temperatures in the mid-80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with over-excavating and trenching for a wall along the north bank between the two peninsulas. A contractor crew of five workers 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

6:55 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to begin initial assessment. Unlocks gate and organizes equipment.

7:05 am. A great egret is foraging in the West Basin. A black crowned night heron is foraging on the south bank of the Central Basin. House finches can be heard calling from across Washington Boulevard. An American crow flies over the East Basin. A western gull flies overhead from north to south. Two house finches fly over the Central and West Basin from east to west. A murder of ten crows is foraging on the south bank, they can be heard calling throughout the Basin. Three of the crows fly north over the Central Basin, two exit the site and one lands on the permanent power pole

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near the northwest peninsula. The crow flies off to the north a moment later. A black phoebe is foraging in the storm water culvert. A juvenile great blue heron is perched on the stormwater culvert. Approximately six to eight black phoebe are foraging over the East Basin and the southeast channel. A house finch is foraging in the vegetation debris on the north end of the stormwater culvert. The crows have moved from the south bank to the northeast bank of the East Basin. A house finch flies from south to north over the East Basin and lands on a temporary power line adjacent to the bike path. A group of four house finches flies from north to south over the East Basin and southeast channel. Two mourning doves fly overhead from south to north over the East Basin. A black phoebe is resting on a silt fence stake. A great egret and a snowy egret are now at the storm water culvert with the great blue heron.

8:15 am. Bio-awareness training is completed for the construction crew, the Qualified SWPPP Professional, the LACDPW inspector, and a Cole equipment repair operator. Construction crew consists of the site superintendent and four additional workers. The Cole equipment repair operator is on site to repair the John Deere tractor. Work today will consist of clearing and grubbing on the west bank, as well over-excavation of the north bank along the bike path for a retaining wall.

8:30 am. Work begins on the northeast peninsula and consists of vegetation debris removal with the excavator. The great blue heron, snowy egret and great egret have moved away from the construction. The great egret is now adjacent to the south bank, in the Central Basin. The great blue heron and the snowy egret cannot be seen at this time. A house finch flies overhead from southeast to northwest.

8:50 am. The water truck arrives to the work area and wets the site down. The snowy egret is foraging along the northwest peninsula.

8:55 am. The snowy egret flies from the northwest peninsula to the tide gate. Two American crows are patrolling the north bank of the southeast channel. An osprey is perched on the pine near the tide gate. Two rock pigeons fly from east to west over the Basin. A killdeer is heard calling from the northeast.

9:05 am. Excavator begins work again now that area is watered down. An American crow flies over the West Basin from north to south. The snowy egret and the great egret are both perching and foraging on the tide gate. A western gull flies over the West Basin from east to west. A mourning dove is perched on the permanent power lines over the West Basin. It flies offsite to the north.

9:30 am. A mourning dove flies into the site from the north, flies over the north mudflats and turns and exits the site to the north. A house finch flies east to northwest over the Central Basin. A western gull flies south to north over the East Basin.

9:40 am. Two house finches fly into the north mudflats from the north. The great egret is still foraging at the tide gate, and the osprey is still perched on top of the pine adjacent to the tide gate. A

western gull flies from north to south over the West Basin. Excavation is occurring on the north bank, and by-hand removal of vegetation is occurring on the northeast peninsula. Two house sparrows fly in from the north over the Central and West Basins. An American crow flies over the northeast peninsula and exits the site to the north.

9:45 am. A killdeer is foraging in the north mudflats. The great egret is foraging in the West Basin. Trenching work begins along the northern slope between the two peninsulas.

10:15 am. A double-crested cormorant flies from over the southeast channel over the Central Basin and turns north to exit the Basin over Washington Boulevard. A house sparrow flies from the north over the northwest peninsula and lands on the west bank to forage. Two house sparrows are foraging on the northwest peninsula.

10:30 am. The snowy egret is foraging in the Central Basin. A double-crested cormorant enters the West Basin and is foraging for fish. Trenching work continues along the north bank between the two peninsulas. The osprey has left the perch on the pine tree.

10:45 am. A mourning dove is sitting on the permanent power lines over the West Basin. A snowy egret is patrolling the south bank foraging for fish.

11:05 am. An American crow flies across the Central Basin from south to north. Trenching construction continues. A snowy egret forages at the tide gate, and two rock pigeons fly over the Central Basin from the east and left the site to the south.

11:15 am. Four house finches fly from the east to the northwest peninsula and are foraging along the east bank. An American crow flies over the southeast channel from north to south.

11:30 am. A killdeer and a snowy egret are foraging in the West Basin. House finches are heard calling from the residential neighborhood across Washington Boulevard.

11:35 am. A monarch butterfly is observed flying along the north bank, near the construction zone. No work is currently occurring but the monitor made the workers aware of its presence. Two mourning doves fly from the north to the southwest.

11:45 am. Two American crows fly from north to the south. Two snowy egrets are foraging at the tide gate.

11:50 am. All workers break for lunch. Biological monitor breaks for lunch.

1:00 pm. Work continues and includes continuation of the trenching along the north bank between the two peninsulas. A great egret is foraging in the West Basin. A snowy egret is foraging at the tide gate, and the killdeer is patrolling the northwest mudflats. The great egret flies from the West Basin to the tide gate. Minimal wildlife activity is observed.

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1:15 pm. A double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin from north to south and exits the site to the south toward the marina. Two mourning doves are resting on a light post on Washington Boulevard. A western gull flies over the Central Basin from the southeast and exits the site to the north. House finches are heard calling from across Washington Boulevard.

1:25 pm. A western gull circles the Central Basin. The snowy egret and the great egret continue to forage at the tide gate.

1:35 pm. An American crow flies south to north over the Central Basin. A house finch and a mourning dove fly from the north to the south and leave the site to the west. The monitor stopped work when a butterfly, appeared to be a Monarch, entered the construction zone from the north. The butterfly flew to the south east and out of the work zone and work continued.

1:55 pm. A western gull flies over the Central Basin from north to south. Trenching work along the north bank is paused while the water truck is refilled.

2:10 pm. Vegetation clearing and debris clean-up is occurring on the northeast peninsula. A killdeer is heard calling from the West Basin. A California towhee is heard calling from the residential area across Washington Boulevard. The great egret is fishing in the West Basin, and the snowy egret is perching on the tide gate. An American crow flies across the Central Basin and flies offsite to the north.

2:20 pm. Vegetation debris clearing continues on the northeast peninsula. A double-crested cormorant flies over the West Basin from south to north.

2:30 pm. A worker is watering down the grapevine plants and the west bank. A western gull flies over the West Basin from south to north.

2:45 pm. Work ceases for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

## **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. Biological awareness training proved effective

when the monarch butterfly entered the work zone today. All workers stopped as soon as the biological monitor gave the signal and the monarch butterfly was able to leave the work area unharmed. In general, 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. They do not seem disturbed by the construction activities.

2. 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.
3. 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 10, 2015.**

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 10, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; Individuals observed throughout the basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 Individual observed perching adjacent to the tide gate
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	2 individuals observed in the West Basin and flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; Individuals observed throughout the basin and several heard singing from the Washington Boulevard area
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	5 observed flying over and foraging within the Basin
Black Pheobe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	9 individuals observed throughout the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	5 observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the north mudflats
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin