



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: August 3, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on August 3, 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 Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 3:45 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly sunny, then nearly overcast around midday, then sunny again by the end of the work day, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 75°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, electrical repair, and diving. 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 to conduct initial assessment. Crew waiting for member with gate key for main entrance to construction site.

7:20 am. Introductions to other biologists, site conditions, permit requirements, wildlife activity, fish relocation, and planned activities for the day are discussed. Construction crewmember arrives with key, fence is unlocked, and vehicles enter.

7:45 am. Observations from the western bank of the Basin of the wildlife foraging in the water and at its edges include the following individuals: Four snowy egrets including one juvenile; a great blue heron at the center; five black-crowned night-herons; ten mallards and one double-crested

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cormorant swimming; two western gulls flying overhead from east to west; and a black phoebe fly-catching along the silt fencing.

8:00 am. Contractor Project Manager gives introduction and short tour of site.

8:15 am. Biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of seven workers. Rain for Rent is on site and has a crew of three workers. The CDM Smith and SWCA fish relocation team of five is also present. The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend the training and all workers sign the sign-in sheet. Work will consist of removing various leftover debris along the northeast bank and piling it up along the higher ground like a berm for temporary flood control, awaiting the Edison crew who are to fix and recharge the pump stations on either end of the Basin, and then the diving team will attempt to plug the tide gates.

8:30 am. A walk around the Basin before construction begins reveals that most of the wildlife has flown off due to the already rising tide. Those that remain include the following individuals: Two snowy egrets foraging on opposite banks in the center of the Basin; a great egret standing in the eastern channel; a juvenile and adult black-crown night-herons sitting on the eastern pump house above the flood gate; and a black phoebe foraging along the silt fencing.

8:45 am. A Great egret flew west to forage in center Basin. A bulldozer enters the site via bike path and north fence entrance along Washington Boulevard. An Anna's hummingbird is singing in a eucalyptus tree near houses to the east. Edison crews are working on electrifying the pumps.

8:50 am. The two remaining black-crowned night-herons fly off down the channel to the west and out of the Basin and construction site. An American crow sits in the peppertrees to the north.

8:55 am. The great egret flies out of the Basin towards the northwest. Two mourning doves forage in the muddy vegetation on the northern flat of the Basin.

9:15 am. The two remaining snowy egrets fly off to the northwest. The tide continues to rise. No wading birds are left foraging in the Basin.

9:20 am. Two crewmembers use the dozer scoop to move debris collected from the eastern bank and pile it along the high wider edge nearer the fence and bike path.

9:30 am. An Eurasian collared dove sits on power lines near northwest Basin

9:38 am. A Black-crowned night-heron flew over west to east towards channel. An Eurasian collared dove flies down to forage in the mudflat. An Anna's hummingbird is singing on a powerline along west bank.

9:40 am. The fish relocation team is in the water along the western bank, netting fish and moving clockwise around the edges of the Basin.

10:01 am. A Snowy egret flies east to west over Basin.

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10:05 am. A monarch butterfly approaches the site from the west, moving east above the chain-link fencing never truly entering into the work zone, and is out of sight within the minute.

10:11 am. A house finch momentarily lands on the straw wattle along the west bank and exits north out of the Basin. Pairs of rock pigeons consistently appear and reappear around the buildings south of the Basin along Admiralty Way.

10:15 am. The crew moves a mini-excavator along south rim of Basin near chain-link fencing and stops at the center where the workers have opened a small portion of fencing.

10:18 am. Two Western gulls fly high overhead east to west.

10:50 am. Two snowy egrets and a barn swallow fly high over the Basin east to west.

11:00 am. Work ceases for lunch.

12:30 pm. Work reconvenes. The tide is very high and goes up passed the silt fencing around the Basin. No wildlife activity in or around the Basin edges.

1:08 pm. A Snowy egret flew in from the west to land on northern edge of Central Basin.

1:10 pm. Another snowy egret flies over from south towards the west. A house sparrow is sitting on western fencing.

1:15 pm. The snowy egret moves further east to forage and leaves two minutes later.

1:30 pm. A juvenile black-crowned night-heron lands in the pine tree directly above the electrical and diving crews working on the western tide gates. A male Anna's hummingbird is also observed in the tree.

1:33 pm. An elegant tern flies slowly over the Basin from east to west.

1:45 pm. Two house finches, three mourning doves, and one Northern mockingbird forage along the western bank of the Basin.

1:50 pm. An adult black-crowned night-heron flies low over the Basin from east to west. The diver is in the water near the western tide gate attempting to plug the tide gate.

2:22 pm. A female mallard flies to land in the eastern Basin from the west and leaves ten minutes later

3:00 pm. The diving team gets the plug attached and the equipment ready to pump.

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3:20 pm. Crew is finishing up their work for the day: closing up the fencing and making final rounds. No birds are observed in or around the Basin. House finches are observed on the western electric lines while mourning doves are observed on the northern electric lines.

3:39 pm. A female mallard returns to the Basin.

3:45 pm. Fencing is closed off and crew is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers, osprey, 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. 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. Yet, most of the wildlife left the area before any work began this morning. The few that returned in the afternoon did not appear disturbed by the various activities occurring near the water, as proven by the young heron joining the large group of workers near the tide gates under the pine tree.
2. Wildlife is 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. Increased water levels and increased algal mats were observed throughout the Basin.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 3, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 3, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals observed on electric lines; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5 individuals observed foraging on all edges of Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	10 individuals swimming in the East and Central Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed swimming in the Central Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging nearer the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4 observed, particularly on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	4 observed foraging in the Central Basin; several observed flying overhead
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2 observed, particularly on power lines and foraging on mudflats
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed foraging in the Eastern channel and Central Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 observed on the north bank of the West Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead, foraging on western bank, and sitting on power lines
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on power lines
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Elegant Tern	<i>Thalasseus elegans</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: August 4, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on August 4, 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 Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:20 am and ending at 4:15 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly sunny, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 79°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, tide-gate repair, algae and fence post removal. 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

6:20 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. Upon arrival, a Great Blue Heron was low in flight heading west from the Basin, two Double-crested Cormorants were swimming in the Central Basin and both left moments later, a Snowy Egret was sitting in the far western pine near the tide gates, a Mallard flew in to swim in the east Basin; and an American Crow sat on the power pole northwest of the Basin.

7:00 am. The construction crew are waiting for the main construction gate entrance to be opened. The side gate was opened for the Public Works crew to enter and open the remaining tide gate.

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7:20 am. The crewmember arrives with key. The fence is unlocked so that crew and vehicles can enter. The following individuals are observed at the site: Great Blue Heron in Central Basin, six Mallards swimming, a Great Egret flew over north to east, Mourning Dove on fence, Black-crowned Night-Heron flew over from north to south, and Snowy Egret foraging near base of pine.

7:45 am. A Double-crested Cormorant and two Western gulls land in the Basin and leave again moments later. Ten Mallards are observed swimming and leave seven minutes later.

7:55 am. The Anderson Environmental VOC safety monitor began the safety meeting, followed by the biological monitor who gave the bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of seven workers. Two SWCA fish relocation biologists were also present. The SoCal Storm-water Solutions Monitor and the Inspector of Record also attended the training and all workers signed the sign-in sheet. Work for the day should consist of hauling out various leftover construction debris along the northeast bank that was piled up the day before, repairing the tide gate, followed by plugging the second tide gate, and implementing more road safety measures.

8:20 am. Public Works crew is working on western tide gate. Double-crested Cormorant flew into the West Basin and foraged below the water surface.

8:25 am. Snowy Egret flew in to forage along north edge of Central Basin. Five Mallards flew overhead.

8:30 am. Double-crested Cormorant now sunning itself near the East Basin. Crew is removing broken asphalt debris from the temporary staging area using one of the mini-excavators and a dozer.

8:35 am. A Black Phoebe is observed along the silt fence near the eastern channel. Two crewmembers are in the dingy removing the algal buildup on the eastern flood gate.

9:10 am. A Snowy Egret left the Central Basin mudflat towards the west. An Anna's Hummingbird is singing on the western power line.

9:35 am. A Snowy Egret and Great Egret are foraging in the West Basin. A Black-crowned night-heron is sitting on the southern bank and then moves up into a pine tree. All individuals left towards the east after ten minutes.

10:15 am. A pair of Mourning Doves forages in vegetation in western mudflat; a Great Blue Heron momentarily lands in the East Basin from the east and then continues to leave the Basin heading west. Water level is still high.

10:50 am. One mini- excavator on the southern rim of the Basin near the fence is removing the remaining fence posts in the ground while a water-truck is spraying down the soil. Dump trucks are filled with the broken cement and asphalt debris. Two barn swallows flyover from east to west.

10:55 am. A Royal Tern flies over the western parking lot from the northwest to the southeast.

11:01 am. A pair of house sparrows forages within the north central mudflat vegetation. The two-man boat crew have made it out of the channel continuing to remove algae along the east bank moving northerly.

11:22 am. A Snowy egret is foraging on and near the bank of the eastern floodgate.

11:30 am. A Monarch Butterfly flew into the site, then over and out of the eastern floodgate area. No construction activity was occurring nearby.

11:50 am. The County Project Manager informs fish biologists that the plug won't be installed today.

12:00 pm. A few crew members began to break for lunch.

12:12 pm. The diver arrived to discuss the second plug.

12:35 pm. More workers break for lunch. One excavator is still filling truck with debris. Two American Crows land on eastern inlet, followed by a Western Gull that momentarily lands on the water surface.

12:50 pm. The diver left the site. The rest of the crew breaks for lunch.

1:30 pm. Crewmembers return to work. Most of the debris on the northeast rim is now gone. The tide is moving back in.

1:55 pm. A Snowy Egret is foraging on east bank north of the two-man crew moving the algae up slope and over the silt fencing using hand tools.

2:00 pm. The remaining SWCA fish biologist and the biological monitor attempt to net the stingrays now foraging near the waters edge on either side of the western tide gates.

2:15 pm. Two Snowy Egrets fly low over the Basin from east to west. Work is slowing down for the day.

2:45 pm. Crews conclude debris clean-up in northeast rim and relocate vehicles and equipment back to the northwest end.

3:15 pm. Crews finish patching fences and begin clean-up activities in the project yard. One Snowy Egret is observed foraging on the northwest bank in shallow water.

3:45 pm. SWCA fish biologist packs up gear until tide gate can be fixed and dewatering can begin.

4:15 pm. Crews complete work and leave site.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers, osprey, 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. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife is 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. The high level of the water this morning made a difference in the number of birds foraging in the Basin. There were much fewer individuals and less species diversity.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 4, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 4, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals observed on electric lines; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead and foraging on West Basin edge
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	10 individuals swimming in the East and Central Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	3 individuals observed swimming in the Central Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the Central and East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and temporarily in Central Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4 observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	3 observed foraging in the West and Central Basin; several observed flying overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 observed singing in various locations around the West Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed foraging in the Eastern channel and Central Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 observed on the north bank of the West Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead, foraging on western bank, and sitting on power lines
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; observed foraging, flying overhead and on power lines
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Very common; observed in palms north of site
Royal Tern	<i>Thalasseus maximus</i>	1 individual observed flying over the parking lot
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	2 individual observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: August 5, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on August 5, 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 Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were fairly cloudy, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 79°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed the previous days activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, tide-gate repair, algae and fence post removal, along with more excavation for another foundation trench. 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

6:30 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. Upon arrival a Great Blue Heron and Snowy Egret were foraging in the west basin, a Double-crested Cormorant was in flight leaving the basin towards the west, four Mallards were swimming towards the east basin.

6:45 am. On top of and around the eastern floodgate were another Great Blue Heron, another Snowy Egret, and five, including a juvenile, Black-crowned Night-Heron. A Black Phoebe and a Barn Swallow were also present foraging over the long eastern channel.

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7:10 am. Crew arrives and is waiting for the superintendent with gate key for main entrance to construction site. The side gate was opened for the LACDPW crew to enter and open the remaining tide gate.

7:25 am. The fence is unlocked and vehicles enter. Present in the site at this time: Great Blue Heron in Central Basin, two Mallards swimming, three Black-crowned Night-Heron, and Snowy Egret foraging on the eastern channel and flood gate, a Black Phoebe, two Anna's hummingbirds and an Oregon Junco are also observed in the eastern portion of the site.

7:50 am. The Anderson Environmental VOC safety monitor began the safety meeting. Followed by the biological monitor who gave the bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of now eight workers. The SoCal Storm-water Solutions Monitor and the Inspector of Record also attended the training and all workers signed the sign-in sheet. Work for the day should consist of continuing to haul out construction debris and extra soil along the now south rim along Admiralty Way, moving the existing fencing, the LACDPW team repairing the tide gate, and digging the western trench for future foundation.

8:15 am. The mini-excavator on the south rim began its earth moving task and removal of the old fence posts. LACDPW is working on repairing the second tide gate.

8:30 am. The second mini-excavator started digging along the bank of the west basin moving north; the tide gate is open about five feet and the tide is moving out, so water levels are lowering. A Snowy Egret, a Mallard, and an Anna's Hummingbird are observed in/near the northwest Basin mudflats.

9:10 am. The dump trucks are being loaded from Admiralty Way, and water trucks are being used to keep the dust down as the excavator digs and dumps the soil moving west along the road.

9:42 am. A Western Gull lands in the Central Basin. The Snowy Egret is still foraging.

10:15 am. A Black-Crowned Night-Heron flew from the west to land in pine near west tide gates.

10:35 am. A Monarch butterfly flies into the northeastern corner of the site and soon leaves going northwest along the fence line. No construction activity was occurring anywhere nearby. Two Mourning Doves and a Snowy Egret are foraging in the northeastern mudflat.

10:40 am. Five Mallards fly into the East Basin from the east.

10:55 am. The five Mallards are swimming down the channel toward the algae cleaning two-man boat crew at the eastern floodgate. They seem more interested than disturbed by the crew's activity.

11:15 am. The south rim mini-excavator is approaching the twin pines protected by the orange plastic fencing. The crew stays above the fencing and moves along west. No wildlife activity is observed in the immediate area. Two of the five Mallards are foraging in the north Central Basin.

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11:30 am. Two Snowy egrets are foraging near the northeastern storm drain outlet, and a Great Egret is foraging in the northwestern mudflats.

12:00 pm. All crewmembers and workers break for lunch

1:00 pm. All crewmembers return from lunch break. Biological monitor gives an extra work debris and micro-trash awareness training. Snowy Egret is observed flying off heading west. The Great Egret is foraging now on the southeast bank.

1:35 pm. Two Snowy Egrets and the Great Egret are foraging in the eastern channel. The boat crew is absent from the area. A Northern Mockingbird is singing in the trees nearby, an American Crow is sitting on a little wooden pole, and a Cooper's Hawk soars over the eastern Eucalyptus trees outside of the site.

2:00 pm. The juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron is sitting in the northeastern storm outlet.

2:30 pm. Crew working on putting up new temporary fencing along Admiralty Way. The mini-excavator is digging the western trench.

2:50 pm. A Great and a Snowy Egret are still foraging in the West and Central Basin. The temporary fencing is up.

3:00 pm. The south rim mini-excavator is observed removing old fence posts, but stops just before the young palm tree growing near the rim.

3:15 pm. Final walk around reveals the following individuals: Snowy Egret, Great Egret in the West Basin; a Black Phoebe, a House Finch and the juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron in the northeastern storm outlet and canal; an adult Black-Crowned Night-Heron on the eastern floodgate; and a single Mallard swimming towards the West Basin.

3:20 pm. The south rim mini- excavator is observed scooping out the algal beds near the basin edge. LACDPW crew attempts to remove the old rusty tide-gate cover with a small crane.

3:45 pm. The SWCA fish biologist found a CA sea slug near the west tide gates sitting on the bank, and relocated it to an appropriate location in the Marina Basin E.

4:00 pm. Crew is packed up. Equipment is back in staging areas. The construction area is secured.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers, osprey, 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. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Once the tide gate was opened this morning and water was allowed out, the lowering water levels gave more foraging opportunities to the local wading bird population. Most of the same individuals remained onsite throughout the day because the tide gates remained closed and the water level remained low.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 5, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 5, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed on electric lines; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	5 individual observed flying overhead and foraging on West Basin edge
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5 individuals swimming in the East and Central Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individuals observed flying out of the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	2 individual observed foraging in the West and East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and temporarily in Central Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2 observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2 observed foraging in the West and Central Basin; several observed flying overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 observed singing in various locations around the West Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed foraging in the Eastern channel and Central Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 observed on the north bank of the West Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead, foraging on northern bank, and sitting on power lines
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; observed foraging, flying overhead and on power lines
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Very common; observed in palms north of site
Cooper's Hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>	1 individual observed soaring east outside the site
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1 individual observed flying over east channel
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed singing and flying over East Basin
Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>	1 individual observed sitting near east channel



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: August 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 August 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 Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:40 am and ending at 5:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly cloudy to overcast mid-day, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 77°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed the activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, tide-gate repair, fence post removal and replacement, excavation along the western bank for the foundation trench, and the attempted plugging of the second tide gate from the marina side. 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

6:35 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment.

7:00 am. Walk around reveals the following individuals: Two Double-crested Cormorants and one Mallard swimming in the Central Basin, two Snowy Egrets foraging on the southern bank, a Belted Kingfisher foraging from the power lines flying over the whole basin, a juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron sitting in the northeastern storm outlet/channel, two Black Phoebes along the East Basin and channel. On top of and around the eastern floodgate going west along both sides of the channel near the water's edge were a Great Blue Heron, nine including an immature, Black-crowned

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Night-Heron. An Oregon Junco and an Anna's hummingbird were singing in the trees just outside the eastern portion of the site.

7:30 am. Five Mallards and a Western Gull are swimming in the Basin. The LACDPW crew is present to prepare the remaining tide gate for plugging it in the afternoon.

7:50 am. The Anderson Environmental VOC safety monitor began the safety meeting, followed by the biological monitor who gave the bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of seven workers. The SoCal Storm-water Solutions Monitor and the lead SWCA fish biologist also attended the training and all workers signed the sign-in sheet.

8:00 am. Work for the day should consist of continuing to haul out construction debris and extra soil along the now south rim along Admiralty Way and in the parking lot, continuing to move the existing fencing, the LACDPW crew completing repairs to the tide gate for the diver to return in the afternoon to plug it from the Marina side, and continuing to dig the western trench for future foundation.

8:25 am. The mini-excavator on the western bank continued its trench-digging task. The following individuals were observed: Anna's Hummingbird singing in western pine, Mallard swimming in West Basin, Snowy Egret foraging on the northeast bank, and a Double-Crested Cormorant sunning itself on the northeastern storm drainage cement canal.

8:30 am. The second mini-excavator started digging along the south rim. The following individuals were observed: Two Belted Kingfishers now foraging and flying over the entire Basin and three Black-crowned Night-Herons move from the floodgate area to the storm drainage location.

9:00 am. Both excavators are in operation and grading their respective sites. The dump trucks are being loaded from Admiralty Way while a water truck is staying ahead to keep the dust down as the excavator digs and dumps the soil and concrete debris.

9:45 am. A Snowy Egret is foraging by the west tide gate. The LACDPW crew is not present. The south rim mini-excavator is still driving above the orange plastic netting protecting the twin pine root system.

9:55 am. The sunning Double-Crested Cormorant is observed leaving the Basin heading west. One Belted Kingfisher forages over the entire Basin.

10:00 am. Five American Crows are foraging on the northeastern rim near the electric poles. Feral Pigeons continue to fly over the site above some of the construction activity. And the juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron is sleeping in the northeastern storm drainage.

10:15 am. A Snowy Egret, a Black-crowned Night-Heron, and a Mallard are on and near the eastern floodgate.

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10:25 am. A Great Egret is observed foraging in the West Basin then moving into the pine above the tide gate.

11:00 am. Crew is observed loading previously piled up soil into trucks from the parking lot via the bulldozer. The west bank mini-excavator is not operating, while the south rim operator continues to remove the cement casing around the old fence posts to reuse in relocating the temporary fencing.

11:15 am. SWCA fish biologist is attempting to net stingrays from the western bank near the tide gates. Two Mourning Doves forage on the ground below the western pines, and a Barn Swallow flies over the Basin moving west.

11:45 am. The Diver arrives onsite. Most crewmembers are observed prepping the plug-related equipment in the parking lot.

12:00 pm. All crewmembers and workers break for lunch. A LACDPW staff meeting is held in the trailer.

1:00 pm. All crew return from lunch break. Most of the crew are present on the Marina side of the tide gate for plug installation.

1:30 pm. Diver enters the water. Difficulties with positioning and fitting the plug are encountered.

2:00 pm. Electricians are working on wiring the pumps and trailer. One crewmember and two from LACDPW are overseeing the tide gate operation on the Basin side. A Mallard and a Snowy Egret are foraging in the West Basin.

2:15 pm. A few crewmembers replaced the fencing along Admiralty Blvd. Mourning Dove foraging on the ground within the excavator tracks.

2:30 pm. The juvenile Black-crowned Night-Heron is still in the storm outlet/canal. An adult and the immature Black-Crowned Night-Heron are foraging in the eastern floodgate.

2:45 pm. The west bank mini-excavator started to dig again, removing large buried debris.

3:15 pm. The mini-excavator stopped. Electricians are still solving a few wiring issues. The tide gate plug is still not in.

3:30 pm. The SWCA fish biologist is in the water setting up a net corral for the Round Stingrays in the West Basin near the tide gate.

4:20 pm. The fish relocation team has successfully moved five rays from the tide gate area to Marina Basin E. A Great and a Snowy Egret along with three Mallards are now foraging in the West and Central Basin.

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4:45 pm. Tide gate was opened a foot to assist with inserting the plug. The SWCA fish biologist packed up the netting materials due to the increase in water flow and silt among it.

5:00 pm. The plug was installed, but a bypass hole was discovered inside the channel and will also need to be blocked. The plug was removed. The crew will try again tomorrow.

5:20 pm. Crew finished work for the day. LACDPW and Superintendent remain, discussing tomorrow's plan of action.

Additional Observations

No Monarchs, Black Skimmers, Osprey, 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. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. With little to no construction or cleanup activities done around the two eastern storm drain outlets in the last two days, the birds, particularly the herons, are remaining in or around the structures throughout the entire workday without being disturbed.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 6, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 6, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	5 individuals observed on electric lines; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	9 individuals observed foraging in the East Basin channel
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	5 individuals swimming in the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	2 individuals observed swimming in the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and temporarily in Central Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	2 observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2 observed foraging in the West and Central Basin; several observed flying overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 observed singing in various locations around the West Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed foraging in the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2 observed foraging over the northeast Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead, foraging on the west bank, and sitting on power lines
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; observed foraging, flying overhead and on power lines
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Very common; observed in palms north of site
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	2 individuals observed flying and foraging over the basin
Barn Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	1 individual observed flying over Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of basin
Oregon Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis oregonus</i>	1 individual observed singing near east channel



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: August 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 August 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 Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:50 am and ending at 3:20 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were overcast to clear by mid-day, with temperatures ranging from 68°F in the morning to a high of 75°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed the construction activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, soil grading, fence post removal and replacement along the south rim, excavation along the western bank for the foundation trench, and tide gate plugging activities along with water pump operation. 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 arrives on site to conduct initial assessment.

7:00 am. Walk around reveals the following individuals: One Double-Crested Cormorant and three Mallards swimming in the Central Basin, three adult Black-Crowned Night-Herons on the storm outlet fencing, two American Crows foraging on the land, two more adults and an immature, second-year Black-Crowned Night-Heron in the eastern floodgate, and two Anna's Hummingbirds near the East Basin trees.

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7:30 am. One Snowy Egret is foraging on the northeastern bank, two Black Phoebes are observed along the East Basin and channel. The juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron is observed foraging on the southeast bank.

7:45 am. LACDPW and construction crew are preparing for tide gate plug activities.

8:00 am. The Anderson Environmental VOC safety monitor began the safety meeting accompanied by a coworker, followed by the biological monitor who gave the bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of eight workers. The SoCal Storm-water Solutions Monitor, four LACDPW staff, a Rain 4 Rent contractor, and two SWCA fish biologists also attended the training. All workers signed the sign-in sheet.

8:20 am. Work for the day should consist of the following activities: Continuing to grade, haul out construction debris and extra soil along the south rim along Admiralty Way and the parking lot; continuing to move the existing fencing; the diver entering the basin to switch tide gate plugs; and continuing to dig the western trench for future foundation.

8:25 am. The diver is present. The following individuals are observed: Anna's hummingbird in western pine, 2 Black-Crowned Night-Heron in East Basin, and Snowy Egret in western mudflat. The mini-excavator on the western bank continued its trench-digging task.

8:45 am. The LACDPW crew are down by the water's edge taking samples from the west and east ends of the Basin.

9:00 am. The mini-excavator started digging along the south rim near the twin pines and is moving east down Admiralty Way, grading, removing soil, debris, and fence posts. The dump trucks are being loaded from Admiralty Way, while a water truck is staying ahead to keep the dust down as the excavator digs and dumps the soil and concrete debris.

9:30 am. Three Black Phoebes, two Snowy Egrets, an Anna's Hummingbird are observed around the East Basin. A crewmember is walking around the north portion of the Basin picking up trash.

9:45 am. The diver is in the water at the west tide gate. An excavator is scraping up the debris and topsoil along the south rim. A Mallard and two Snowy Egrets are observed in the northeast basin.

10:00 am. The juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron is on the eastern floodgate while two Anna's hummingbirds are singing in the trees.

10:25 am. The tide flow switched directions. The plug-related activities are now on hold until Monday.

10:45 am. The Rain 4 Rent team is attempting to get the pump in working order now that the electricity is connected. They are also walking near all the storm drains around the East Basin. The south rim mini- excavator is still moving east. One crewman is still picking up trash. SWCA fish team is packing up equipment. A Snowy Egret remains in the western mudflat.

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11:00 am. Crew is now loading previously piled up soil into trucks from the parking lot via the bulldozer. The west bank mini-excavator is not in operation, while the south rim operator continues to remove the cement casing around the old fence posts for reuse in relocating the temporary fencing.

11:20 am. A Snowy Egret is observed in the eastern channel, while the second mini-excavator is back to digging the trench on the west rim.

11:40 am. A Snowy Egret, the juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron and a Mourning Dove are near the eastern floodgate. Crewman collecting trash is now making his way east along the south rim. Mallard is observed moving into the eastern channel.

12:20 pm. Most crewmembers and workers break for lunch. Rain 4 Rent crew is still working on the pump.

1:00 pm. All crew return from lunch break. Dozer is dumping soil and debris into trucks in the parking lot.

1:20 pm. Mini-excavator on west side is flattening the dirt pile along the edge of the Basin near the silt fencing.

1:45 pm. The other mini excavator on the south rim got back to grading and adding the replaced temporary fence posts along the widened and compacted surface of the planned walkway.

2:15 pm. The west trench mini-excavator is finished digging and is staging compacting equipment back near the parking lot. Most of the crew is now at the south rim reattaching and putting up the repositioned chain-link fencing along Admiralty Way. A Black Phoebe is observed at the northeast storm drainage.

2:30 pm. A Snowy Egret is foraging in the northeast mudflat. The juvenile Black-Crowned Night-Heron is sleeping on the floodgate, while an adult Black-Crowned Night-Heron sits inside the fencing of the structure.

3:00 pm. The crew is finished working on the fence.

3:20 pm. Work is completed for the day.

Additional Observations

No Monarchs, Black Skimmers, Osprey, 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. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Few individual birds remain at the site, moving about the entire Basin throughout the day. The trash cleanup that occurred this week and, particularly today, significantly improved the visual quality and habitat conditions of the site, and stops trash from entering the Marina Basin E. Crewmembers will continue to pick up any trash or litter observed in the construction area.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 7, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed foraging within Basin; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	6 individuals observed foraging in the East Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3 individuals swimming in the Basin, 5 seen flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed swimming in the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	1 observed foraging, mainly seen sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2 observed foraging in the Basin; several observed flying overhead
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	3 observed singing in various locations around the West Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed flying over the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3 observed foraging over the East Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead, and sitting on power lines
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Very common; observed foraging, flying overhead and on power lines
European Starling	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	Very common; observed in palms north of site
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of basin
Eurasian Collared Dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	2 observed flying over the Basin near the powerlines