



## Memorandum

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

*From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

*Date: August 10, 2015*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multi-use Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on August 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 Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:30 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 pm for August 10, 2015. Weather conditions during the day began as overcast and in the upper 60's. After approximately 11:30 AM conditions were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 70's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded. A breeze of 10-14 mph was also present today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthwork including concrete removal and the digging of footings along the west bank for the proposed parapet wall. Clearing and grubbing along the South bank continued as one lane of Admiralty Way was closed for construction access. The biologist also observed the attempted installation of the smaller round tide gate plug. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, 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

**CDM Smith Biologist:** Marcus Sizemore

**Date:** August 10, 2015

7:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment: The basin is nearly fully due to the open tide gate in the southwest corner of the site. Water levels were noted to be very high as high tide is around 8:30 am. Very few birds were observed in the basin this morning. Most birds observed were around the southeast canal. These included three Black-Crowned Night-Herons and one female Mallard along the banks of the canal. A Great Heron was observed atop the flood gate. A single Kingfisher was seen diving into the water near the center of the basin. No other species were observed during the initial morning survey.

7:50 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 9-person contractor crew (superintendent and eight crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. Also on hand were the diver and fisheries biologist. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-thru. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include installing a round plug in the smaller tide gate and earth work activities along Admiralty Way, including a lane closure during work hours as well as earthwork along the west bank of the project. The training concludes at approximately 8:00 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

9:00 am. The work crews continue to work along the south bank near Admiralty Way. Another four-man crew continues to work on the installation of the second round plug for the smaller southwest tide gate. No wildlife are present in either of these areas.

9:30 am. The work crews continue to work along the south bank near Admiralty Way. The four-man crew continues to work on the installation of the second round plug for the smaller southwest tide gate joined by the diver. No wildlife are present in either of these areas.

9:45 am. The work crew moves the round tide gate plug into position using the boom on a larger lift near the southwest tide gate.

9:56 am. Three pigeons land on the power line crossing the Basin.

10:10 am. Four mourning doves are observed along the south bank.

11:00 am. The contractor nearly has the round tide plug in place. No wildlife is present in the work areas.

12:00 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch and will resume installation of the plug closer to high tide which is approximately 2:00 PM

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch and continue work along Admiralty Way and at the tide gate.

1:15 pm. It is discovered that the round plug has a hole in it and will not hold air in order to be properly installed. The tide gate is to be closed at low tide and crews will resume tomorrow with the square patch instead.

2:00 pm. One Snowy Egret is seen in the northwest tidal flat. Work nearby continues along the Northwest bank. Concrete is being broken up along the east side of the Basin. Dust control (watering), grading and concrete removal continue along the South bank near Admiralty Way.

2:30 pm. The smaller tide gate is closed at approximately low tide.

2:50 pm. The ditch work along the west side of the project continues. One snowy egret continues feeding nearby in the northwest tidal flat undeterred by the nearby construction activities.

3:15 pm. One female Mallard is observed in the northwest tidal flat while one Snowy Egret is seen in the northeast corner of the basin near the northeast culvert wall that extends into the Basin.

4:30 pm. All lanes along Admiralty Way are now open. Construction activities end for the day. No additional wildlife is observed within the Basin.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

No osprey were observed today.

Very few shore and wading birds seen within the Basin when at or near full capacity.

## **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. 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. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the end of July. This is partly due to the tide gates being opened and closed.
4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the Basin today.
6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset any fish die offs from the drawdown of water, to the greatest extent possible.

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

| <b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 10, 2015</b> |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Scientific Name</b>            | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Mallard   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         | 1 female observed today  |
| Snowy Egret   | <i>Egretta thula</i>              | 2-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Great Egret   | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron   | <i>Nycticorax</i>                 | 3-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin  |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | 2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.                          |
| Western Gull  | <i>Larus occidentalis</i>         | Very common; several flyovers of the Basin   |
| Mourning Dove   | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>           | Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes. |
| American Crow   | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>      | Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin                    |
| Black Phoebe  | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>         | 2-3 individuals foraging around Basin  |
| House Finch   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       | Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin                                     |
| House Sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks   |



## Memorandum

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

*From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

*Date: August 11, 2015*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multi-use Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

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

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 pm for August 11, 2015. Weather conditions during the day began as overcast and in the upper 60's. After approximately 11:30 AM conditions were sunny with high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded. A breeze of 5-10 mph was also present today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthwork including concrete removal and digging footings along the west bank for the proposed parapet wall. Clearing and grubbing along the South bank continued as one lane of Admiralty Way was closed for construction access. The biologist also observed the attempted installation of the square tide gate plug. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, 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

**CDM Smith Biologist:** Marcus Sizemore

**Date:** August 11, 2015

7:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment: One Snowy Egret was seen in the northwest Basin while one Great Egret and one Cormorant were observed near the northeast culvert. Three Mourning Doves were seen on the overhead powerlines and a female Mallard was seen near the southeast canal. Three Black-Crowned Night-Herons were present within the canal while two Black Phoebes were present nearby in between the canal and pump house. One Great Egret was seen on the southeastern culvert gate.

7:45 am. The Health and Safety officer conducts health and safety training for approximately fifteen minutes. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 9-person contractor crew (superintendent and eight crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. Also on hand were the Health and Safety officer, diver and fisheries biologist. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-thru. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include installing the square patch in the smaller tide gate and earth work activities along Admiralty Way, including a lane closure during work hours as well as earthwork along the west bank of the project. The training concludes at approximately 8:00 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

8:30 am. An Osprey is observed briefly in the northwest Basin. It appears to be fishing and then flies toward the north outside of the project site.

9:15 am. The work crews continue to work along the south bank near Admiralty Way. Another two-man crew works to remove the round plug from the smaller southwest tide gate. No wildlife are present in either of these areas.

9:35 am. One Double-Crested Cormorant is observed flying west to east over the project site landing on the northeast culvert wall.

10:00 am. Crews work to put the square plug in place before high tide. No wildlife is present at the time.

11:00 am. Approximately two dozen Crows investigate the newly disturbed areas along the south bank near Admiralty Way. A female Mallard is seen near the south bank in the water feeding.

11:45 am. Crews continue to attempt to install the square plug. A hose snaps off of the plug during installation. Crews break for lunch while the contractor goes to find a replacement. Crews plan to reconvene after lunch to get the plug installed before low tide at approximately 2:30 PM. No wildlife is present in the work areas.

12:00 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch and will resume installation of the plug closer to high tide which is approximately 2:30 PM

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch and continue work along Admiralty Way and at the tide gate.

1:15 pm. A Great Egret is observed in the northwest tidal flat. Crews reassemble to install the plug. The replacement hose is not available. It is unlikely the plug will be installed today.

2:18 pm. The biologist walks around the outside of the construction fence. One Snowy Egret and one Great Egret are observed in the northwest tidal flat. One Black-Crowned Night-Heron is seen at the southeastern canal.

2:30 pm. Crews remove the square plug using the lift and place it near the pump house above the tide gate. Additional crew members work to cover some exposed areas that were found to contain hydrocarbons with plastic. Work along the west bank closer toward Washington Boulevard continues. Another crew continues to work on clearing, grubbing and watering areas to keep dust under control.

3:00 pm. The smaller tide gate is closed once again. The pumps are turned on to begin dewatering. No wildlife is present within the work areas. All lanes are now open along Admiralty Way.

3:40 pm. One female Mallard is observed on the northeast culvert wall.

4:00 pm. Construction activities end for the day. No additional wildlife is observed within the Basin.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

One osprey was observed today.

Very few shore and wading birds seen within the Basin when at or near full capacity.

## **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. 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. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the end of July. This is partly due to the tide gates being opened and closed.
4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
5. No rays were observed swimming within the Basin today.
6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset any fish die offs from the drawdown of water, to the greatest extent possible.

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

| <b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 11, 2015</b> |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Scientific Name</b>            | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Mallard   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         | 1 female observed today  |
| Snowy Egret   | <i>Egretta thula</i>              | 2-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Great Egret   | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron   | <i>Nycticorax</i>                 | 3-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin  |
| Osprey  | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>          | 1 individual seen prior to work activities   |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | 2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.                          |
| Western Gull  | <i>Larus occidentalis</i>         | Very common; several flyovers of the Basin   |
| Mourning Dove   | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>           | Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes. |
| American Crow   | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>      | Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin                    |
| Black Phoebe  | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>         | 2-3 individuals foraging around Basin  |
| House Finch   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       | Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin                                     |
| House Sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks   |



## Memorandum

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

*From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

*Date: August 12, 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 12, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 pm for August 12, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded. A breeze of 5-10 mph was also present today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthwork including concrete removal and digging footings along the west bank for the proposed parapet wall. Clearing and grubbing along the South bank continued as one lane of Admiralty Way was closed for construction access. The biologist also observed the pumps in operation later in the afternoon to begin dewatering the basin. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, 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

**CDM Smith Biologist:** Marcus Sizemore

**Date:** August 12, 2015

7:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment: One Great Blue Heron was seen atop the tide gate in the southwest corner of the project. One female Mallard was observed feeding along the south bank in the water. Six to seven Crows were present along the south bank. One Double-Crested Cormorant was observed near the east bank in the water feeding and diving. One Black-Crowned Night-Heron was found near the mouth of the southeast canal while two Great Blue Herons were along the east bank. One juvenile and two adult Black-Crowned Night-Herons were observed near the trash rack at the end of the canal. Three Black Phoebes were present near the brush pile at the pump house in the southeast corner of the project. One Snowy Egret was observed along the south bank shoreline. The overall water level appeared to be down 8 to 12 inches from the previous day.

7:35 am. The Health and Safety officer conducts health and safety training for approximately ten minutes. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 7-person contractor crew (superintendent and six crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. Also on hand were the Health and Safety officer and fisheries biologist. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-thru. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include dewatering using the pumps that are in place and earth work activities along Admiralty Way, including a lane closure during work hours as well as earthwork along the northwest corner of the project. The training concludes at approximately 8:00 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

8:00 am. The pumps are turned on and appear to be functioning properly.

8:30 am. Two Great Egrets are observed along the south bank. Work begins nearby along Admiralty Way.

9:15 am. Ditch excavation continues in the northwest corner of the project. One Great Egret is seen at the northwest peninsula near the shoreline. One Snowy Egret and one Comorant are observed at the northeast corner wall.

10:00 am. One female Mallard is observed in the northwest portion of the Basin feeding.

11:00 am. Work continues in the northwest corner of the project site as well as along Admiralty Way. No wildlife is present in any of the work areas at this time.

11:15 am. One of the crew members installs orange barrier fencing around the trees along the south bank of the Basin including trees next to the tide gate house.

11:25 am. The large excavator is loaded onto a low-boy trailer along Admiralty Way. Several Crows are investigating nearby along the south bank of the project. One female Mallard is observed

near the west bank still feeding.

12:00 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch.

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Excavation begins in the northeast corner of the site. Clearing and grubbing resumes in the southeast corner of the site near Admiralty Way. Hammering resumes along the east bank as concrete is broken up for transport. Pumping/dewatering continues but there has been very little progress since this morning.

1:30 pm. One Snowy Egret is observed in the northwest corner of the Basin near the tidal flat. An Osprey flies over the Basin from the southeast to the northwest but does not land.

1:51 pm. One Snowy Egret and one Great Egret are observed with the northwest tidal flat.

2:30 pm. One Great Egret is observed at the southwest tide gate. Work continues along the northwest and northeast portions of the project site. No wildlife is present in the work areas.

2:45 pm. The contractor builds sound boxes for the two electric de-watering pumps. A Great Egret is observed once again in the northwest tidal flat.

4:00 pm. The sound boxes are completed. Dewatering continues. Construction activities end for the day. No additional wildlife is observed within the Basin.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

One osprey was observed today.

Very few shore and wading birds seen within the Basin when at or near full capacity.

## **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. 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 11:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the end of July. This is partly due to the tide

gates being opened and closed.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
5. No rays were observed swimming within the basin today.
6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset any fish die offs from the drawdown of water to the greatest extent possible.
7. The number of birds have decreased in recent weeks and may be attributed to a change in water levels.

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

| <b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 12, 2015</b> |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Scientific Name</b>            | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Mallard   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         | 1 female observed today  |
| Snowy Egret   | <i>Egretta thula</i>              | 2-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Great Egret   | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Black-crowned Night-Heron   | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>      | 3-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin  |
| Great blue heron  | <i>Ardea Herodias</i>             | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Osprey  | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>          | 1 individual seen flying over the basin  |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | 2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.                          |
| Western Gull  | <i>Larus occidentalis</i>         | Very common; several flyovers of the Basin   |
| Mourning Dove   | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>           | Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes. |
| American Crow   | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>      | Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin                    |
| Black Phoebe  | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>         | 2-3 individuals foraging around Basin  |
| House Finch   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       | Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin                                     |
| House Sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks   |



## Memorandum

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

*From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

*Date: August 13, 2015*

*Subject: Final Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multi-use Enhancement Project*

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on August 13, 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 Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 pm for August 13, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded. A breeze of 5-10 mph was also present today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthwork along Washington Boulevard. These included ditch excavation and earth moving. Additionally, the biologist observed the installation of the large square patch as well as a smaller tide plug on the marina side of the tide gate. This work was performed by a subcontractor. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, 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

**CDM Smith Biologist:** Marcus Sizemore

**Date:** August 13, 2015

7:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment: Three Crows were observed within the northwest tidal flat. One Great Egret was observed in the northwest tidal Basin. One Double-Crested Cormorant was seen in the water in between the northwest and northeast peninsulas. Eight to ten Crows were found along the south bank foraging in the newly disturbed areas. Two Black-Crowned Night Herons were found in the southeastern canal foraging. No other wildlife was seen.

7:30 am. The Health and Safety officer conducts health and safety training for approximately ten minutes. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 6-person contractor crew (superintendent and five crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. Also on hand were the Health and Safety officer and fisheries biologist. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-thru. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include the installation of the square patch and smaller round plug on the Marina side of the tide gate. There are two divers prepared to help with the installation. Other activities include continued earthwork along Washington Boulevard. Approximately twenty-five loads of sand are being delivered to the job site today to be used for back-filling of the excavated trenches. The dewatering pumps are intended to be repaired today in order to resume pumping once the patch and plug are installed.

8:00 am. The subcontractor arrives to assist with the installation of the tide gate plug and square patch. The square patch is moved across Admiralty Way to the marina.

8:30 am. Work begins along Washington Boulevard. There are no wildlife present within the work area.

9:15 am. The divers prepare for the patch installation. Barnacles and other debris are scraped off of the opening to prepare for installation. There are a few small fish present around the tide gate. However, no other wildlife is within the work area.

10:00 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. There is no wildlife present within the work area.

10:30 am. The round plug is successfully installed by the divers and inflated. No wildlife is present in any of the work areas at this time. Preparations are made to install the larger square patch.

11:00 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. A Snowy Egret is observed across the Basin along the south bank. No other wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

11:30 am. The square plug is successfully installed on the Marina side. It appears that the task is now complete. There is no wildlife present within the work area.

12:00 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch.

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. The divers enter the water to install what they term "Benski" in order to seal the remaining edges of the smaller tide plug hole. (Round plug in a square hole)

1:30 pm. Crews continue to work along Washington Boulevard on the north side of the Basin. Activities include watering (dust control), excavation, and other earth work.

2:45 pm. One Snowy Egret is seen at the southwest tide gate. An Osprey was observed in the tree branch nearby.

3:00 pm. One Cormorant is seen flying from the northwest and lands within the southwestern portion of the Basin to begin diving and feeding.

3:30 pm. One Great Blue Heron and two Snowy Egrets are seen at the southwest tide gate. The pumps remain turned off due to mechanical/electrical problems.

4:00 pm. A female Mallard is seen foraging along the south bank. A Snowy Egret is observed at the southwest tide gate. No additional wildlife is observed within the Basin.

4:30 pm. Work crews are finished for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

One osprey was observed today.

Very few shore and wading birds seen within the basin when at or near full capacity.

## **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. 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 11:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the end of July. This is partly due to the tide gates being opened and closed.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
5. No rays were observed swimming within the basin today.
6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset any fish die offs from the drawdown of water, to the greatest extent possible.
7. The number of birds have decreased in recent weeks and may be attributed to a change in water levels.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 13, 2015.

| <b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on August 13, 2015</b> |                                   |  |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Common Name</b>  | <b>Scientific Name</b>            | <b>Comments</b>  |
| Mallard   | <i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>         | 1 female observed today  |
| Snowy Egret   | <i>Egretta thula</i>              | 2-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Great Egret   | <i>Ardea alba</i>                 | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Black-crowned Night Heron   | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>      | 3-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin  |
| Great blue heron  | <i>Ardea Herodias</i>             | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Osprey  | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>          | 1 individual seen near the tide gate   |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | 2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.                          |
| Western Gull  | <i>Larus occidentalis</i>         | Very common; several flyovers of the Basin   |
| Mourning Dove   | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>           | Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes. |
| American Crow   | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>      | Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin                    |
| Black Phoebe  | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>         | 2-3 individuals foraging around Basin  |
| House Finch   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       | Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin                                     |
| House Sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks   |



## Memorandum

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

*From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

*Date: August 14, 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 14, 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 Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 4:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 pm for August 14, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded. A breeze of 5-10 mph was also present today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthwork along Washington Boulevard. These included ditch excavation and earth moving. Additionally, the biologist observed clearing and grubbing of the slopes along Admiralty Way. Other activities included replacement of electrical utilities in the southwest corner of the site as well as the unloading and stockpiling of clean fill material within the fenced in construction staging area. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, Health and Safety officer, 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

**CDM Smith Biologist:** Marcus Sizemore

**Date:** August 14, 2015

7:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment: One Snowy Egret is observed within the north tidal flat. Two Snowy Egrets and one Great Blue Heron are observed along the east bank of the Basin. One Double-Crested Cormorant was observed diving within the southwest corner of the Basin. Two Common Terns flew over the Basin during the initial inspection from east to west but did not land at the project site. No other wildlife was seen during the initial site survey.

8:00 am. The Health and Safety officer conducts health and safety training for approximately ten minutes. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 8-person contractor crew (superintendent and seven crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. The Health and Safety officer was also on-hand. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-thru. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include the clearing and grubbing of the slopes along Admiralty Way, excavation of footings for the proposed wall along Washington Blvd, and some minor electrical work to repair the dewatering pumps. It is anticipated that the pumps will be operational by late morning.

8:30 am. Work begins along Washington Boulevard. There are no wildlife present within the work area.

8:45 am. The tide gate is actually allowing water to flow in, which after yesterday was supposed to be fixed. The contractor is currently working on a solution.

9:15 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. The crews close a lane along Admiralty Way for construction access. There is no wildlife present within the work areas.

10:00 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. There is no wildlife present within the work area.

10:30 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. There is no wildlife present within the work area.

11:00 am. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. A Snowy Egret is observed across the Basin along the south bank. No other wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

11:15 am. A Snowy Egret is observed at the southwest tide gate. During another walk-thru the biologist observes a monarch along the south bank. It is not near any construction activities and eventually flies out of the project area toward the south.

11:45 am. A small bright yellow butterfly is seen along the silt fence on the south bank near the

pump house. It was not near any active work areas. It eventually flew southward toward Admiralty Way.

12:00 pm. All crews and the biologist break for lunch.

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues along Washington Boulevard and Admiralty Way. Activities include watering (dust control), excavation and other earth work. No wildlife is present within the work area.

1:30 pm. Crews continue to work along Washington Boulevard on the north side of the Basin as well as the southeastern corner of the project site.

2:30 pm. The subcontractor from Thursday returns to have divers investigate where the water is leaking into the Basin. These activities are outside of the normal work area within the Marina.

3:00 pm. After investigations, it is thought that the larger tide gate patch (square) has shifted inward toward the Basin causing the rubber gasket around the hole to come off. This in turn is allowing water to flow in during high tides. The solution is considered to be a large steel plate to permanently fix the problem. Both Marina-side holes will be patched with steel plates.

3:30 pm. The pumps continue to run despite the conclusions made previously. No wildlife is seen within the project area.

4:00 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed near the southwest tide gate. No additional wildlife is observed within the Basin.

4:15 pm. Work crews are finished for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed today.

No ospreys were observed today.

Very few shore and wading birds seen within the basin when at or near full capacity.

## **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 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 11:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the end of July. This is partly due to the tide gates being opened and closed.
4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
5. No rays were observed swimming within the Basin today.
6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to avoid fish die offs, to the extent feasible.
7. The number of birds have decreased in recent weeks and may be attributed to a change in water levels.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on August 14, 2015.

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| Black-crowned Night-Heron   | <i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>      | 3-4 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin  |
| Great blue heron  | <i>Ardea Herodias</i>             | 2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin   |
| Osprey  | <i>Pandion haliaetus</i>          | 1 individual seen flying overhead but did not land within the basin.   |
| Double-crested Cormorant  | <i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i> | 2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.                          |
| Western Gull  | <i>Larus occidentalis</i>         | Very common; several flyovers of the Basin   |
| Mourning Dove   | <i>Zenaida macroura</i>           | Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes. |
| American Crow   | <i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>      | Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin                    |
| Black Phoebe  | <i>Sayornis nigricans</i>         | 2-3 individuals foraging around Basin  |
| House Finch   | <i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>       | Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin                                     |
| House Sparrow   | <i>Passer domesticus</i>          | Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks   |