



Memorandum

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

From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith

Date: October 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 October 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 scientist, beginning at 6:00am and ending at 5:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 10% percent chance of rain for October 13, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were mostly sunny with low temperatures in the low 70's and high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed construction activities throughout the Oxford Basin project site. These included work on the replacement of the tide gate, backfill along the wall along Washington Boulevard, work on forms near the northwest corner of the site and removal of forms from some of the walls along the western side of the project. The contractor continues to pump water from the Basin in an effort to dewater the Basin in preparation for dredging of material. 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: October 13, 2015

6:01 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

6:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

A single snowy egret was observed within the southeast canal. Two black phoebes were also present along the eastern bank fluttering around the water and perching on the silt fences nearby. No additional wildlife was observed within the site during the initial site assessment.

6:45 am. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 9-person contractor crew (superintendent and eight crewmembers, including subcontractors). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. 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. He also reviews the safety precautions to keep wildlife from being harmed during construction activities. He reminds the crews that monarchs are starting to migrate and that all equipment operators need to be on the lookout for monarchs because they are protected. He also reminds the crews to be mindful of their trash as well as public traveling along the adjacent sidewalks and bike lanes.

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 the planned activities for the day. These include work on the tide gate replacement in the southwest corner of the project; backfilling along next to the wall along Washington Boulevard, construction of another section of the wall forms in the northwest corner of the site as well as continued pumping in order to dewater the Basin.

7:00 am. CSL crews begin to mobilize along the northern side of the Basin where sections of fence are removed for access to the wall along Washington Boulevard. A subcontractor begins to work in the northwest corner of the Basin working on forms for a new section of footings and wall. A second subcontractor works on the installation of the new tide gate. There is no wildlife present within either of the work areas.

7:04 am. Two black phoebes are observed near the rock gabions in the middle of the Basin.

7:21 am. Three crows fly east to west over the Basin landing along the west bank. There is no work currently taking place in the area.

7:30 am. Eight crows land on the south bank across from the northeast culvert.

7:45 am. A female mallard is observed in a shallow pool of water near the northeast culvert.

8:10 am. A pair of hummingbirds are observed zipping around the western end of the Basin. Unable to identify the species.

8:37 am. Four to Five hummingbirds are now see flying throughout the western end of the Basin

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9:02 am. Crews continue work along the north, northwestern, and southwestern sides of the project. A western gull flies over the Basin and lands in the center of the project near the trash pumps. It is not near any ongoing construction activities.

9:15 am. A crow is seen on a power pole located on the northwest peninsula.

9:30 am. The western gull is still in the middle of the Basin.

9:50 am. A monarch butterfly is observed along the west bank but is not near any ongoing construction activities. It eventually flies north out of the project area.

10:10 am. Two black phoebes are now seen near the west bank.

10:25 am. The western gull now flies out of the Basin towards the west.

10:30 am. A great egret is seen milling around the western side of the Basin near the tide gate. A monarch is observed flying over the center of the Basin and heads northeast off of the site.

11:00 am. Work continues on the tide gate and along the Washington Boulevard wall. There is no wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

11:20 am. A single black phoebe is now perched along the northeast culvert wall.

11:40 am. A second black phoebe is also now perched along the same culvert wall.

11:55 am. No wildlife is observed within the southeastern canal. There is very little water present.

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

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues on the tide gate and along the Washington Boulevard wall. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

1:20 pm. Four mourning doves fly overhead and perch on the temporary power lines along the west bank.

1:42 pm. A single black phoebe is observed in the western part of the Basin flying around several shallow pools.

2:00 pm. Workers continue along Washington Boulevard as well as work on the tide gate. There is no wildlife nearby either of the construction activities.

2:31 pm. A western gull is observed flying overhead west to east but does not land within the project area.

3:10 pm. The black phoebe is once again milling around the western Basin.

3:33 pm. The subcontractor working on the tide gate leaves for the day.

3:45 pm. Work continues along the Washington Boulevard wall. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

4:09 pm. Several crows are observed along the eastern bank but are not near any construction activities.

4:30 pm. The crews working along Washington Boulevard begin to prepare to put the fencing back in place that was removed earlier for accessing the area that was being filled/compacted.

4:45 pm. The work crews head back towards the east bank and begin to put tools and equipment up for the day.

5:00 pm. Work is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed today.

No osprey 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. 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 9:00 am.
3. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
4. The number of birds has decreased even further since the end of September.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 13, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1 individual observed today
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	No individuals observed today
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	No individuals observed today
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No individuals observed today
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	No individuals observed today
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin but only one observed within the Basin.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying overhead around buildings and on powerlines and fences. None observed within the Basin today.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in nearby vegetation, in parking lots, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4-6 individuals observed today
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	No individuals observed today
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No individuals observed today
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	No individuals observed today
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	No individuals observed today
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Several individuals observed today within the western side of the Basin.



Memorandum

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

From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith

Date: October 14, 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 October 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 scientist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 5:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 20% percent chance of rain for October 14, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were mostly overcast with low temperatures in the mid 70's and high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed construction activities throughout the Oxford Basin project site. These included work on the replacement of the tide gate, removal of SECA 2 material from the western side of the project, backfill adjacent to the wall along Washington Boulevard, work on forms near the southeast corner of the project. The contractor continues to pump water from the Basin in an effort to dewater the Basin in preparation for dredging of material. 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: October 14, 2015

6:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

6:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

Two juvenile black-crowned night-herons were observed within the southeast canal. Two black phoebes were also present along the eastern bank fluttering around the water and perching on the silt fences near the northeast culvert. No additional wildlife was observed within the site during the initial site assessment.

6:45 am. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 11-person contractor crew (superintendent and ten crewmembers, including subcontractors). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. 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. He also reviews the safety precautions to keep wildlife from being harmed during construction activities. He reminds the crews that monarchs are continuing to migrate and that all equipment operators need to be on the lookout for monarchs because they are protected. He also reminds the crews to be mindful of their trash as well as public traveling along the adjacent sidewalks and bike lanes.

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 the planned activities for the day. These include removal of SECA material along the western and northwestern portions of the site, work on the tide gate replacement in the southwest corner of the project; backfilling next to the wall along Washington Boulevard, construction of another section of the wall forms in the northwest corner of the site as well as continued pumping in order to dewater the Basin.

7:00 am. CSL crews begin to mobilize along the western side of the Basin in preparation for the first SECA trucks to be loaded. A subcontractor begins to work in the southwest corner of the Basin working on forms for a new section of footings and wall. A second subcontractor works on the installation of the new tide gate. There is no wildlife present within either of the work areas.

7:04 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

7:24 am. One of the black-crowned night-herons flies out of the canal and towards the south.

7:45 am. Two black phoebes are seen around a shallow pool of water near the northeast culvert.

8:10 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

8:40 am. Two black phoebes are now observed along the southeast canal.

9:22 am. Crews continue work along the western side of the project removing SECA material and loading it onto trucks. There is no wildlife in this area. A single black phoebe is observed near the

tide gates.

9:44 am. A crow flies over the Basin west to east and lands on the northeast peninsula. After a few minutes it flies towards the east out of the Basin.

10:03 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

10:20 am. A monarch butterfly is seen near the tide gates but does not enter the work area. It eventually flies southward out of the Basin.

10:50 am. Two black phoebes are found milling around the west bank.

11:00 am. Work continues on the tide gate and along the Washington Boulevard wall. There is no wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

11:20 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

11:42 am. Work continues as more SECA material is removed from the western bank as well as the northwestern bank.

11:55 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

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

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues on the tide gate and in the northwest corner. A few of the crew members begin to remove some of the fence along the Washington Boulevard wall. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

1:25 pm. Two black phoebes are observed near the eastern part of the Basin flying around several shallow pools

1:45 pm. A single black phoebe is observed within the northeastern culvert.

2:05 pm. Workers continue to bring in structural fill at the wall along Washington Boulevard as well as work on the tide gate. There is no wildlife nearby either of the construction activities.

2:35 pm. A single black phoebe is observed in the eastern side of the Basin.

2:58 pm. Two hummingbirds are seen flying around the western side of the Basin.

3:24 pm. Seven mourning doves are seen along the west bank but then fly off towards the south.

3:40 pm. The subcontractor working on the tide gate leaves for the day.

4:15 pm. Several crows are observed along the western bank but are not near any construction activities.

4:35pm. The crews working along Washington Boulevard begin to prepare to put the fencing back in place that was removed earlier for accessing the area that was being filled/compacted.

4:45 pm. The work crews head back towards the east bank and begin to put tools and equipment up for the day.

5:03 pm. Work is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed today.

No osprey 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. 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.
3. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
4. The number of birds has decreased even further since the end of September.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 14, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	No individuals observed today
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	No individuals observed today
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	No individuals observed today
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2 individuals observed today (juveniles)
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	No individuals observed today
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No individuals observed today
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	No individuals observed today
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin.
Mourning Dove (aka Pigeon)	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying overhead around buildings and on powerlines and fences.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in nearby vegetation, in parking lots, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4-6 individuals observed today
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	No individuals observed today
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No individuals observed today
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	No individuals observed today
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	No individuals observed today
Hummingbird		2 individuals observed today within the western side of the Basin.



Memorandum

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

From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith

Date: October 15, 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 October 15, 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 scientist, beginning at 6:00am and ending at 5:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 20% percent chance of rain for October 15, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were mostly overcast with low temperatures in the mid-70's and high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed construction activities throughout the Oxford Basin project site. These included work on the replacement of the tide gate, removal of SECA 2 material from the northwestern side of the project, backfill adjacent to the wall along Washington Boulevard, work on forms near the southeast corner of the project. The contractor continues to pump water from the Basin in an effort to dewater the Basin in preparation for dredging of material. 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: October 15, 2015

6:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

6:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

Two black phoebes were found along the eastern bank fluttering around the water and perching on the silt fences near the northeast culvert. Western gull flyovers are observed with regularity, and several crows are seen on nearby trees just outside the Basin. Two house finches are observed in the northeastern part of the site. No additional wildlife was observed within the site during the initial site assessment.

6:50 am. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 11-person contractor crew (superintendent and ten crewmembers, including subcontractors). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. 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. He also reviews the safety precautions to keep wildlife from being harmed during construction activities. He reminds the crews that monarchs are continuing to migrate and that all equipment operators need to be on the lookout for monarchs because they are protected. He also reminds the crews to be mindful of their trash as well as public traveling along the adjacent sidewalks and bike lanes.

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 the planned activities for the day. These include removal of SECA material along the northwestern portion of the site, work on the tide gate replacement in the southwest corner of the project; backfilling next to the wall along Washington Boulevard, construction of another section of the wall forms in the southeast corner of the site as well as continued pumping in order to dewater the Basin.

7:00 am. CSL crews begin to mobilize along the western side of the Basin in preparation for the first SECA trucks to be loaded. A subcontractor begins to work in the southeast corner of the Basin working on forms for a new section of footings and wall. A second subcontractor works on the installation of the new tide gate. There is no wildlife present within either of the work areas.

7:15 am. A double-crested cormorant flies over the site from north to south.

7:40 am. Two black phoebes are seen around a shallow pool of water near the northeast culvert.

8:00 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

8:20 am. The two black phoebes are seen around the northeast culvert again.

8:42 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

9:00 am. A single female mallard is seen within a shallow pool at the northeast canal.

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9:18 am. Crews continue work along the northwestern side of the project removing SECA material and loading it onto trucks in the parking lot/staging area. There is no wildlife in this area.

9:35 am. The two black phoebes are seen around the southeast canal.

10:12 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

10:41 am. A single great blue heron lands near the tide gate near one of the pools of water.

10:55 am. The great blue heron flies off when a worker turns the noisy electric pump back on. (They were previously working on it)

11:07 am. Work continues on the tide gate and along the Washington Boulevard wall. Two black phoebes are observed perched on the silt fence along the eastern bank.

11:15 am. A vagrant is observed sleeping on the ground next to a bench near the southeast gate. There is no other wildlife present at this time.

11:25 am. The great blue heron returns to the western part of the Basin but this time closer to the middle of the Basin. There is no construction going on nearby.

11:52 am. Work continues as more SECA material is removed from the northwestern bank. The great blue heron is still present.

11:55 am. No other wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

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

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues on the tide gate and in the northwest corner. A few of the crew members begin to remove some of the fence along the Washington Boulevard wall. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

1:15 pm. Two black phoebes are observed near the eastern part of the Basin flying around several shallow pools

1:45 pm. Two house finches are observed along the bike path.

2:12 pm. Workers continue to bring in structural fill at the wall along Washington Boulevard as well as work on the tide gate. There is no wildlife nearby either of the construction activities.

2:35 pm. There is substantial songbird activity in the eucalyptus and ficus trees in Burke Park. The birds appear to largely be finches and sparrows. Due to thick cover it is nearly impossible to see them.

3:03 pm. Workers are wrapping up with the installation of the forms for the wall near the southeast culvert. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

3:24 pm. The biologist leaves this area and heads back toward the other work activities along Washington Boulevard. Two black phoebes are once again near the southeast culvert but are not near any construction activities. Work continues.

3:50 pm. The subcontractor working on the tide gate leaves for the day.

4:05 pm. Several crows are observed along the western bank but are not near any construction activities. A few fly off over the Basin towards the north.

4:15pm. The crews working along Washington Boulevard begin to prepare to put the fencing back in place that was removed earlier for accessing the area that was being filled/compacted. There is no wildlife in the work area.

4:45 pm. The work crews head back towards the east bank and begin to put tools and equipment up for the day. A few crows are seen around the staging area. Several mourning doves are observed flying overhead towards the nearby hotel.

5:02 pm. Work is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

No osprey 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. 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.
3. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
4. The number of wading birds has decreased even further since the end of September.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on October 15, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 15, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1 individual observed today
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	No individuals observed today
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	No individuals observed today
Black-crowned Night Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	No individuals observed today
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individual observed today
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No individuals observed today
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	One seen flying overhead.
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying overhead around buildings and on powerlines and fences.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in nearby vegetation, in parking lots, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4-6 individuals observed today
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Several near the bike path. Two seen in the northeast corner of the site.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Several near the bike path.
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	No individuals observed today
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	No individuals observed today
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	No individuals observed today



Memorandum

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

From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith

Date: October 16, 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 October 16, 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 scientist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 5:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 20% percent chance of rain for October 16, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were mostly overcast with low temperatures in the mid 70's and high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed construction activities throughout the Oxford Basin project site. These included work on the replacement of the tide gate, removal of SECA 2 material from the eastern side of the project, backfill adjacent to the wall along Washington Boulevard, and work on concrete forms near the southeast corner of the project. The contractor continues to pump water from the Basin in an effort to dewater the Basin in preparation for dredging of material. 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: October 16, 2015

6:00 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

6:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

Four crows were observed on the south bank. No wading birds were present within the Basin. One snowy egret flies over the site during the biologist's initial survey but did not land. Two house finches are observed in the eastern part of the site along the bike path. Several mourning doves are observed milling around the southeast end of the site near the park. Another three doves are perched along the temporary powerlines on the west bank. No additional wildlife was observed within the site during the initial site assessment.

6:50 am. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 10-person contractor crew (superintendent and nine crewmembers, including subcontractors). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. 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. He also reviews the safety precautions to keep wildlife from being harmed during construction activities. He reminds the crews that monarchs are continuing to migrate and that all equipment operators need to be on the lookout for monarchs because they are protected. He also reminds the crews to be mindful of their trash as well as public traveling along the adjacent sidewalks and bike lanes.

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 the planned activities for the day. These include removal of SECA material along the northwestern portion of the site, work on the tide gate replacement in the southwest corner of the project; backfilling next to the wall along Washington Boulevard, construction of another section of the wall forms in the southeast corner of the site as well as continued pumping in order to dewater the Basin.

7:00 am. CSL crews begin to mobilize along the western side of the Basin in preparation for the first SECA trucks to be loaded. A subcontractor is in the southeast corner of the Basin working on forms for a new section of footings and wall. A second subcontractor works on the new tide gate. There is no wildlife present within any of the work areas.

7:05 am. Two black phoebes are observed in the western side of the Basin around several shallow pools of water.

7:20 am. Two crows are foraging around the northwest bank near the wall.

7:42 am. Two western gulls fly over the Basin from East to west but do not land.

8:06 am. Seven crows are not foraging around the middle of the Basin near the trash pumps.

8:28 am. Three crows are observed wandering around the parking lot within the laydown yard.

8:47 am. Six crows are along the south bank of the Basin foraging.

9:03 am. Four crows are observed on the northeast peninsula.

9:16 am. Crews continue work along the eastern side of the project removing SECA material and loading it onto trucks near the bike path. Two black phoebes are seen around a shallow pool of water near the northeast culvert but are not near any construction activities.

9:32 am. No wildlife is observed within the Basin at this time.

10:05 am. Two black phoebes are again observed in the western side of the Basin around several shallow pools of water.

10:15 am. A snowy egret flies over the Basin towards the southwest but does not land.

10:27 am. A great egret lands in the pine tree above the tide gate. The crew is currently taking a break and the egret is nowhere near any of the construction activities.

10:53 am. The great egret flies off to the south out of the Basin.

11:07 am. Work continues on the tide gate and along the western side of the project. Two crows are observed in the parking lot/staging area. A few of the crew members begin to remove some of the fence along the Washington Boulevard wall in preparations for backfilling operations after the SECA material is loaded onto trucks.

11:16 am. One of the SECA trucks (the fourth one of the day) drives into the ditch near the parapet wall close to the northeast culvert with a full load. However, there is no damage and nothing is spilled or punctured. The crews go get a chain and front end loader to pull him out.

11:27 am. Two black phoebes are observed again around the northeast culvert. There is no construction going on nearby.

11:40 am. The SECA truck is pulled out of the ditch and after inspecting for damage it is on its way to the landfill. There are no other SECA trucks today. Two house finches are observed in the pine tree near the bike path. Several sparrows heard near the bike path but due to thick tree cover none were seen.

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

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues on the tide gate and around the northern side of the site along Washington Boulevard. There are seven crows along the south bank. Two mourning doves fly over the Basin from south to the west but do not land.

1:17 pm. A monarch butterfly is observed near the west bank and flies to the west out of the site.

Two black Phoebes are observed within the western side of the Basin.

1:31 pm. Two crows land in one of the palm trees near the northeast corner.

1:43 pm. One swallowtail butterfly is observed along the south bank.

2:05 pm. Workers continue to bring in structural fill at the wall along Washington Boulevard as well as work on the tide gate. Four crows land on the south bank near the tide gate.

2:17 pm. Three more crows join the group along the south bank.

2:24 pm. A western gull flies overhead from the west to the east but does not land.

2:41 pm. Three crows fly off towards the east out of the project area.

3:00 pm. Workers are finishing up with the installation of the forms for the wall near the southeast culvert and begin putting their tools away. There are no birds near any ongoing construction activities or any wildlife present within the Basin at this time.

3:24 pm. Two snowy egrets fly over the site but do not land heading south.

3:47 pm. Two black phoebes are found along the eastern bank fluttering around the water and perching on the silt fences near the northeast culvert.

4:00 pm. The subcontractor working on the tide gate leaves for the day.

4:15 pm. Several mourning doves are perched along the temporary powerline on the eastern bank.

4:35pm. The crews working along Washington Boulevard begin to prepare to put the fencing back in place that was removed earlier for accessing the area that was being filled/compacted. There is no wildlife in the work area.

4:50 pm. The work crews head back towards the east bank and begin to put tools and equipment up for the day. The two black phoebes are still present near the northeast culvert.

5:05 pm. Work is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

One monarch butterfly was observed today.

No osprey 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. 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.
3. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
4. The number of wading birds has decreased even further since the end of September.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on October 16, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 16, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	No individuals observed today
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	2-4 individuals observed today
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed today
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	No individuals observed today
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	No individuals observed today
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No individuals observed today
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	No individuals observed today
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Very common. Several observed flying overhead around buildings and on powerlines and fences.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in nearby vegetation, in parking lots, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4-6 individuals observed today
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Several near the bike path. Two seen within the eastern side of the site.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	Heard several near the bike path.
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	No individuals observed today
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	No individuals observed today
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	No individuals observed today



Memorandum

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

From: Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith

Date: October 17, 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 October 17, 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 scientist, beginning at 6:00am and ending at 5:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 20% percent chance of rain for October 17, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were mostly overcast with low temperatures in the mid 70's and high temperatures in the low 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed construction activities at the Oxford Basin project site. These included adding backfill adjacent to the wall along Washington Boulevard and replacing filters to the pump filtration system. The contractor continues to pump water from the Basin in an effort to dewater the Basin in preparation for dredging of material. 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: October 17, 2015

6:20 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

6:30 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

Two crows were observed in the parking lot/staging area. Approximately 7 mourning doves were perched on the temporary power lines on the west bank. No wading birds were present within the Basin. Four house finches are observed in the eastern part of the site along the bike path. Several crows are observed around the southeast end of the site near the park. Several western gulls are observed flying over the site but do not land. No additional wildlife was observed within the site during the initial site assessment.

6:50 am. The biologist then conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 7-person contractor crew (superintendent and six crewmembers). There are no subcontractors working today. The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attended the training. 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. He also reviews the safety precautions to keep wildlife from being harmed during construction activities. He reminds the crews that monarchs are continuing to migrate and that all equipment operators need to be on the lookout for monarchs and birds because they are protected. He also reminds the crews to be mindful of their trash as well as public traveling along the adjacent sidewalks and bike lanes.

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 the planned activities for the day. These include backfilling next to the new parapet wall along Washington Boulevard, replacement of filters, and continued pumping in order to dewater the Basin. No subcontractors are working today and no hauling will take place today.

7:15 am. CSL crews begin to mobilize along the western side of the Basin in preparation for the work along Washington Boulevard. Some of the temporary construction fencing is removed.

7:25 am. A single snowy egret flies from the west to the east over the Basin but does not land.

7:43 am. Four crows land in the pine tree on the south bank near the tide gate.

8:17 am. Two black phoebes are found around the northeast culvert near one of the shallow pools.

8:40 am. Work continues along the parapet wall on Washington Boulevard.

9:18 am. The two black phoebes are still flying around the same area near the northeast culvert. There are no construction activities taking place in this area.

9:30 am. Six crows are now along the south bank foraging. No construction activities are anywhere nearby.

9:53 am. Two house finches are found in the southeast corner of the site amongst some shrubs.

10:08 am. The two black phoebes are now along the east bank.

10:19 am. Three crows fly from the north and land on the south bank of the Basin. Work continues along Washington Boulevard. There are two workers in the middle of the Basin refueling the trash pumps. No other work is taking place around the Basin at this time.

10:32 am. The three crows fly south out of the Basin.

10:48 am. The two phoebes are now closer to the mouth of the southeast canal along the east bank.

11:07 am. A single crow flies south to north and lands in one of the palm trees along Washington Boulevard.

11:14 am. A great egret lands near the tide gate at a shallow pool. The pumps continue to run but the noise does not appear to bother the heron.

11:22 am. Two rock pigeons fly over the parking lot/staging area but do not land at the site.

11:36 am. A single house finch is observed along the northwest fence.

11:47 am. The great egret is still near the tide gate. Work activities have stopped as laborers break for lunch.

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

1:00 pm. Crews return from lunch. Work continues around the northern side of the site along Washington Boulevard.

1:16 pm. The great egret that was at the tide gate has now flown away. Two more rock pigeons fly south to north over the Basin briefly stopping on the power lines before moving northward out of the area.

1:25 pm. Two black phoebes are once again found near the northeast culvert.

1:50 pm. Four western gulls fly over the Basin from East to west but do not land.

2:15 pm. Workers continue to bring in structural fill at the wall along Washington Boulevard and compact the fill using the "jumping jack" machine. Two Anna's Hummingbirds are seen flying around the eastern side of the Basin. There is no wildlife anywhere near the construction activities.

2:27 pm. Five mourning doves are seen along the west bank but then fly off towards the south.

2:48 pm. Three crows fly over the Basin from north to south but don't land.

3:04 pm. Workers are finishing up with the parapet wall fill and begin putting their tools away. Three other workers are putting the fencing back along Washington Boulevard. There are no birds

near any ongoing construction activities at this time.

3:24 pm. Several crows are observed along the eastern bank but are not near any construction activities.

3:47 pm. Three crows fly to the northeast peninsula. After a few minutes they fly towards the south out of the Basin.

4:05 pm. Work is finished for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today.

No monarch butterflies were observed today.

No osprey 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. 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.
3. There were no birds present within the active work areas.
4. The number of wading birds has decreased even further since the end of September.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species typically observed during biological monitoring on October 17, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 17, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	No individuals observed today
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed today
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed today
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	No individuals observed today
Great blue heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	No individuals observed today
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	No individuals observed today
Double-crested	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	No individuals observed today

Cormorant		
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin.
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Very common. Several observed flying overhead around buildings and on powerlines and fences.
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; several observed in nearby vegetation, in parking lots, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	4-6 individuals observed today
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	6-7 individuals observed today. Several near the bike path.
House Sparrow	<i>Passer domesticus</i>	No individuals observed today
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megasceryle alcyon</i>	No individuals observed today
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 individuals observed today
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin