



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Harrison Kirner, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 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 September 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 Harrison Kirner, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:45 am and ending at 7:10 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly cloudy, with temperatures ranging from 72°F in the morning to a high of 77°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, soil grading, dredging for the Central Basin berm foundation, and attempts to pump and drain the remaining water in the Basin. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:45 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment.

6:30am CMB Construction crew arrived.

7:00 am. Gate opened by LACDPW. C.S. Legacy crew arrived. The biological monitor performed the bio awareness training for the C.S. Legacy site superintendent, his crew of six workers, and construction subcontractors CMB Construction. The SoCal Stormwater Solutions Monitor, and the LACDPW record keeper also attended the training, and all workers signed the sign-in sheet. Reminders were given about not working during measurable rain due to the predicted rain event for the following week and that precautions need to be taken for any flooding or drainage issues.

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Biological monitor was informed that the crew was clear to proceed with dredging and berm construction.

7:30 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began preparing the foundation for the central berm within the Basin by dredging soil using an excavator; simultaneously, crewmembers began stockpiling debris along the southeastern portion of the Basin. They also began pumping water out of the Basin near the tide gates in the southeastern section of the Basin. CMB crew members prepared the foundation for the wall along Washington Blvd. Two American Crows and one Black Phoebe were observed near the northern storm drain inlet of the Basin.

7:40 am. Dump trucks began dropping off rock for use in the foundation of the central berm. No wildlife was observed.

8:00 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began moving delivered rocks into the Basin using a loader. Excavators continued preparing the Basin for the construction of the berm by moving soil out of the center of the Basin.

9:00 am. Three Semipalmated Plovers were observed foraging in the central area of the Basin.

9:20 am. The C.S. Legacy crew continued dredging in the southern and central portions of the Basin using two excavators. Two Western Sandpipers observed foraging in the center of the Basin away from the construction activities.

10:00 am. The C.S. Legacy crew continued moving soil from the center of the Basin toward the edges of the Basin and continued depositing rocks for the foundation of the central berm. CMB crew continued laying rebar and constructing wooden framing along Washington Boulevard.

11:00 am. Both crews continued the same activities. No wildlife was observed.

11:20 am. The excavator moved to the area of the Basin near the tide gates and began moving soil toward the edges of the Basin. This created a better pathway for water to drain to the water pump located at the tide gates.

12:30 pm. All crews broke for lunch.

1:00 pm. The C.S. Legacy crew continued moving lakebed soils from the center of the Basin toward the edges of the Basin and continued depositing rocks for the foundation of the central berm. The crew also began removing debris and trash into a trash container using an excavator. The CMB crew continued laying rebar and constructing wooden framing for wall along Washington Boulevard.

2:00 pm. All crews continued the same work. Trucks continued delivering rock for use in the construction of the berm. One Semipalmated Plover was observed in the center portion of the Basin and one Great Blue Heron was observed flying north over the Basin.

3:00 pm. The C.S. Legacy crew began using two excavators to dredge. A Black Phoebe was observed foraging along the storm drain inlet in the northern part of the Basin and two Western Sandpipers were observed foraging within the center of the Basin.

4:00 pm. Two Mallards were observed in the eastern portion of the Basin. All crews continued the same work.

4:30 pm. The CMB Construction crew left for the day; the C.S. Legacy crew continued dredging and laying out rock for construction of the berm.

5:15 pm. In total, the C.S. Legacy crew deposited approximately 50x10ft of rock within the Basin using two excavators and a loader.

5:30 pm. Fifteen American Crows were observed in the eastern portion of the Basin.

5:45 pm. The C.S. Legacy crew cleaned up some of their equipment and took a break.

6:15 pm. The C.S. Legacy crew continued work laying down rock and moving soil within the Basin using one excavator and one loader.

6:50 pm. The C.S. Legacy crew finished work for the day.

7:10 pm. All workers left the project area.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Most of the bird species remained at the site throughout the workday with many of the individuals remaining undisturbed by the nearby dredging activities. This was especially true with the small mixed flock of shorebirds that foraged on the mudflats.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 14, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	15+ individuals observed foraging within Basin; common flying overhead and outside of site
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individuals observed foraging in the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals seen flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the West Basin; Very common; observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 observed foraging in the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	4 observed foraging in the Basin
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	2 observed foraging in the Basin



Figure 1. Photo facing south of excavator dredging soil from Basin.



Figure 2. Photo facing west of excavators dredging soil from Basin.



Figure 3. Photo facing northeast of CMB Construction crew constructing wall along Washington Boulevard.



Figure 4. Photo facing northeast of Oxford Basin.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Harrison Kirner, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 15, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on September 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 Harrison Kirner, SWCA biologist, beginning at 5:45 am and ending at 1:45 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were rainy in the morning and partly cloudy in the late morning and early afternoon, with temperatures ranging from 72°F in the morning to a high of 75°F. Since measurable rain was recorded, no construction work was allowed. Construction crews focused on pumping water out of the Basin to avoid emergency flooding to the surrounding neighborhood and streets.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with attempts to pump and drain the remaining water in the basin, some cleanup, and delivery of materials. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

5:45 am. The biological monitor arrived on site to conduct initial assessment. A measurable rain event was occurring upon arrival. The gate to the layout yard was open already and a few crew members were already present.

6:30 am. The biological monitor contacted the Project Manager to discuss the plan of action for the crew and for monitoring during the rain event.

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7:00 am. The LACDPW Project Manager confirmed that no construction would be occurring that day. The crews would be focusing on pumping water out of the Basin to prevent overflow onto the streets. Four Snowy Egrets, four Double-crested Cormorants, one Black-crowned Night-Heron, and one American Crow were observed within the Basin.

7:30 am. The water quality monitor on site worked with a C.S. Legacy crew member to drain the water that had been trapped within the layout yard.

7:40 am. Dump trucks began dropping off rock for use in the foundation of the central berm. No wildlife was observed.

8:00 am. C.S. Legacy superintendent informed the biological monitor that the tide gates would, most likely, not be opened because it would let fish in and would not drain very much water out.

8:30 am. Three Double-crested Cormorants and one Great Blue Heron were observed within the southern portion of the Basin. One Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed in a pine tree above the tide gates within the Basin. The LACDPW Project Manager confirmed that the biological monitor should remain onsite while crew members were working.

9:00 am. The rain stopped and the biological monitor performed a biological awareness training for working crew members for that day. Attendees included the C.S. Legacy site superintendent and his crew and the SoCal Storm-water Solutions Monitor. All workers signed the sign-in sheet. Reminders were given about not working during measurable rain and that precautions need to be taken for any flooding or drainage issues.

9:30 am. One Black-crowned Night-Heron was observed at tide gates, one Snowy Egret observed on the southeast bank of the Basin, and one Great Blue Heron was observed on the northeast bank of the Basin.

10:50 am Eight Mourning Doves were observed on power lines within the Basin. The crews continued monitoring the water level and water pumps.

11:20 am. The excavator moved to the area of the Basin near the tide gates and began moving soil toward the edges of the Basin. This created a better pathway for water to drain to the water pump located at the tide gates.

11:30 am. One Killdeer and two American Crows were observed on the southwest bank. Four Snowy Egrets were observed on the southeast bank. C.S. Legacy crew swept dirt back into Basin property along the bike trail the runs along the northeast side of the Basin.

12:30 pm. The crew took their lunch break.

12:45 pm. A Rain for Rent worker arrived to the layout yard and began performing maintenance on the water pump system.

1:00 pm. Eight Snowy Egrets and one Great Blue Heron, were observed on the southeast bank of the Basin. The Rain for Rent worker performed minor maintenance to the generator located near the tide gates.

1:30 pm. The LACDPW Project Manager returned to the project site and discussed the plan of action for draining the Basin with C.S. Legacy superintendent. The resulting plan involved unplugging the tide gate at low tide the next day to allow water to flow into the Marina and then placing a plug in a better position further into the tide gate.

1:45 pm. All crew members left the site. The C.S. Legacy superintendent told the biological monitor that work would start at 8:00am the next day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Most of the bird species remained at the site throughout the workday with many of the individuals remaining undisturbed by water pumping activities. The increased water level within the Basin seemed to have attracted more wildlife activity.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 15, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed foraging within Basin; common flying overhead and outside of site
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2 individual observed within storm water inlets and 1 individual observed in pine tree above tide gates
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	8 individuals observed foraging on the banks of

		the Basin; several observed flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	4 individuals observed swimming in the southern Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individuals observed foraging on the banks of the Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals seen flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the West Basin; Very common; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of basin
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	3 individuals observed foraging in the northern section of the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	8 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead



Figure 1. Photo of “wash out”, a small basin, delivered to the project site.

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Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of Oxford Basin.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Harrison Kirner, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 16, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on September 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 Harrison Kirner, SWCA biologist, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 7:00 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were rainy in the morning and partly cloudy in the late morning and early afternoon, with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 73°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with attempts to pump and drain the remaining water in the basin, old fence post and other debris removal, and the unplugging of the tide gates to remove water from the basin. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

7:00 am. The biological monitor arrived on site to conduct initial assessment. The biological monitor performed the bio-awareness training for the C.S. Legacy crew, and construction subcontractors CMB Construction. The LACDPW record keeper also attended the training, and all workers signed the sign-in sheet. Reminders were given about all required best management practices.

7:30 am. Four Mallards, three Snowy Egrets, one Black-crowned Night-Heron, two American Crows, and one Black Phoebe were observed in the eastern portion of the Basin. The C.S. Legacy crew began cleaning up debris and moving it to a garbage trailer near the northern inlet of the Basin

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using an excavator, a loader, and a dump truck. The CMB Construction crew continued constructing the framing and installing rebar for the wall along Washington Boulevard.

8:00 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began installing wooden stakes along Admiralty Way. Additionally, an excavator was used to level the soil along Admiralty Way.

8:30 am. Four Mallards and one American crow were observed in the northeastern section of the Basin.

8:50 am. One Least Sandpiper was observed on the northeast bank of the Basin.

9:00 am. A Belted Kingfisher was observed on the power lines in the southwest portion of the Basin. The C.S. Legacy crew continued installing wooden stakes along Admiralty Way. Additionally, an excavator and a loader were used to level the soil near the northern storm inlet.

9:50 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began moving old fence posts and concrete from the basin into a dump truck on Admiralty Way. The CMB crew continued building framing for the wall along Washington Boulevard.

10:00 am. An Anna's Hummingbird and an American Crow were observed on the northeast section of the Basin.

11:00 am. A Rain for Rent worker arrived to perform maintenance on the water pump system. All crews continued with their previous tasks. Two Mallards and one Anna's Hummingbird were observed in the northeast section of the Basin.

11:30 am. The biological monitor spoke with the C.S. Legacy superintendent who informed the monitor that the crew hired to remove and reinstall the plug in the tide gate would arrive at approximately 2:00pm. The biological monitor was also informed that work cleaning debris, building the wall along Washington Boulevard, and pumping water would continue for the remainder of the week. Two Snowy Egrets, and one Black Phoebe, were observed foraging near the northern storm inlet.

12:15 pm. All the crews broke for lunch.

12:45 pm. Crew resumed work. A Belted Kingfisher and a Snowy Egret were observed perched at the tide gates.

1:40 pm. The diving crew arrived to unplug the tide gate. The C.S. Legacy crew continued moving debris from around banks of the Basin to a garbage container near the northern storm inlet. The CMB crew continued laying rebar for the wall construction along Washington Boulevard. One Snowy Egret and one Belted Kingfisher were observed at the tide gates, one Western Gull was observed flying southwest over the Basin, and one Mourning Dove was observed along the southwest bank of the Basin.

2:30 pm. All the crews continued working on the same tasks.

3:20 pm. The diving crew began deflating the plug in the tide gates and water began draining from the Basin into the Marina. The C.S. Legacy crew began cleaning up their materials and reopened a lane on Admiralty Way that was closed to aid with debris removal.

3:30 pm. The CMB crew cleaned up their equipment and materials and departed from the Basin project area.

4:00 pm. The diving crew watched as water drained through the tide gate. The C.S. Legacy crew continued cleaning up their materials and all but three of the crew members departed from the site. Two House Finches, one Belted Kingfisher, and two Mourning Doves were observed in the southwest section of the Basin. Two American crows were observed in the northeast Basin.

4:45 pm. The diving crew and remaining C.S. Legacy crew members continued monitoring the water flow from the Basin to the Marina. They would plug the tide gate again before the flow reversed at low tide.

5:00 pm. The diving crew prepare for a worker to enter the water and work on the plug in the tide gate.

5:35 pm. The crew member performing underwater work on the plug surfaced. More water was allowed to drain before the plug was inflated. Two Snowy Egrets, one Great Blue Heron, and one Western Gull were observed in the central section of the Basin.

5:45 pm. The diving crew worker submerged to perform more work on the plug.

5:55 pm. The diving crew worker surfaced and exited the water. The plug was inflated to prevent water from flowing back into the Basin. The water level within the Basin dropped by approximately three feet. The diving crew then began cleaning up their equipment. The remaining C.S. Legacy crew members turned on the water pumps to continue pumping water out of the Basin.

6:30 pm. The diving crew continued cleaning up their equipment and the C.S. Legacy crew monitored the water pumps.

7:00 pm. All remaining crew members left for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Most of the bird species remained at the site throughout the workday with many of the individuals remaining undisturbed by water pumping activities. The increased water level within the Basin seemed to have attracted more wildlife activity.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 16, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals seen flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea Herodias</i>	1 individuals observed foraging on the banks of the Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	1 individual observed on the northeast bank of the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed in the northeastern section of the Basin
Killdeer	<i>Charadrius vociferus</i>	3 individuals observed foraging in the northern section of the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals observed foraging within Basin; common flying overhead and outside of site
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	8 individuals observed foraging on the banks of the Basin; several observed flying overhead
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	2 individuals observed near the layout yard
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the West Basin; Very common; observed flying overhead
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual observed in the southeastern Basin
Black-crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	2 individual observed within storm water inlets and 1 individual observed in pine tree above tide gates
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	4 individuals observed swimming in the southern Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	3 individuals foraging in multiple areas within the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	8 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead



Figure 1. Photo facing southwest of C.S. Legacy crew removing debris in the eastern section of the Basin along Admiralty Way.



Figure 2. Photo facing southwest of CMB Construction crew installing rebar along Washington Boulevard.

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Figure 3. Photo facing northeast of Oxford Basin.



Figure 4. Photo diving crew working within the tide gates.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sunny Lee, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 17, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on September 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 Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the day was clear with temperatures ranging from 65°F in the morning to a high of 78°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, fence repair, installing water pump bypass and building forms for walls.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:30 am. Biological monitor arrived onsite to conduct initial assessment. Upon arrival, the water pumps were pumping water out of the Basin which had partially filled with water due to rain event on September 15, 2015. Also, due to the rain event, a small section of silt fence along the south side of the Basin had been destroyed. Crew arrived to the layout yard shortly after.

6:50 am. The biologist observed three Snowy Egrets, one Western Gull, and one Great Blue Heron.

7:00 am. The biologist gave the biological awareness training to the crew including the foreman. The crew informed the biologist that water levels have receded some since the rain event. The biologist informed the foreman of the damaged observed to the silt fence.

7:30 am. Materials for wall forms were delivered to the layout yard. The biologist observed a Belted Kingfisher along the west side of the Basin.

7:40 am. The skid steer and front loader were loaded onto a trailer and hauled off site. Two crews were onsite; a CMB crew working on forming the wall along the north side and a CS Legacy (CSL) crew. The CSL crew removed debris, placed grading stakes, and performed light grading along the south side of the project site. The biologist observed ten Mourning Doves along the north side, and nine American Crows foraging along the south side.

8:00 am. CSL crew continued to remove debris and perform light grading along the south side.

8:45 am. A new roll off dumpster was delivered and the full dumpster was hauled off.

9:22 am. The Rain for Rent (RFR) crew arrived with two extra filters for the water pump.

10:00 am. The RFR crew disconnected the water pump and installed a bypass to the system. The CSL crew continued to remove debris along the south side. Debris was taken via truck and placed into the roll off dumpster at the north side. The excavator was performing light grading work while a front loader loaded debris onto truck. The CMB crew was observed still building the wall forms along the north side.

11:30 am. The biologist observed six Snowy Egrets and one Western Gull near the inlet.

12:00 pm. All three crews break for lunch.

12:30 pm. All crews resumed work. The biologist observed an Anna's Hummingbird, Black Phoebe, and Least Sandpiper.

12:40 pm. The RFR crew finished the bypass and reinstalled the pump. The biologist observed Snowy Egrets, Western Gull, and Great Blue Heron near inlet.

1:00 pm. The biologist observed a monarch butterfly, and Least Sandpipers along the north side. Trash, including bottles and cans, were found along the north side.

1:50 pm. The CSL crew travelled east as they continued to remove debris and grade in the south side.

2:00 pm. The biologist spoke with the foreman about the bottles and can found along the north side. The foreman will have the crew clean up at the end of the day. The foreman informed the biologist that the damaged silt fence would be addressed tomorrow. The RFR crew was installing a backup pump near the tidal gate.

3:00 pm. The CSL and CMB crew began to end work for the day. The biologist observed a Double-crested Cormorant along the western side.

3:30 pm. The CSL and CMB crews left but RFR crew continued to work on installing the backup pump.

4:30 pm. The RFR crew finished work and left.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. Wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 17, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	18 individuals observed within pine trees; common flying overhead and outside of site, and foraging on banks
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed swimming in the southern Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	3 observed swimming in the water
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	22 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	38 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; several observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	3 individual observed foraging in the Central Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	13 individuals observed foraging on the banks of the Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	3 individuals observed catching fish
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	7 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2 individuals observed hunting along the banks



Figure 1. Photo facing northeast of excavator loading soil from the southeast portion of the Basin into trucks.



Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of CMB crew working on forms for the wall.



Figure 3. Photo facing east of Rain for Rent crew working on installing bypass pipes.



Figure 4. Photo facing southeast showing damaged portions of the silt fence.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sunny Lee, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 18, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on September 18, 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 Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 7:30 a.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the day was clear with temperatures ranging from 65°F in the morning to a high of 75°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, grading, trenching, and installing water additional water filters.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:30 am. Biological monitor arrived on site. Upon arrival, the water pumps were pumping water out of the Basin which had partially filled with water due to rain event on September 15, 2015. The crew arrived to the layout yard. The biologist observed a Great Egret at the center of the Basin.

7:30 am. The Biologist administered the biological awareness training to the crew. Only two crews were working today, the CS Legacy (CSL) crew and the Rain for Rent crew. The foreman informed the biological monitor that there would be delivery and removal of equipment as well as loading and removal of contaminated soil from the site. A utility company crew was also scheduled to arrive one site to relocate a utility pole. The biologist observed a Belted Kingfisher along the southwest part of the Basin.

8:00 am. CSL crew resumed light grading along the south side of the Basin and continued to travel east. The biologist observed another Belted Kingfisher perched on top of an electrical pole on the north side of the Basin and eight crows perched on electrical poles on the northeast side of the Basin.

8:15 am. The CSL crew mobilized a large front loader and a small excavator along the west side of the Basin, and transported the water truck to the southwest corner.

8:40 am. The CSL crew removed landfill soil from the west side of the Basin. No birds were observed in the area.

9:00 am. The soil removal activity was halted to wait for a site safety inspector due to contaminated soil. The excavator located at the northeast side of the Basin was loaded with debris to transport to the roll off dumpster. The crew closed off a lane along Admiralty Way to stage three large dump trucks that had arrived.

9:30 am. The small excavator located along the west side of the Basin was moved to the southwest corner to trench along the west side of the Basin. The biologist observed Semipalmated Plovers foraging along the north side of the Basin.

10:00 am. The Rain for Rent crew arrived to take water samples. A 2-man crew from Power Plus arrived to move a utility pole.

10:30 am. The biologist administered biological awareness training to the Power Plus crew. The dump trucks that were staged along Admiralty Way were loaded with contaminated soil and then left the site. The removal of contaminated soil will not be continued today (for unknown reasons).

11:00 am. The CSL crew continued to grade along the south side. The RFR crew prepared to install two additional filters to the pump system.

11:30 am. The Power Plus crew installed the new utility pole 5ft further southwest than the existing pole. The CSL crew continued to trench on the west side of the Basin. The biologist observed a Great Blue Heron in the Basin.

12:00 pm. All crews halted work for lunch. No birds were observed in the Basin at this time.

12:50 pm. All crew resumed work. The front loader returned to the west side of the Basin to fill in landfill soil and then all grading activity was stopped.

1:30 pm. The small excavator continued to trench along the west side while the large front loader moved stockpiles of fill sand in the layout yard.

2:00 pm. The water truck drove west along Admiralty Way to water soil along the south side of the Basin. No birds were observed in the Basin at this time.

2:30 pm. Front loader transported fill sand to the southwest corner of the Basin. The biologist observed a Western Gull, Snowy Egrets, and a Great Egret at the center of the Basin.

2:50 pm. The crew re-opened the road along Admiralty Way.

3:00 pm. The biologist notified the foreman that he observed additional damage to the silt fence on the north side and southwest side of the Basin while the previous damages discovered the day before had not yet been addressed. The biologist observed a Great Blue Heron along the south side of the Basin.

3:30 pm. The CSL crew left for the day. The RFR crew remained to finish installing the new filters.

4:30pm. The RFR crew left for the day.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.

2. Wildlife observed was far less than the previous day with identical weather conditions.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on September 18, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 18, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	9 individuals observed within pine trees; common flying overhead and outside of site, and foraging on banks
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed swimming in the southern Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	2 observed swimming in the water
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	5 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; several observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	2 individual observed foraging in the Central Basin
Least Sandpiper	<i>Calidris minutilla</i>	9 individuals observed foraging on the banks of the Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	5 individuals observed catching fish
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1 individual observed foraging throughout the Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	2 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 individuals observed hunting along the banks



Figure 1. Photo facing northeast showing an excavator loading landfill soil from the west portion of the Basin into the front loader.



Figure 2. Photo facing north of CSL crew trenching the west side of the Basin.



Figure 3. Photo facing north showing damaged silt fence in the southwest corner of the Basin.



Figure 4. Photo facing northeast showing damaged portions of the silt fence along the north side of the Basin.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Sunny Lee, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: September 19, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on September 19, 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 Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:50 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the day was clear with temperatures ranging from 66°F in the morning to a high of 79°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with debris cleanup and transport, trenching, and pickleweed transplanting.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:30 am. Biological monitor arrived on site. The Basin was still partially filled with water due to a rain event on September 15, 2015. The water pumps were pumping water from the Basin into the Marina. The construction crews arrived to the layout yard shortly after the biological monitor arrived. The biologist observed three Great Blue Herons at the center of the Basin upon arrival to the site.

6:50 am. The Biologist administered the biological awareness training to the crew. Only the CS Legacy (CSL) crew was present. The crew said they would be saving pickleweed plants and trenching and removing debris today. The biologist observed a Great Egret and two Snowy Egrets in the eastern part of the Basin.

7:00 am. The CSL crew started transplanting pickleweed plants from the northwest corner of the Basin into pots. The water within the Basin had receded greatly. The biologist observed two American Crows along the north side of the Basin and one Black-crowned Night-Heron at the northern inlet.

Mr. Rick Sun
September 19, 2015
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8:00 am. The CSL crew continued to transplant pickleweed plants along the north side of the Basin while two construction workers surveyed and placed grading stakes in the southern portion of the Basin. An excavator resumed trenching work from the previous day along the west side of the Basin.

8:30 am. In addition to trenching, the small excavator removed concrete debris to the northwest corner of the Basin.

9:30 am. The biologist observed one Belted Kingfisher, one Great Blue Heron, and three Snowy Egrets in the Basin at this time.

9:15 am. A front loader moved to the north side of the Basin and moved planters filled with pickleweed to the west side of the Basin.

10:30 am. A roll off dumpster was delivered to the northeast side of the Basin. The filled dumpster was hauled off site.

10:30 am. For unknown reasons, the removal of contaminated soil was not conducted. The dump trucks that were staged to haul off contaminated soil left the project site. The biologist administered biological awareness training to the Power Plus crew that had just arrived to the project site.

10:50 am. A large excavator moved into the Basin and created a small channel to drain water from isolated pools into the main pool on the east side of the Basin. At no point was the excavator in standing water.

11:15 am. A small excavator started removing fencing debris and concrete footings along the west side of the Basin.

11:45 pm. The biologist observed a Great Egret within the Basin.

12:00 pm. The CSL crew stopped for a lunch break.

12:30 pm. Water on the east side of the Basin equalized with the main pool of water after a channel was created to connect the two pools. The biologist observed two Snowy Egrets and a Great Egret along the east side of the Basin.

1:00 pm. The CSL crew resumed work.

1:30 pm. The CSL crew picked up trash along the north side of the Basin while a concrete pipe was moved from the northwest corner of the Basin to the north side of the Basin for installation.

2:00 pm. The damaged silt fence identified two days prior and located along the north side, southwest corner, and south side, had not been addressed. Fill sand located within the layout yard was left uncovered. The foreman was notified of the silt fencing and the fill sand. The CSL crew was observed cleaning the sidewalk along the north side of the Basin. The biologist observed one Monarch butterfly flying along the west side of the Basin.

2:30 pm. The CSL crew continued to trench in the northwest corner of the Basin while they saved pickleweed along the west side of the Basin.

3:30 pm. The CSL crew left for the day.

Additional Observations

No black skimmers or California least terns were observed today. A Monarch butterfly was observed onsite.

Conclusions

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

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. While wildlife observations have decreased, insects remain common, including several species of dragonflies and butterflies, including Monarch, swallowtails, sulphurs, and painted lady. Observations decrease significantly when winds pick up.
3. Many of the bird species remained at the site for long periods and appeared undisturbed by the nearby construction activities. The wading birds that were present at the site seemed to prefer to rest and forage in areas of the Basin where less intense activities are occurring.
4. Species diversity is lower as the water level in the Basin dropped.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on September 19, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on September 19, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	4 individuals observed flying overhead and foraging on banks
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	15 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; several observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	4 individual observed foraging in the Central Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	6 individuals observed catching fish
Black-Crowned Night-Heron	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	1 individual observed standing in the Central Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	6 individuals observed foraging throughout the Basin



Figure 1. Photo facing south of crew transplanting pickleweed into planters.



Figure 2. Photo facing north of crew removing fencing materials.



Figure 3. Photo facing northeast showing the amount of water within the Basin.



Figure 4. Photo facing south of pickleweed in planters.



Figure 5. Photo facing northwest of fill sand pile left uncovered.