Memorandum

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

From: *Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

Date: *July 28, 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 July 28, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:15 am and ending at 3:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 for July 28, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with concrete debris cleanup, excavation for the footings of the proposed retaining wall and minor work to the pump system. 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: July 28, 2015

7:15 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:20 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

One great blue heron, one great heron and one snowy egret were observed in the northwest tidal flats. One great blue heron, one black-crowned night-heron, and one snowy egret are observed near the southwest tidal gate. Two black crows were observed in the northern flats searching for food. Two cormorants are on the culvert wall in the northeast corner of the project. Two female mallards are observed feeding nearby. One snowy egret is observed in the southeast canal. One snowy egret is feeding along the east bank of the project. A western gull was observed flying parallel to Washington Boulevard but did not land on the site.

Approximately 50-75 bees are still present at the old hive site.

8:15 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 6-person contractor crew (superintendent and five crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend 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-through. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include excavation along Washington Boulevard for the footings of the proposed wall. Other proposed activities include algae removal and debris removal along the northern portion of the site.

8:30 am. The "Rain for Rent" crew arrives on-site. After a brief bio-awareness training, the two-member crew signs the bio-awareness sign-in sheet and begins work in the northwest corner of the project near the settlement tanks and the large excavator which is parked. One great blue heron and one great heron are in the northwest Basin nearby undisturbed.

8:40 am. One additional snowy egret joins the other birds still present in the tidal flats. No wildlife is present within the immediate work area at this time.

8:50 am. The workers begin smoothing out earth with the front-end loader along Washington and spray the area with a hose to keep dust down. The workers move the medium-sized excavator towards the end of the existing ditch in preparation for excavation.

9:00 am. Only one great blue heron remains in the northwest tidal flat due to nearby construction activities. One great heron flies out of the mudflat towards the south. One pigeon circles overhead then flies southeast over the basin. No wildlife is present near the ongoing construction activities.

9:15 am. One snowy, one juvenile black-crowned night-heron, one great blue heron and one great heron are observed near the southwest tidal gate. Excavation just north of the mudflat begins with the medium excavator.

9:20 am. Two juvenile black-crowned night-herons are perched in a tree near the southwest tidal gate. One cormorant lands nearby, four female mallards leave the south bank and enter the water. One black phoebe flies west to east over the site but does not stop. The same three birds are still

present within the northwest basin.

9:25 am. One cormorant feeds in the western side of the basin diving into the water in search of fish. A great blue heron flies from the northwest mudflat to the northeast culvert.

10:00 am. Excavation continues along Washington Boulevard for wall footings, one snowy and one great blue heron are observed in the northwest basin. One hermit thrush is observed in the parking lot near the settlement tanks on the northwest side the project.

10:30 am. The contractor waters a portion of the site where the activities are currently taking place.

10:15 am. One great heron remains in the northwest mudflats. One snowy egret and one great blue heron are observed at the southwest tidal gate atop the rails.

10:30 am. One juvenile black-crowned night-heron joins the snowy egret at the southwest tidal gate. The two-man crew with Rain for Rent continue to work nearby but the birds are not disturbed. No birds are present near the excavation activities along the north side of the project site. One mourning dove is seen near the construction trailer looking for food.

11:00 am. No birds are observed within the western half of the Basin at this time. The front end loader is leaking a small amount of diesel fuel so crews stop to repair the leak.

11:15 am. One snowy egret files west to east over the site, lands at the northeast peninsula, the front-end loader is now repaired and the leak has been stopped.

11:30 am. The small excavator is now being used to excavate in between Washington Boulevard and the northwest peninsula. One yellow butterfly is observed near the flowers on the south bank, not near any construction activities. Due to its distance, it was not possible to identify the species.

11:45 am. One snowy egret is observed in the northern mudflat, not near any ongoing work activities. Two western gulls land in the middle of the Basin from the west.

11:50 am. Three snowy egrets are observed near northeast peninsula, four mallards swim east to west in the middle of the Basin. One cormorant lands in the middle of the Basin and begins feeding/diving nearby. Three snowy egrets are now observed on the south bank.

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

1:00 pm. The contractor crew resumes work. Three crows are observed near the construction trailer on the powerline. One great heron is in the northwest tidal flat. Rain for Rent crew resumes work near the southwest tidal gate. No birds are observed nearby at this time.

1:15 am. Four mallards are observed in the middle of the basin and are not near any construction

activities.

1:45 pm. One snowy egret approaches from the southeast and lands on the east bank of the project.

1:40 pm. A small green heron is observed near the canal/tidal gate along the southeastern portion of the project.

2:05 pm. Four female mallards and one great blue heron are observed near the culvert on the northeastern side of the project. No construction activities are taking place nearby at this time.

2:15 pm. The four mallards make their way (swimming) to the northwestern part of the Basin. Construction continues along Washington Boulevard. No wildlife is present in the work area.

2:30 pm. Five female mallards are now observed on the shoreline near the southwest tide gate at the smaller pine tree.

2:40 pm. One double-crested cormorant flies from the east and lands in the west side of the Basin. It begins to feed and dives in the water hunting for fish.

2:47 pm. One black phoebe noted sitting on silt fence on the western side of the project site near the construction trailer.

3:15 pm. Work is concluded for the day. No other species are observed.

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. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. Significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin. Algal coverage is highest in the eastern Basin and often increases as the day goes on as the Basin is exposed to more sunlight.

The contractor intends to remove algae in the coming days in preparation for the draw-down.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the basin as previously reported.

6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset fish die off to the greatest extent feasible.

7. No algae removal occurred today as previously planned/proposed by the contractor.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 28, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 28, 2015

Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	4-5 females resting/foraging throughout Basin; no active nests
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	4-6 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*	3-4 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.
Western Gull	*Larus occidentalis*	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes.
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks

Memorandum

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

From: *Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

Date: *July 29, 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 July 29, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:02 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 for July 29, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with concrete debris cleanup, excavation for the footings of the proposed retaining wall and minor work to the pump system. 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: July 29, 2015

7:02 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

One juvenile black-crowned night-heron was observed in the northwest basin. One house sparrow was observed in the northwest tidal flat. Five crows were observed in the northwest peninsula. One female mallard was seen near the northeast culvert feeding. A large gathering of birds was located along the southeast canal this morning; four black-crowned night-herons, one great blue heron, three great egrets and 20 snowy egrets were found all along the canal presumably feeding. Two female mallards were seen flying from the northwest to southeast and landed near the southeast canal along the south bank. One great blue heron was observed along the east bank feeding. One cormorant was seen flying out the basin heading towards the southeast. Approximately 50-75 bees are still present at the old hive site congregated on the uphill portion of the exposed hole in the ground.

7:50 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 6-person contractor crew (superintendent and five crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend the training. One new person attended the training from GPI, the soils technician. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-through. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include excavation and compaction along Washington Boulevard for the footings of the proposed wall. Other proposed activities concrete and asphalt debris removal along the eastern portion of the site. There is no plan for algae removal today. The superintendent indicates they plan to start algae removal tomorrow (Thursday). The training concludes at approximately 8:20 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

8:40 am. The biologist notes there are five mallards swimming around the basin, most likely feeding. There are no birds or other wildlife present near the construction crews along Washington Boulevard at the northern end of the project.

9:00 am. One cormorant and one snowy egret are observed at the southwest tidal gate.

8:50 am. The workers begin smoothing out earth with the front-end loader along Washington and spray the area with a hose to keep dust down. The workers move the medium-sized excavator towards the end of the existing ditch in preparation for excavation.

9:15 am. Two Savannah sparrows are observed on the temporary powerline near the construction trailer along the western portion of the project.

9:25 am. One snowy egret is observed on the south bank while two crows are observed closer to Admiralty Way. Three juvenile black-crowned night-herons are seen in the pine trees close to the southwest tidal gate.

10:00 am. Excavation continues along Washington for wall footings. One snowy egret is observed

close to the entrance to the SE canal

10:15 am. The five mallards are now feeding near the northeast peninsula and do not appear to be phased by the nearby construction activities which are limited to the northeast corner of the project area.

10:32 am. Work continues near the northeast peninsula however no wildlife are present within the immediate work area. Work activities include removal of debris and deleterious material from the excavated soils, placement of fill within the footings and compaction of the soils at the bottom of the footings.

10:45 am. The five mallards (female) now swim near the northeast culvert then leave the area to head to the south bank. The workers begin using the small vibrating piece of machinery, generating noise, also known at a vibratory roller to compact the soils that are being placed within the ditch. No wildlife is present nearby.

11:00 am. Two hummingbirds were observed in the northwest mudflat. They were too fast and too far away to identify further.

11:35 am. Five female mallards are now on the west bank side of the Basin

11:48 am. One pigeon was observed on the powerline near the construction trailer on the west side of the project.

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

1:00 pm. The contractor crew resumes work along Washington Boulevard. Three ducks are seen near the southwest tidal gate. Nine snowy egrets and two great herons are seen near the northeast culvert and peninsula area. The birds don't appear to be disturbed by the nearby construction activities.

1:30 pm. Ten snowy egrets and three great herons remain in between the northwest culvert and the peninsula. Excavation and back filling continues near the peninsula.

2:00 pm. Four mallards are seen on the West end of the basin, one California thrasher is observed flying northwest out of the Basin/project area.

2:11 pm. Five snowy egrets are seen flying northwest out of the Basin.

2:25 pm. One snowy, one great heron are seen perched near the southwest tidal gate. Four mallards are swimming nearby.

2:31 pm. One western gull is seen flying over the site from west to east. A Peregrine falcon is seen circling the project from the south along Admiralty Way.

2:45 pm. One great heron is observed in the northwest tidal flat.

3:03 pm. Four mallards jump in the water from the western bank. Work continues in the northeast corner of the site with removal of asphalt and concrete as well as compaction within the footings.

3:20 pm. One snowy egret is seen at the southwest tidal gate perched atop of the trash rack.

3:45 pm. Two crows circle the northeast portion of the site but do not land. Work continues as one snowy egret lands in the water near the northeast culvert.

4:00 PM Work is concluded for the day. No other species are observed.

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. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. Significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin. Algal coverage is highest in the eastern Basin and often increases as the day goes on as the Basin is exposed to more sunlight. The contractor intends to remove algae in the coming days in preparation for the draw-down.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the basin as previously reported.

6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset fish die off to the greatest extent feasible.

7. No algae removal occurred today as previously planned/proposed by the contractor.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 29, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 29, 2015		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Comments**
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	4-6 females resting/foraging throughout Basin; no active nests
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	6-12 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*	2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.
Western Gull	*Larus occidentalis*	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin and resting atop nearby homes.
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks
Peregrine falcon	*Falco peregrinus*	Observed atop the building across Admiralty Way to the South. Circling overhead.
California Thrasher	*Toxostoma redivivum*	Observed flying out of the basin. Only one individual seen.

Memorandum

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

From: *Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

Date: *July 30, 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 July 30, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:45 am and ending at 5:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 for July 30, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with trash rack removal, algae removal, and installation of the large tide gate plug. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, and the Inspector of Record.

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

Biologist's Field Log

CDM Smith Biologist: Marcus Sizemore
Date: July 30, 2015

6:45 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:00 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

One snowy egret was seen in the northwest mudflat while one great heron and one great blue

heron were observed in the Northern mud flat. Two double-crested cormorants were seen circling the Basin while one female mallard was feeding within the middle of the Basin. Six female were observed within the southeast area of the Basin. Within the southeast canal, one snowy egret was observed at the mouth of the channel. Five snowy egrets are seen on the silt boom along with two black-crowned night-herons. A third black-crowned night-heron is observed near the gate at the end of the channel.

7:50 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 6-person contractor crew (superintendent and five crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend the training. Two new persons attended the training; the diver and a county maintenance worker. The biologist goes over what has been observed so far today and noted there were no new nests observed during his initial walk-through. He reminds the crew to adhere to BMPs to prevent soil erosion into the Basin as well as dust control measures. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include algae removal via the contractor's boat, removing the trash racks on the southwest tide gate, and installing the round plug in the larger tide gate. The training concludes at approximately 8:15 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

8:15 am. The crews begin to mobilize and get prepared to start the trash rack removal. Four snowy egrets are seen along the south bank feeding but there are no birds present near the southwest trash rack.

8:45 am. Two mallards and one house finch are seen near the northeast culvert. Two additional mallards are seen feeding along the south side of the project. Five crows and inspecting the east side of the southeast canal. Ten snowy egrets are seen within the southeast canal feeding. Four mourning doves are seen along the bank to the south of the southeast canal

9:00 am. The workers begin to clear a pathway for the boat to access the southeast canal using the track hoe to move rock and concrete.

9:25 am. The front-end loader is brought over to help put the boat in. No birds are observed close by as they are all at the other end of the canal.

9:45 am. The boat is finally launched into the canal. The snowy egrets move away as it approaches.

10:15 am. Trash and algae collection begins from the boat. One black phoebe comes to investigate. More snowy egrets begin to move away to the northeast peninsula and culvert.

11:30 am. Four female mallards are seen near the northwest peninsula. A quick observation of the old bee hive reveals only approximately 20-30 bees present. Four snowy egrets are now near the northeast peninsula. Algae collection continues near the southeast canal.

11:50 am. The trash rack at the southwest tidal gate is removed.

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

1:00 pm. The contractor crew resumes algae collection. The others mobilize near the southwest tide gate in order to start on installation of the plug. Low tide is approximately 2:55PM.

2:00 pm. The large black plug is moved from the staging area to the water adjacent to the southwest tide gate. No wildlife is present within the area.

3:00 pm. The 2-man crew removing algae from the boat comes to the southwest tide gate to assist with the plug installation. The boat is left along the south bank near the mouth of the southeast canal.

5:30 pm. After approximately two hours of attempting to install the tide gate plug, the contractor decides to wait until tomorrow. The current from the incoming tide is too strong at this time. Low tide is approximately 4pm on Friday. (July 31st) No additional wildlife is observed.

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. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. Significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin. Algal coverage is highest in the eastern Basin and often increases as the day goes on as the Basin is exposed to more sunlight. The contractor intends to remove algae in the coming days in preparation for the draw-down.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the Basin as previously reported.

6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset fish die off to the greatest extent feasible.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 30, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 30, 2015		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Comments**
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	4-6 females resting/foraging throughout Basin; no active nests
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	6-12 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*	2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.
Western Gull	*Larus occidentalis*	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin and resting atop nearby homes.
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks

Memorandum

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

From: *Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

Date: *July 31, 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 July 31, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:00am and ending at 5:15 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 for July 31, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the low to mid 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with trash rack removal, algae removal, and installation of the large tide gate plug. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent, Qualified SWPPP Professional, and the Inspector of Record.

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

Biologist's Field Log

CDM Smith Biologist: Marcus Sizemore
Date: July 31, 2015

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

7:15 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

The Basin is nearly full due to the open tide gates in the southwest corner of the site. Water levels

overnight reached well beyond the silt fences. Flooding was observed in some areas nearby including Oxford Avenue and a few other streets. The open ditches along Washington Boulevard are flooded due to rising groundwater with the influx of additional tidal waters into the Basin. The distinct smell from the Basin is mostly gone and much of the algae has accumulated along the banks or floated through the tide gates into the marina/harbor. Very few birds were observed in the Basin this morning. Five female mallards were seen floating around the Basin and one snowy egret was seen perched on the southwest tide gate.

8:15 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 4-person contractor crew (superintendent and three crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend 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. The contractor crew and others present signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include algae removal via the contractor's boat, removing fiber rolls that have entered the water, and installing the round plug in the larger tide gate and the square plug on the smaller tide gate. The training concludes at approximately 8:30 am and the crews begin to mobilize.

8:30 am. One black phoebe is observed on the silt fence along the west bank. The majority of the silt fences are still intact despite the significantly high tide the previous evening. A few fiber rolls are seen floating in the Basin. A cormorant is seen landing near the northeast corner of the Basin in the water.

8:45 am. The crews begin to collect algae and other debris that is floating in the water.

9:00 am. One great blue heron is seen flying northwest out of the Basin.

9:30 am. Four female mallards are within the parking lot wandering around. They do not seem to be bothered by the presence of cars and people. The biologist ensures they are left alone.

10:00 am. Two cormorants are see flying out of the Basin towards the northwest. One snowy egret is seen on the east bank feeding. The tide is near high tide and the Basin is very full.

10:11 am. One snowy egret is seen along the northeast peninsula feeding. One black-crowned night-heron is observed flying southwest out of the Basin. One male and one female mallard is seen feeding in the southwest corner of the Basin near the tide gate. They do not appear distracted or upset by workers nearby at the tide gate.

11:15 am. There is no movement on the installation of either the round or square tide gate plug. Crews continue to clean up fiber rolls and algae from nearby streets.

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

1:00 pm. Some of the contractor crew resumes algae collection from the nearby streets. The others mobilize near the southwest tide gate in order to start on installation of the plug. Low tide is approximately 3:30PM.

3:30 pm. After approximately two and a half hours of preparations to install the tide gate plugs, the contractor decides to wait until Monday (August 3rd). The contractor decides to close both tidal gates for the remainder of the weekend. No additional wildlife is observed.

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. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. The algal cover has significantly decreased since the beginning of the week.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the Basin as previously reported.

6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the drawdown of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset fish die off to the greatest extent feasible.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 31, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on July 31, 2015		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Comments**
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	4-6 females resting/foraging throughout Basin; 1 male observed for the first time this week. no active nests at this time.
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	6-8 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night-Heron	*Nycticorax*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*	2-3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin. Often perching near the NE culvert.
Western Gull	*Larus occidentalis*	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the Basin and resting atop nearby homes.
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks

Memorandum

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

From: *Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith*

Date: *July 27, 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 July 27, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Marcus Sizemore, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 7:10 am and ending at 3:04 p.m. The weather forecast showed 0-1% percent chance of rain after 12:00 for July 27, 2015. Weather conditions during the day were sunny with high temperatures in the mid- to upper 80's (°F). No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with asphalt debris clean-up, sidewalk/fence post removal and earthwork. 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

7:10 am. The biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey.

7:20 am. The biologist begins the initial biological survey. The following birds are reported during the initial site assessment:

Two double-crested cormorants are perched on the wall of the culvert in the northeast corner of the project. A great blue heron is observed feeding within the northwestern mudflat. A juvenile black-crowned night-heron is also feeding nearby. Four American crows are observed on the fence

near the bike path on the eastern side of the project. Three birds are observed within the canal within the southeastern portion of the project. These include one juvenile black-crowned night-heron, one great blue heron and one adolescent snowy egret.

Along the south bank of the basin there are 3 female mallards feeding on what appears to be algae. There are two black-crowned night-herons present on the southwestern tide gate fence; one juvenile and one adult. Along the west bank the former bee hive is observed from a distance. It appears to have 30-50 bees still present within the hole in the ground. The irrigation box has been removed.

8:00 am. The biologist conducts Bio-awareness Training with the 5-person contractor crew (superintendent and four crewmembers). The Qualified SWPPP Professional and the Inspector of Record also attend 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. The contractor crew signed the sign-in sheet indicating they understood and will follow BMPs and wildlife protection measures. The superintendent explains that the planned activities for the day. These include removal of spoil piles along the eastern bank near the bike path, breaking up concrete using jack hammers and some minor cleanup activities including asphalt removal.

The Superintendent explains that the bee hive was removed on Sunday evening (7-26-2015). A few bees remain at the hive.

8:15 am. The contractor crew relocates to the east bank to begin work near the bike path. No wildlife is observed in the vicinity of the active work area. Three cormorants are present along the culvert wall within the northeast corner of the project. They all appear to be resting or fishing. A juvenile double-crowned night-heron appears to be searching out food within the canal in the southeast corner of the project.

8:40 am. Dust is observed as the front end loader begins placing stockpiled dirt and materials within the roll-off bin near the bikeway. Three female mallards continue to feed along the south bank near the shoreline. No wildlife is observed within the immediate work area.

9:00 am. The workers continue to mill around the east bank near the bikeway. One worker removed irrigation piping from the area closer to the silt fence along the edge of the water. No wildlife is observed nearby.

9:10 am. Jack hammering commences on the concrete near the bike path. It appears that the workers are removing concrete from steel poles that were removed from the nearby fencing recently. The front end loader continues to place dirt from the stockpiles in the roll off bin. Dust is observed in the work area, requiring regular watering.

9:30 am. A great blue heron is observed fishing in the shallow water in the northwest corner of the

site.

10:00 am. Jack hammering continues on the concrete. No wildlife is observed within the areas of activity.

10:30 am. The contractor waters a portion of the site where the activities are currently taking place.

11:00 am. A snowy egret and a great egret are observed fishing within the canal area within the southeast corner of the site. A crow flies over the site towards the southwest but does not stop at the construction site.

11:20 am. A snowy egret spooks one of three cormorants observed perched near the culvert in the northeast portion of the site. The cormorant then flies across the basin towards Admiralty Way.

11:24 am. Two juvenile double-crowned night-herons and one snowy egret are observed feeding within the mudflat at the northern part of the site. Three mourning doves are observed overhead flying southwest over the site.

11:30 am. Jack hammering continues on the east bank near the bikeway now with two workers on jack hammers. The front end loader continues to dig up old fence posts.

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

1:00 pm. The contractor crew resumes jack hammering concrete and removing dirt from the stock piles along the east bank. More bees, approximately 150 to 250 bees, are observed around the hole where hive was removed yesterday. A snowy egret was observed near the southwest tidal gate.

1:30 pm. The contractor continues to remove old fence posts via the front end loader. These are then brought to the crew with jackhammers who then attempt to remove as much concrete as possible.

1:40 pm. A small green heron is observed near the canal/tidal gate along the southeastern portion of the project.

1:52 pm. Three crows are observed near the bike path but do not enter the work area.

2:03 pm. No birds are observed within the Basin at this time. It's the heat of the day and they most likely have gone to seek shade or food in other areas.

2:28 pm. One black-crowned night-heron is observed at the south western tidal gate. There is no work currently taking place within this area today.

2:36 pm. One snowy egret and one juvenile black-crowned night-heron are observed in the

northwest mudflat searching for fish.

2:41 pm. One great blue heron, one snowy egret and one juvenile black-crowned night-heron are observed at the south west tidal gate.

2:48 pm. One black phoebe noted sitting on silt fence near northwestern mudflat.

3:04 pm. Work is concluded for the day. No other species are observed.

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. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.

3. Increased water levels and increased algal mats were observed throughout the Basin. Significant algal cover was observed throughout the Basin. Algal coverage is highest in the eastern Basin and often increases as the day goes on as the Basin is exposed to more sunlight. The contractor intends to remove algae in the coming days in preparation for the draw-down.

4. There were no birds present within the active work areas.

5. No rays were observed swimming within the basin as previously reported.

6. No significant fish die offs were observed although the draw down of water may change the system dramatically in the coming weeks. The CDFW approved Final Fish Relocation Plan will be implemented to offset fish die off to the greatest extent feasible.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on July 27, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on June 27, 2015		
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Comments**
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*	3 females resting/foraging throughout Basin; no active nests
Snowy Egret	*Egretta thula*	4-6 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Great Egret	*Ardea alba*	2-3 individuals observed foraging in Basin
Black-crowned Night Heron	*Nycticorax*	4-5 individuals observed foraging in Basin or flying over the Basin
Green heron	*Butorides virensens*	1-2 individuals observed throughout the basin
Double-crested Cormorant	*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*	3 individuals observed moving throughout the Basin
Western Gull	*Larus occidentalis*	Very common; several flyovers of the Basin
Mourning Dove	*Zenaida macroura*	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern portions of the basin
American Crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*	Very common; several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on fences, and flying over Basin
Black Phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*	2-3 individuals foraging around Basin
House Finch	*Haemorhous mexicanus*	Very common; several observed in vegetation and on fences throughout the Basin
House Sparrow	*Passer domesticus*	Very common; Several observed along the north and east banks