



Memorandum

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

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

Date: October 5, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 5, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 7:15 am and ending at 6:15 p.m. Chance for rain was predicted for the day with temperatures ranging from 63°F in the morning to a high of 70°F. But no measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with building a boat ramp, building and breaking down wall forms, removal and installation of a tidal gate, and removal of concrete debris. 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

7:15 am. The biologist arrived late to the worksite due to heavier than normal traffic conditions. The County Inspector gave the crew permission to begin work as they were aware of the biological requirements of the job. Biological awareness training was rescheduled to be administered at lunch when the crews gather in the layout yard.

7:20 am. The biologist conducted a walkthrough of the Basin. The water levels within the Basin had been reduced to several isolated puddles. The current rain event did not yield enough water to impact the Basin. A large pile of soil was observed on top of the silt fence in the southwest corner of the Basin. Four crews were present onsite: CS Legacy (CSL) working at the end of the east channel grading and building a boat ramp, CMB construction building wall forms along the western side of

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the Basin while breaking down the wall forms along the north side of the Basin, Spiess Construction Co., Inc. (SCCI) replacing the old tidal gates at the southwest corner of the Basin, and Mahaffey building pylon foots along the south side of the Basin.

8:10 am. The biologist observed nine American Crows along the north bank while one American Crow foraged along the south side.

8:30 am. CSL crew used a large excavator to remove soil from the eastern portion of the Basin. The soil was placed into a dump truck to be unloaded in the northeastern portion of the Basin. The soil was removed in preparation for the construction of a boat ramp. CMB continued to building wall forms on the west side of the Basin and removing the forms at the north side of Basin. The biologist did not observe any shorebirds within the Basin at this time.

9:30 am. SCCI removed a concrete slab from the tidal gate structure and moved it into the layout yard. The old tidal gate was lifted out of the Basin using a large crane. No wildlife was observed at this time.

9:45 am. SCCI used a forklift to move the new tidal gate to the southwest corner of the Basin. Mahaffey drilled holes for the pylon footings and lowered rebar cages into the newly dug holes.

10:25 am. SCCI moved the concrete slab removed from the tidal gate to the concrete debris pile at the northeast side of the Basin.

11:30 am. SCCI lowered new tidal gate into place using a crane. The CSL crew continued their work on the boat ramp. CMB continued building wall forms at the southwest corner of the Basin. No wildlife was observed.

11:45 am. Rocks were loaded into the dump truck and taken to the boat ramp. The Rain for Rent (RFR) crew arrived to refuel the water pump generators. The biologist observed two Rock Pigeons flying overhead.

12:00 pm. The crews all broke for lunch. The biologist administered the biological awareness training.

12:15 pm. The biologist observed four American Crows and one Great Egret flying overhead.

12:30 pm. The biologist observed two Western Gulls flying overhead and one Western Gull landing in the Basin near the tidal gates.

12:40 pm. The crews all returned to work.

1:10 pm. SCCI used a jack hammer inside the tidal gate structure. The noise did not disturb a Western Gull that was observed inside the Basin. The biologist observed a monarch butterfly flying

along the western side of the Basin. Mahaffey moved a drill rig that was staged at the northeast side of the Basin to the south side of the Basin to drill footings.

2:15 pm. The CSL crew continued to work on the boat ramp. The biologist observed two Rock Pigeons flying overhead.

2:30 pm. The filters within the Rain for Rent filtration tanks were replaced. The biologist observed one American Crow and one Rock Pigeon flying overhead.

2:50 pm. The Mahaffey crew left for the day. The biologist observed one Snowy Egret in the center of the Basin.

3:10 pm. Water that was present in the layout yard due to the overflowing of the water tanks had receded back into the Basin. Two Snowy Egrets were observed in the center of the Basin.

3:30 pm. The SCCI and CMB crews left for the day.

3:40 pm. The biologist observed one Mourning Dove flying overhead.

4:10 pm. The CSL crew continued to work on the boat ramp. The biologist observed 13 American Crows flying overhead, one Snowy Egret in the center of the Basin, one Mourning Dove perched on the power lines in the west side of the Basin, and three American Crows in the layout yard.

4:20 pm. The biologist observed four Mourning Doves flying overhead.

4:35 pm. The CSL crew loaded gravel into a dump truck and unloaded it at the boat ramp. The biologist observed one American Crow perched on the filtration tank in the layout yard.

5:00 pm. The biologist observed three American Crows flying overhead.

6:15 pm. The CSL 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. The low level of the water throughout the day made a difference in the number of birds foraging in the Basin.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 5, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	35 individuals observed flying overhead, foraging on banks, and in the layout yard
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	3 individual; observed flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	6 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	3 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed foraging in the Central Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin



Figure 1. Photo facing northeast of excavator removing soil to build a boat ramp.



Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of CMB crew building wall forms on the west side of the Basin



Figure 3. Photo facing southeast of SCCI installing new tidal gate.



Memorandum

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

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

Date: October 6, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 6, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Sunny Lee, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:15 am and ending at 6:15 p.m. The forecast for this day was clear skies with temperatures ranging from 62°F in the morning to a high of 73°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with building a boat ramp, building and breaking down wall forms, concrete pumped in for pylon footings, and installation of a tidal gate. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

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

Biologist's Field Log

6:15 am. The biologist arrived to the layout yard. The project area was too dark to observe any wildlife at this time.

6:50 am. There were four crews present at the site: CS Legacy (CSL), CMB Construction, Spiess Construction Inc. (SCCI), and Mahaffey. The biologist administered a biological awareness training To all crew members present at the site. Four Western Gulls, one American Crow, and two Double-crested Cormorants were observed flying overhead while two Mourning Doves were observed perched on the power lines along the western side of the Basin.

7:30 am. The CSL crew continued construction on a boat ramp located in the eastern portion of the Basin. Soil was removed and transported to the northeast side of the Basin. Gravel and rocks were

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occasionally deposited at the boat ramp site. The Mahaffey crew continued to work on the pylon footings and was expecting concrete to be delivered sometime that day. The SCCI crew continued installing the new tidal gates and the CMB crew continued dismantling the wall forms on the north side of the Basin and building walls near the northeast side of the Basin. The biologist observed two American Crows flying overhead.

8:45 am. The biologist observed one monarch butterfly near the CSL crew working on the boat ramp but the Monarch quickly flew away from construction activities.

9:15 am. All crews continued working on their assigned projects.

9:40 am. The biologist observed Five Rock Pigeons flying overhead and one Black Phoebe foraging along the eastern channel within the Basin.

10:00 am. The CMB crew continued building the wall form along the northeastern side of the Basin and tearing down the wall forms on the north side of the Basin.

10:30 am. The Mahaffey crew closed the right lane on Admiralty Way in anticipation of concrete delivery.

11:00 am. More gravel was loaded into a dump truck and deposited in the eastern channel of the Basin for construction of the boat ramp. No birds were observed during this time.

11:25 am. A concrete pump truck arrived to the site. The Mahaffey crew planned to pump the cement over the fence.

11:50 am. The biologist observed one Snowy Egret flying overhead.

12:00 pm. All of the crews broke for lunch. The cement pump truck moved into the closed lane on Admiralty Way adjacent to the pylon footings.

12:30 pm. The crews returned to work.

1:15 pm. A large trailer arrived at the northeast gate of the Basin to load and haul a drill rig off site.

1:30 pm. The biologist observed five Rock Pigeons flying overhead.

1:40 pm. A cement truck arrived and the pylon footings were filled with concrete.

2:00 pm. The concrete pump truck and cement truck moved down Admiralty Way to fill the next set of footings.

2:20 pm. The biologist observed one American Crow land in the southwest side of the Basin near the tidal gates.

2:30 pm. The crews completed the concrete pouring activities and the trucks demobilized.

2:55 pm. The biologist observed one American Crow flying overhead, and four Mourning Doves perched on the power lines along the western side of the Basin.

3:00 pm. The CMB crew left for the day.

3:25 pm. The biologist observed three American Crows flying overhead.

3:30 pm. The crew opened up the closed lane on Admiralty Way.

3:40 pm. The SCCI and Mahaffey crews left for the day.

4:13 pm. Internal filters were replaced at the layout yard.

4:15 pm. The biologist observed four Mourning Doves flying overhead.

4:30 pm. The CSL crew continued building the boat ramp in the eastern portion of the Basin. The biologist moved to the east end of the Basin for the remainder of the day.

5:30 pm. No birds were observed in the eastern end of the Basin.

6:15 pm. The CSL 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. The low level of the water throughout the day resulted in a decreased in the number of birds foraging in the Basin.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 5, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	7 individuals observed flying overhead, foraging on banks, and in the layout yard
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	8 individuals observed foraging, sitting on power lines and flying overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin



Figure 1. Photo facing south of excavator removing soil to build a boat ramp in the eastern channel of the Basin



Figure 2. Photo facing east of Mahaffey pumping concrete into pylon footings



Figure 3. Photo facing northwest of the Basin.



Figure 4. Photo facing northwest of soil from boat ramp construction being dumped onto the northeast 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: October 7, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 7, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by SWCA biologist Sunny Lee, beginning at 6:30 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. The forecast for this day was clear skies with temperatures ranging from 63°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 boat ramp construction, down wall forms construction and dismantling, and tidal gate installation. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

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

Biologist's Field Log

6:30 am. The biologist arrived at the layout yard. The biologist observed one snowy egret at the mouth of the eastern channel, and one mourning dove next to the trailer office.

6:50 am. The biologist administered a bio-awareness training to the crews. There were four crews present: CS Legacy (CSL), CMB, Fence Corp., and Spiess Construction Co., Inc. (SCCI). The biologist observed three double-crested cormorants, two western gulls, and one American crow flying overhead.

7:30 am. CSL continued to work on the boat ramp at the far eastern end of the Basin. SCCI worked on the tidal gates. CMB dismantled the wall forms along the north side of the Basin while Fence Corp made finishing touches to the wall forms along the western side of the Basin.

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8:30 am. The biologist observed three American crows perched on the electrical poles at the northeastern part of the Basin.

8:45 am. The biologist observed three mourning doves flying overhead.

9:15 am. The biologist observed six western gulls flying overhead.

10:00 am. No wildlife was observed at this time.

10:45 am. A dump truck unloading dirt removed from the boat ramp began moving sand from the layout yard and depositing the sand at the boat ramp construction site. The biologist observed eight rock pigeons.

10:55 am. The biologist observed one black phoebe feeding along the south bank.

11:30 am. The biologist observed another black phoebe join the black phoebe feeding along the south bank.

11:42 am. A large front loader was delivered to the layout yard. The biologist observed three American crows chase off a common raven, and two snowy egrets land on the fence near the inlet.

12:00 pm. The crews broke for lunch.

12:15 pm. The biologist observed two snowy egrets fly over the layout yard.

12:40 pm. The crews returned to work.

12:45 pm. The trailer that delivered the front loader removed the mini excavator from the site.

1:00 pm. The biologist inspected the pickleweed plants that were placed in individual planters. The plants did not appear to be doing well.

1:30 pm. The small dump truck continued moving sand from the layout yard to the site of the boat ramp construction. A technician from Rain for Rent arrived, and refueled the water pump generator. The biologist observed three rock pigeons flying overhead.

2:00 pm. The CSL crew cleaned up the sediment that surrounded the drainages within the layout yard, and fixed the BMP's. CMB moved stacks of dismantled wall forms into the yard using a forklift. The biologist observed three rock pigeons and one western gull flying overhead.

2:30 pm. The biologist observed a monarch butterfly fly by the grape vines adjacent to the layout yard. CMB continued to move stacks of dismantled wall forms to the layout yard.

3:00 pm. CMB left for the day.

3:10 pm. The biologist observed 40+ American crows flying overhead. The crows circled the Basin a few times before departing.

3:15 pm. The excavator being used to build the boat ramp moved to the northeast side of the Basin.

3:30 pm The biologist observed two common ravens perched on the electrical lines in the layout yard. A monarch butterfly was also observed flying through the yard. SCCI left for the day.

3:45 pm. CSL left for the day. The foreman remained at the site to wait for water samples to be collected.

4:00 pm. All the crewmembers 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. The low level of the water has greatly reduced the number of birds visiting the Basin.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 7, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	50+ individuals observed flying overhead, foraging on banks, and in the layout yard
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; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin
Common Raven	<i>Corvus corax</i>	3 individuals observed flying overhead, perched on electrical lines
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	3 individuals observed flying overhead



Figure 1. Photo facing northwest of excavator loading soil onto a dump truck.



Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of CMB removing wall forms along the north side of the Basin.



Figure 3. Photo facing south of Pickleweed plants in planters.



Figure 4. Photo facing northwest of sand loaded onto the dump truck and unloaded to build the boat ramp.



Memorandum

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

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

Date: October 8, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 8, 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 6:20 am and ending at 6:00 p.m. The forecast for this day was mostly clear with temperatures ranging from 62°F in the morning to a high of 80°F. No measureable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with removing soil from the Basin and hauling the soil offsite, breaking down wall forms, and installing a tidal gate. The crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

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

Biologist's Field Log

6:25 am. The biologist arrived at the Basin but it was too dark to observe any wildlife.

6:40 am. Large dump trucks arrived at the layout yard.

6:50 am. The biologist administered a bio-awareness training to the crews. There were three crews present: CS Legacy, CMB, and Speiss Construction Co. Inc. A QSP/QSD monitor from SoCal Storm Water was also present for the training. CSL planned to dig and remove soil from inside the Basin. CMB planned to continue dismantling wall forms along the north side of the Basin. And SCCI planned to continue installing the tidal gates. The biologist observed two western gulls and a snowy egret fly over the Basin.

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7:30 am. The CSL crew used a large excavator to remove soil from the northeast side of the Basin, and loaded the soil into large dump trucks. Traffic control was used to allow the truck to access the northeast gate of the Basin.

8:00 am. The biologist observed two American crows foraging along the south side of the Basin.

8:15 am. The first truck load of soil from the inlet area was taken offsite.

8:50 am. The forklift was loaded onto a trailer and taken offsite.

9:20 am. The second truck load of soil from the inlet area was taken offsite.

9:40 am. The biologist observed one snowy egret and an American crow flying overhead.

9:50 am. The third truck load of soil from the inlet area was taken offsite. The excavator moved to the west side of the Basin to create a road for vehicle access to the west side of the Basin.

10:00 am. The biologist observed one rock pigeon and one American crow fly overhead.

10:20 am. A second excavator was used to adjust the rock pile at the northeast corner of the Basin. The biologist observed two American crows overhead.

10:30 am. CMB used a skid steer to bring loads of dismantled wall forms to the layout yard. The biologist observed a monarch butterfly flying near the grape vines adjacent to the trailer office.

11:15 am. The excavator moved to the center of the Basin. The operator was careful to avoid pools of water.

11:40 am. The biologist observed a CSL crew member watering the potted plants adjacent to the water filtration tanks.

11:50 am. A fourth dump truck arrived at the northeast side of the Basin.

12:00 pm. The crews took a staggered lunch to continue loading soil into the dump trucks.

12:10 pm. The biologist observed a western gull land inside the southwest side of the Basin and a rock pigeon fly overhead. Two monarch butterflies were seen flying through the Basin but were not impacted by construction activities.

12:20 pm. The fourth dump truck left the site with a load of soil. A fifth dump truck arrived to the site. A skid steer was seen in the layout yard kicking up a large amount of dust. The operator was a mechanic that was sent out by the equipment rental company to repair the equipment.

12:40 pm All crews returned to work.

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1:00 pm. The fifth dump truck left the site with a load of soil and sixth dump truck arrived to the site.

1:30 pm. The sixth dump truck had left the site with a load of soil and a seventh dump truck arrived to the site.

1:45 pm. The seventh dump truck left the site with a load of soil.

1:55 pm. The biologist observed a monarch butterfly fly into the Basin from the northwest side. The butterfly was not affected by construction activities

2:05 pm. The biologist observed eight American crows flying overhead.

2:15 pm. A roll off dumpster was delivered to the layout yard. The biologist observed two American crows flying overhead and four American crows foraging on the south side of the Basin. A snowy egret was also observed trying to fish in the small pool towards the west side of the Basin.

2:20 pm. The excavator was observed creating a channel from the inlet to the east side of the Basin.

2:40 pm. The biologist observed two American crows perched on the electrical lines adjacent to the trailer office.

3:00 pm. SCCI left for the day. The biologist observed two American crows fly overhead

3:30 pm. The biologist observed a black phoebe perched on the wall form along the west side of the Basin.

4:00 pm. The biologist observed three mallards flying overhead.

4:30 pm. CSL continued creating a channel directly from the inlet to the east side of the Basin.

5:00 pm. The biologist observed two American crows flying overhead.

5:30 pm. The biologist observed a snowy egret land in the Basin and fly away shortly after.

6:00 pm. CSL 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. The low level of the water has greatly reduced the number of birds visiting the Basin.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on October 8, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 8, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	28 individuals observed flying overhead, foraging on banks, and in the layout yard
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	4 individuals observed foraging in the Basin; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 individual observed perched on wall form
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	3 individuals observed flying overhead

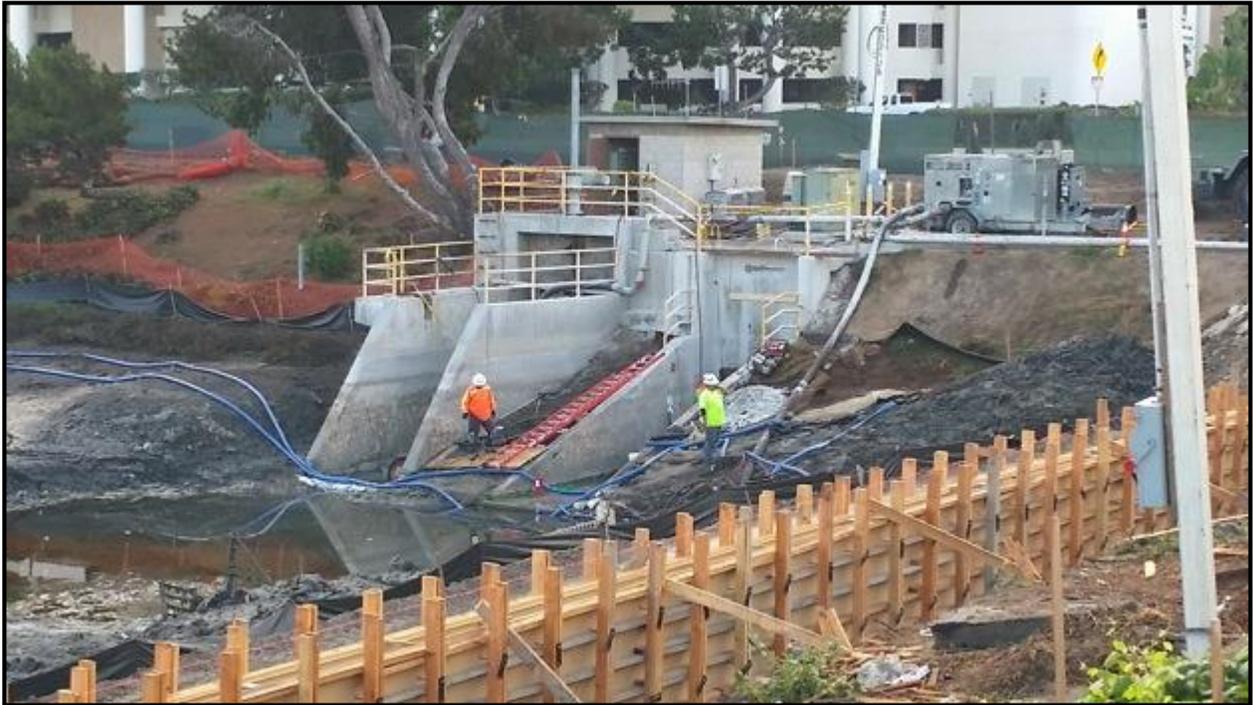


Figure 1. Photo facing south of SCCI working on the tidal gates.



Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of CSL digging within the Basin



Figure 3. Photo facing northeast of a front loader loading a dump truck with soil from the Basin.



Figure 4. Photo facing south of CMB loading dismantled wall forms onto a skid steer.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Linda Nguyen, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: October 09, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 09, 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 Linda Nguyen, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 5:35 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly sunny, with temperatures ranging from 70°F in the morning to a high of 93°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing the tidal gate, dredging soil from Basin, and pouring concrete for retention wall. All crews were overseen by the contractor superintendent and the LA County Building Inspector.

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

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site. Two SCCI crew members arrive and begin pumping water. Other crew members have yet to arrive.

6:30 am. Additional crew members arrive.

6:40 am. Initial Biological Assessment begins. One American crow, one Great Blue Heron, and one Western Gull fly overhead. No birds are observed within the Basin.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training to the crew of twelve workers. All workers signed the sign-in sheet.

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7:10 am. Trainings and safety tailboards were completed.

7:15 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began removing Basin soil in the Northeast bank. An excavator was used to dredge up material then dropped it off to a bulldozer. The bulldozer empties the material in a dump truck. A second C.S. Legacy crew began working on wood frame of the retention wall on the Northeast near the storm outlet. Two Western Gulls fly overhead.

7:30 am. According to the C.S. Legacy Foreman, work for the day would consist of removing Basin soil from the northeast portion of the Basin, pouring concrete for the retention wall, and installing the tidal gate. Four snowy egrets fly overhead but circle back towards the ocean. Three American Crows fly overhead. Ten American Crows are observed foraging on the South bank.

8:00 am. SCC members are working on installing tidal gate.

8:30 am. LA County Inspector arrives on site.

9:00 am. C.S. Legacy Foreman provides safety training.

9:10 am. Black Phoebe perched on utility pole at Southwest end of Basin.

9:20 am. Two Mourning Doves perched on power line.

9:30 am. Soil dredging is paused and dump truck is driven away.

9:35 am. Mourning Doves leave.

10:00 am. Excavator continues soil dredging.

10:30 am. Double-crested Cormorant is observed flying by overhead.

11:00 am. SCC crew still working on tidal gate. Soil dredging is paused.

11:20 am Dredging continues.

11:45 am. Soil dredging crew and retention wall crew break for lunch.

11:50 am. One snowy egret is observed foraging in the shallow water at the southeast end of the Basin.

12:00 pm. One monarch butterfly is observed flying around potted plants at the west bank for a few minutes before leaving the project area.

12:15 pm. Tidal gate crew break for lunch.

1:00 pm. Concrete pouring for retention wall on the northeast bank begins. Dredging continues.

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1:30 pm. Excavator moves to dredging soil in the eastern finger of Basin.

1:40 pm. Concrete pouring completed.

2:00 pm. Dump truck leaves.

2:15 pm. One crew member is transferring pickle weed into planter pots.

2:25 pm. A Mourning Dove is observed perching on the power line on the west bank of Basin.

2:30 pm. Tidal gate has been set. Concrete pouring begins for the retention wall on the west bank.

3:15 pm. C.S. Legacy Foreman leaves site.

3:30 pm. Concrete Inspector leaves site.

3:40 pm. A Mourning Dove is observed perching in the vegetation on the West bank.

4:00 pm. Concrete pouring complete.

4:30 pm. Crews complete work on concrete.

4:40 pm. Concrete pump cleaning begins.

5:30 pm. Crews complete cleanup

5:35 pm. Crews leave site. Saturday October 10th, crews will begin at 7:00 am.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Belted Kingfisher, Least Terns, or Ospreys 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 has avoided foraging inside Basin entirely, due to soil dredging.
2. Wildlife levels were low throughout the day, however, there is a slight increase of wildlife activity in the late afternoon.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on October 09, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 09, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	10 individuals observed foraging on Northeast bank, very common; observed flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed observed flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	4 individuals observed sitting on power lines
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	4 individuals observed flying overhead
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead



Figure 1. Photo facing east of Basin in the morning.



Figure 2. Photo facing southeast of excavator removing soil.



Figure 3. Photo facing east of loader emptying soil into dump truck.



Figure 4. Photo of wooden frame for concrete wall.



Figure 5. Photo facing northeast of water in southeast part of Basin.



Figure 6. Photo facing west of concrete pouring for retention wall.



Figure 7. Photo facing southeast of dredging near eastern finger of Basin.



Figure 8. Photo of poured concrete within wall forms.



Figure 9. Photo facing south of tidal gate



Figure 10. Photo facing east of concrete pouring in the western portion of the Basin.



Memorandum

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

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Linda Nguyen, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: October 10, 2015

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

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on October 10, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Linda Nguyen, SWCA biologist, beginning at 6:05 am and ending at 2:30 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were mostly sunny, with temperatures ranging from 70°F in the morning to a high of 93°F. No measurable rain was recorded.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with installing the tidal gate, dredging soil from Basin, and pouring concrete for retention wall. All crews were overseen by the LA County Building Inspector and the Stormwater Pollution Inspector.

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

6:05 am. Biological monitor arrives on site.

6:35 am. Crew members arrive and open gate.

6:40 am. Initial Biological Assessment begins. No wildlife are observed within the project area.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training to the crew of five workers. The LA County Building Inspector and the Stormwater Pollution Inspector were also present.

7:10 am. Trainings and safety tailboards were completed.

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7:15 am. The C.S. Legacy crew began dredging Basin soil in the Northeast bank. An excavator was used to dredge up material then piling up the material in a mound for easier pick up on Tuesday. No dump truck is present today, however, dump truck will arrive on Tuesday.

7:30 am. Four American Crows are observed foraging on the north bank.

7:45 am. A Snowy Egret lands in the stormwater inlet.

8:00 am. A Black Phoebe perched on soil mound on north bank near stormwater inlet.

8:30 am. Double-Crested Cormorant lands in stormwater inlet.

9:00 am. Five American Crows are observed foraging on the northeast bank.

9:15 am. Two American Crows perched in trees of the northeast bank.

10:30 am. Excavator finishes up in the center of Basin.

10:50 pm. Two monarch butterflies were observed flying around the eastern finger of the Basin for a few minutes before leaving the project site.

11:30 pm. Excavator is moved to the western portion of the Basin.

11:40 pm. A Great Blue Heron is observed landing in the shallow water of the western portion of the Basin. It flew off as the excavator moved closer.

12:00 pm. Crew members breaks for lunch.

12:30 pm. Crew members continue working.

12:40 pm. One Snowy Egret is observed foraging in shallow water the western portion of Basin.

12:50 pm. The excavator begins dredging soil from the western portion of the Basin. Snowy Egret is approximately 20 feet from excavator but does not appear to be stressed by the construction.

1:30 pm. Excavator smooths out path for soil pick up on Tuesday.

2:00 pm. A monarch butterfly is observed flying around the western bank, then leaving the project area.

2:15 pm. Crews end work for the day and refuel the excavator.

2:30 pm. Crews leave work site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Belted Kingfisher, Least Terns, or Ospreys 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 has avoided foraging inside Basin entirely, due to soil dredging.
2. Wildlife levels were low throughout the day, however, there is a slight increase of wildlife activity in the late afternoon.

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

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on October 10, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	5 individuals observed foraging on northeast bank, very common; observed flying overhead
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	1 individual observed perching on the northeast bank
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed landing in stormwater inlet
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed landing on western part of Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed landing in stormwater inlet.
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead

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Photos



Figure 1. Photo of Black Phoebe observed within the Basin.

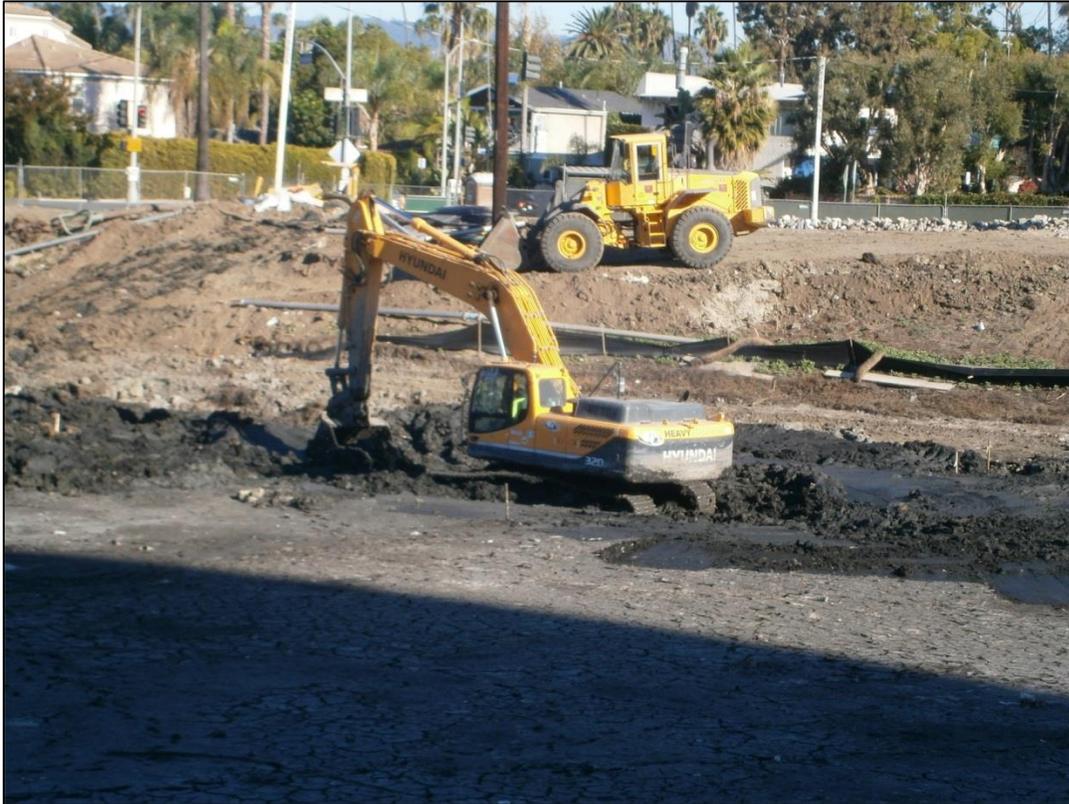


Figure 2. Photo facing northeast of excavator removing soil in northeast portion of Basin.



Figure 3. Photo of a Great Blue Heron in the western portion of Basin.



Figure 4. Photo facing northeast of excavator being moved to western portion of Basin.