

August 3, 2023
(2017-116.006/12D)

Mitzi Kim Rios
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: MKimRios@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: July 2023 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California

Dear Ms. Kim Rios,

This letter report has been prepared to summarize the results of the breeding season focused surveys for least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) conducted in July 2023 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' (LACPW) Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project in the City of Pasadena, Los Angeles County, California. The focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted to comply with Condition 7.3.4 in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Incidental Take Permit (ITP) No. 2081-2016-031-05 that was issued for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project (Project) which states that if Covered Activities are proposed during the least Bell's vireo breeding season (defined as March 1 to September 15):

"The Designated Biologist(s) shall continue weekly focused surveys within 500 feet of Covered Activities in Covered Species habitat during the breeding season to determine the presence of Covered Species;"

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 3, 2023 and continued through July 2023 and are summarized below.

SURVEY METHODS

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in compliance with ITP Condition 7.3.4 for Project activities that are to occur during the vireo's breeding season (March 1 to September 15). Surveys were conducted between dawn and 11 a.m. when weather conditions were favorable in accordance with USFWS 2001 protocol (nesting season) guidelines.¹ Meandering transects were walked throughout suitable least Bell's vireo habitat areas within 500 feet of the Project boundaries to visually and audibly detect the presence of least Bell's vireo. All bird and wildlife species detected during the survey were recorded on

¹ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2001. Least Bell's Vireo Survey Guidelines. U.S. Department of the Interior. Carlsbad, CA, USFWS, 3 pp.

standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

RESULTS

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during July 2023. Each survey was conducted by a CDFW- and USFWS-approved Designated Biologist for least Bell's vireo surveys. The dates, personnel, and weather conditions for each survey are presented in Table 1. Field survey datasheets are provided in Attachment A.

Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
7/6/2023	CM	0645	1030	61	68	90	10	0-1	1-2
7/11/2023	CT	0611	1103	61	88	0	0	0-1	1-3
7/20/2023	CM	0630	1015	73	87	20	0	1-3	2-4
7/26/2023	LS	0710	1053	75	90	15	20	0-2	0-2

CM = Carla Marriner, CT = Christine Tischer, LS = Lauren Simpson

Least Bell's vireos were not observed by Designated Biologists during focused survey work in the month of July.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in July 2023. No observations of least Bell's vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys. Weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15).

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (714) 648-0630 or lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

Lauren Simpson
Senior Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
2861 Pullman Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: August 3, 2023

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

² ECORP Consulting, Inc (ECORP). 2019. Nesting Bird Management Plan, Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, Los Angeles County, California. Prepared for the Los Angeles Department of Public Works, Water Resource Division. March 2019.

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Carla Marriner

Submitted Time: 07/6/2023 12:49 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0645	61	0-1	90
End of Day	1030	68	1-2	10

Date Observed

July 6, 2023

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

SPTO, NUTA, AMCR, MODO, HOFI, ANHU, ACWO, BEWR, CASJ, CALT, SOSP, RSHA, YEWA, WEBL, CATH, ALHU, COHA, BGGN, LEGO, BUSH, DEJU, BARS, NRWS, MALL, BHGR, WEKI, KILL, SAPH, CANG, western toad, western fence lizard, desert cottontail, coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Christine Tischer

Submitted Time: 07/11/2023 11:04 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0611	61	0-1	0
End of Day	1103	88	1-3	0

Date Observed

July 11, 2023

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CAKI, BLPH, MODO, AMRO, HOFI, AMCR, YEWA, ACWO, BEWR, NUWO, CALT, CASJ, CAQU, BUSH, SPTO, SOSP, NOMO, LEGO, ANHU, RTHA, BGGN, CATH, COHA, WREN, KILL, CANG, GBHE, MALL, ALHU, WTSW, CLSW, NRWS, RUDU, BHGR, OATI, PSFL, *Amazona* sp., white cockatiel, valley carpenter bee (female, nectaring on Solanum), *Bombus vosnesenskii* (nectaring on Phacelia), red admiral, marine blue cabbage white, western tiger swallowtail, gulf fritillary, Lorquin's admiral, orange sulphur, robber fly (bumble bee mimic), trout (4, dead), western toad (approx. 500 toadlets, 1 adult), side-blotched lizard, red-eared sliders, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Carla Marriner

Submitted Time: 07/20/2023 06:11 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0630	73	1-3	20
End of Day	1015	87	2-4	0

Date Observed

July 20, 2023

Observer Name

Carla Marriner

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, CALT, CASJ, WREN, CAQU, CATH, NOMO, LEGO, ACWO, BEWR, SPTO, HOOR, RTHA, YEWA, ANHU, BLPH, EUST, BUSH, NUWO, KILL, MALL, WEKI, SOSPO, Western toad, California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 07/26/2023 10:54 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0710	75	0-2	15
End of Day	1053	90	0-2	20

Date Observed

July 26, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Lots of recently fledged birds observed – COHA, CALT, CASJ etc.

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, NOMO, CAKI, MODO, BEWR, CALT, ACWO, CAQU, SPTO, HOFI, HOOR, ANHU, ALHU, BLPH, NUWO, AMCR, WREN, LEGO, COHA, KILL, RSHA, ATFL, WBNU, WEBL, YEWA, SOSP, TUVU, *Amazona* sp., Western toad, western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, coastal whiptail, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail,