

July 26, 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](mailto:MKimRios@dpw.lacounty.gov)

**Subject: June 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 June 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 June 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

**RESULTS**

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted during June 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.

<b>Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys</b>									
<b>Date</b>	<b>Surveyors*</b>	<b>Time</b>		<b>Temperature (°F)</b>		<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>		<b>Wind Speed (mph)</b>	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
06/01/23	CM	0610	1015	61	71	80	80	1-3	1-3
06/05/23	LS	0635	1100	58	60	100	100	0-3	0-3
06/16/23	LS	0655	1100	64	68	100	100	0-1	0-1
06/28/23	CM	0610	1015	61	71	80	50	1-3	1-3

CM = Carla Marriner, LS = Lauren Simpson

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

**DISCUSSION**

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted in June 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](mailto:lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com).

SIGNED: 

DATE: July 26, 2023

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

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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**ATTACHMENT A**

Survey Datasheets

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

**Submitted By: OtherS**

**ubmitted Time: 06/01/2023 12:30 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:10	54°F	0-2 MPH	100 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:15	62 °F	2-4 MPH	100 %

**Date Observed**

June 1, 2023

**Observer Name**

Other

**Other Observers (if present):**

Carla Marriner

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Note:**

**Number of Individuals**

0

**Locations**

N/A

**Additional Notes**

Overcast/drizzling around 9am.

**Incidental Species Observed**

CAQU MODO CALT COYE SPTO HOOR HOFI YEWA ANHU OATI SOSP AMCR BLPH BHGR BUSH LEGO  
NUWO AMRO RSHA WREN CATH BEWR CASJ BGGN RTHA COHA ACWO LAGO DEJU KILL Western toad  
California ground squirrel Cottontail

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Lauren Simpson**  
**Submitted Time: 06/05/2023 11:54 AM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:35	58°F	0-3 MPH	100 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:00	60 °F	0-3 MPH	100 %

**Date Observed**

June 5, 2023

**Observer Name**

Lauren Simpson

**Other Observers (if present):**

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Note:**

**Number of Individuals**

0

**Locations**

**Additional Notes**

misty morning, added KILL and CORA nests to map

**Incidental Species Observed**

CAKI, AMRO, MODO, ACWO, NUWO, BEWR, CAQU, CASJ, HOFI, SPTO, SOSP, CALT, cottontail, BUSH, ANHU, NOMO, CORA, COYE, LEGO, COHA, BHGR, WREN, MALL, Gull sp., NRWS, CLSW, BARS, KILL, CATH, ATFL, EUCD, BLPH, YEWA, WEBL, WTSW, OATI, HOOR, CA ground squirrel, PSFL, WAVI, CAGO, RSHA, EUST, ALHU, RTHA, Parrot sp., OCWA

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: Lauren SimpsonS**  
**ubmitted Time: 06/16/2023 1:17 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:55	64°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
<b>End of Day</b>	11:00	68 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

**Date Observed**

June 16, 2023

**Observer Name**

Lauren Simpson

**Other Observers (if present):**

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Note:**

**Number of Individuals**

0

**Locations**

**Additional Notes**

toad explosion occurring - thousands of toads throughout the site tom sawyer camp has started

**Incidental Species Observed**

nomo, spto, modo, lego, casj, amro, acwo, blph, cottontail, bewr, western toad, calt, hofi, sosp, yewa, caqu, coha, amcr, eust, nuwo, parrot sp, bars, clsw, coye, wtsw, mall, cago, muscovy duck, cora, kill, nrws, bush,howr, bhgr, atfl, ca ground squirrel, cath, rtha, bchu, bggn

**Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)**  
**Submitted By: OtherS**  
**ubmitted Time: 06/28/2023 12:02 PM**

	<b>Time</b>	<b>Temperature (°F)</b>	<b>Wind Range (MPH)</b>	<b>Cloud Cover (%)</b>
<b>Start of Day</b>	06:10	61°F	1-3 MPH	80 %
<b>End of Day</b>	10:15	71 °F	1-3 MPH	50 %

**Date Observed**

June 28, 2023

**Observer Name**

Other

**Other Observers (if present):**

Carla Marriner

**Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed**

No

**Note:**

**Number of Individuals**

**Locations**

N/A

**Additional Notes**

**Incidental Species Observed**

NUWO CALT LEGO MODO CASJ NOMO AMRO CAQU BEWR AMCR SPTO OATI BLPH BGGN DEJU  
HOFI MALL WREN YEWA WEKI Western fence lizard Ca ground squirrel