

# LEATHERMAN BIOCONSULTING, INC.



Biological Surveys, Management & Monitoring

September 6, 2016

Ms. Mari Quillman  
**ECORP CONSULTING**  
1801 Park Court Place, Building B, Suite 103  
Santa Ana, California 92701

Subject: Results of Focused Surveys for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Least Bell's Vireo for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project

Dear Mari:

This letter reports the results of focused surveys to evaluate the presence or absence of the southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) in cottonwood/willow riparian forest habitat along Arroyo Seco for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Sediment Removal and Management Project in Los Angeles County, California. The southwestern willow flycatcher is federally and state-listed as Endangered, and the yellow-billed cuckoo is federally-listed as Threatened and state-listed as Endangered. The federally and state-listed Endangered least Bell's vireo (*Vireo pusillus bellii*) was also searched for in association with each of the five willow flycatcher surveys reported here. The project is behind the Devil's Gate Dam along Arroyo Seco Creek adjacent to Hahamonga Watershed Park, immediately east of Interstate 210 freeway, in the La Canada/Flintridge area of Pasadena (Figure 1).

The area surveyed extends from the base of the dam near Interstate 210 at the south end of the site to approximately 4,800 feet upstream (near the parking lot at the south end of Arroyo Road). The width of the survey area varies considerably from an estimated 100 feet at its narrowest point to over 1,200 feet in some areas, but most of the mature willow riparian habitat occurs in elongated patches approximately 150 feet wide. The habitat at the base of the dam occurs as the largest patch (ca. 300 x 900 feet) and is highest quality for both the willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo. Suitable habitat that occurs adjacent to the project area within the basin was also surveyed.

## BACKGROUND

The willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) is a state-listed Endangered species (CDFG 1991), whereas only the southwestern subspecies (*E.t. extimus*) is federally-listed as Endangered

(USFWS 1995). This survey focused on the southwestern willow flycatcher because it is the only subspecies that nests in southern California. However, migrants of all the subspecies may occur in the area during spring and fall migration, so multiple visits to the survey area are required to determine if individuals observed during the first surveys are nesting birds.

The willow flycatcher was formerly a common summer resident in suitable habitat throughout California (Grinnell and Miller 1944). It has now been extirpated as a breeding bird from most of its California range, and is seriously threatened in southern California primarily because of habitat loss and degradation and brood parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) (Garrett and Dunn 1981; USFWS 1995). Critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher was revised in 2013 (USFWS 2013).

The willow flycatcher closely resembles other Empidonax flycatcher species in California, but the indistinct (or completely lacking) eye ring, broader and longer bill, and generally lighter appearance through the breast and throat help to distinguish it from other species. The species' vocalizations are the best form of identification in the field (but can't be used to identify subspecies). The southwestern willow flycatcher is a migratory bird, occurring in this region only during the breeding season (late May to early August). The male arrives later in the spring than most migrants, usually in mid to late May or early June. Nests are constructed in thickets of trees and shrubs in a fork or horizontal branch between three and 15 feet above the ground.

The southwestern willow flycatcher breeds in riparian habitats along rivers, streams, or other wetlands in floodplains and broader canyons, preferring dense riparian thickets near surface water (Sogge et al. 2010), often with adjacent open areas for foraging. Vegetation structure, composition, and extent vary widely but generally include extensive areas dominated by dense stands of willows (*Salix* spp.), mule fat (*Baccharis salicifolia*), or other tree species (including tamarisk [*Tamarix* sp.] in some areas), usually with scattered cottonwood (*Populus* spp.) overstory (USFWS 1995). These riparian areas provide both nesting and foraging habitat. Southwestern willow flycatchers will nest in areas with suitable habitat regardless of the elevation (from sea level to high mountains).

The yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) is a federally listed Threatened species and state-listed Endangered species. The USFWS listed the western distinct population segment of the yellow-billed cuckoo in 2014 based on habitat loss and degradation associated with changes to watercourse hydrology and grazing, isolation and fragmentation of suitable habitat patches, and increased exposure to pesticides that can poison individual cuckoos and their prey base (USFWS 2014a). Critical habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo was proposed in 2014 (USFWS 2014b).

In California, the yellow-billed cuckoo is a rare summer visitor and breeder where it requires large blocks of riparian habitat for breeding (USFWS 2001). It generally occurs from May to September (Grinnell and Miller 1944), but usually arrives and breeds in southern California from early June to late August (Garrett and Dunn 1981). It occurs almost exclusively in mature streamside gallery forest with old growth willows and scattered cottonwoods (usually of at least 25 acres), particularly with a dense tangled understory of nettles, willows, blackberry, wild grape, mesquite, and etc. (Grinnell and Miller 1944; Garrett and Dunn 1981). It is rarely seen

away from suitable breeding habitat (Garrett and Dunn 1981). In California, cuckoos are most likely to be found in patches of willow-cottonwood riparian habitat greater than 20 hectares (50 acres) in size (Halterman et al. 2015). It was formerly fairly common and widespread in the broad lower flood plains of larger rivers in southern California and Central Valley (Garret and Dunn 1981). The current range of the yellow-billed cuckoo in California is estimated to be about 30 percent of its historical extent (USFWS 2001), and estimates of the loss of riparian habitat state-wide are 90-99 percent (Halterman 2015).

## EXISTING HABITAT

The survey area occurs in broad floodplain consisting of a braided sandy wash and associated terraces. The upstream end of the survey has limited alluvial fan sage scrub and sage scrub elements and small patches of willow and mulefat scrub. Patches of willow riparian forest habitat begin near the upstream end and increase in size and suitability in the downstream direction. Riparian woodland habitat in the survey area can be broadly characterized as southern cottonwood-willow riparian forest (Holland 1986). Arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*) and mulefat are the most common species throughout, occurring in patches throughout the wash system. Red willow (*Salix laevigata*) and black willow (*Salix goodingii*) are well represented, and occasional individuals of Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) form the canopy over the shrubbier arroyo willows. The understory is dominated by cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), poison hemlock (*Conium maculatum*), perennial pepper weed (*Lepidium latifolium*), and annual bursage (*Ambrosia acanthocarpa*). A diverse mix of native and non-native annuals and grasses make up the herbaceous layer.

## METHODS

Prior to conducting the focused survey, a search was conducted of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW 2016) for the Pasadena 7.5-minute series quadrangle map (and the surrounding 8 quadrangles) and other references to determine if and to what extent the target species are known to occur in the project region.

Focused surveys were conducted by Mr. Brian Leatherman (USFWS permit # TE 827493-6; CDFW MOU). Survey methods followed the guidelines developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for each species as described below. Observations of any listed species were recorded in the field and waypoints were taken using GPS technology for mapping purposes. The focus of the surveys was on the detection and identification of the target species, but all wildlife incidentally observed or detected in the survey area was documented. Identifications were made with the aid of 8 X 42 Bausch & Lomb Elite binoculars. A list of the species observed during the surveys is enclosed.

The surveys for the southwestern willow flycatcher followed the mandatory protocol developed by Sogge et al. (2010) and guidance promulgated by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS 2000). This protocol requires that five surveys be conducted within three certain periods between May 15 and July 17 and at least five days apart. Sogge et al. (2010) recommend that surveys be conducted between dawn and 1030 under suitable weather conditions. Surveys reported here were generally conducted between dawn and 1115 because of the two dimensional

depth of suitable habitat in some areas (which takes longer to survey than linear habitats), and because suitable habitat adjacent to the project area was surveyed afterward. The habitat requirements and survey methods for the least Bell's vireo are consistent with the flycatcher's and focused surveys are usually conducted in concert when appropriate. Dates, times and weather data for the focused surveys are shown in Table 1.

The surveys for the yellow-billed cuckoo followed the mandatory protocol developed by Halterman et al. (2015). This protocol requires that four surveys be conducted within three certain periods between June 15 and August 15. Halterman et al. (2015) recommend that surveys be conducted from 12 to 15 days apart between dawn and 1100 under suitable weather conditions. Least Bell's vireos occur in similar riparian habitat but focused surveys for other endangered birds are not recommended in the protocol. However, least Bell's vireos incidentally observed during the surveys were recorded. Surveys reported here were generally conducted between dawn and 1145 because of the two dimensional depth of suitable habitat in some areas (which takes longer to survey than linear habitats) and adjacent suitable habitat was surveyed afterward. Dates, times and weather data for the focused surveys are shown in Table 1.

**Table 1. Dates, Times and Weather Conditions for Focused Surveys**

DATE	SURVEY No.	TIME		WEATHER CONDITIONS*					
		Start	End	Temp (°F)		Winds (mph)		Cloud Cover	
				Start	End	Start	End	Start	End
16-May	WIFL 1	600	1115	56	66	0-2	2-4	100%	100%
1-Jun	WIFL 2	600	1045	53	70	0-2	2-4	100%	10%
15-Jun	WIFL 3	545	1100	54	65	0-2	0-2	100%	100%
16-Jun	YBCU 1	545	1145	50	71	0-2	2-4	20%	clear
29-Jun	WIFL 4	530	1045	61	83	0-2	2-4	80%	clear
1-Jul	YBCU 2	530	1100	61	81	0-2	2-4	100%	clear
6-Jul	WIFL 5	600	1030	59	70	0-2	2-4	100%	10%
15-Jul	YBCU 3	500	1000	61	68	0-2	2-4	100%	10%
1-Aug	YBCU 4	545	1000	63	78	0-2	2-4	clear	clear

\*Temperature and wind speed measured with Kestrel 2000

The riparian habitat in the survey area is irregularly shaped and includes a broad sandy wash with patches of willows: one area with ponded water from urban runoff, which is referred to as the Lower Alta Dena Drain, is located near the southeast end of the site. Generally, the upstream habitat is linear and patchy, and the downstream habitat is more mature and dense and very broad in some areas. Surveys were conducted by walking slowly and methodically along established trails under the canopy of the riparian habitat and along the margins. Because of the width of the habitat in some areas, side routes were often taken from the main trails to survey interior habitat areas. Surveys were conducted from along the edge of the habitat when vegetation density precluded surveys from under the canopy. Taped vocalizations were played every 50 to 100 feet for the flycatcher and every 300 feet for the cuckoo in an attempt to elicit a response from potentially present individuals. The tape was played for roughly 15 seconds for the flycatcher, stopped for one or two minutes to listen for a response, and then played again

before moving to the next spot. For the cuckoo, a recording of contact calls was played five times at one minute intervals while watching and listening for a response.

## RESULTS

No willow flycatchers or yellow-billed cuckoos were observed during the surveys.

Migrant willow flycatchers of the more common northern subspecies (*E.t. brewsteri* and *E.t. adastus*) are expected to occur in the area during the spring and fall migration period (Garrett and Dunn 1981, Sogge et al. 2010) and are usually observed during the first two survey periods (May 15-31 and June 1-24). Yellow-billed cuckoos are rarely observed during migration but a few observations are made annually (usually in mid-June) in southern California (Clark 2013).

One southwestern willow flycatcher record was found for the Pasadena quadrangle in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW 2016). The record is from a museum collection from 1906 in Arroyo Seco (the exact location was not given). Nine other records for willow flycatchers were found in the nine quadrangle search. No critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher was designated in the Arroyo Seco watershed (USFWS 2013). The closest critical habitat is along Big Tujunga Creek to the west and the San Gabriel River to the east.

One yellow-billed cuckoo record was found in the nine quadrangle search in the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW 2016). The record is from the San Gabriel River in 1951. No critical habitat was proposed for the yellow-billed cuckoo in Los Angeles County (USFWS 2014b).

One least Bell's vireo was observed during the focused survey conducted on August 1 for the yellow-billed cuckoo. The vireo appeared to be a hatch year (juvenile) male based on its relatively clean (fresh) plumage and its poor attempt at producing a song. The bird was observed briefly as it crossed a trail with a blue-gray gnatcatcher. After a very brief time the bird flew off toward the south and was not observed again. The location of the bird is shown in Figure 2.

Brown-headed cowbirds were observed in the riparian habitat in the survey area on a regular basis, although it is likely that the same individuals were observed. No attempt at a standardized count was made during the focused surveys. The most that were observed on any one survey was three males, one female and one juvenile. The number of cowbirds observed during each survey is provided in Table 2.

## CONCLUSION

Focused surveys were conducted for the southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo in the Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project survey area. No willow flycatchers or yellow-billed cuckoos were observed during the surveys. One juvenile least Bell's vireo was observed during a survey on August 1, suggesting that there may be nesting in the vicinity, but none were observed or detected during the eight other surveys reported here. Based on the lack of records for the region and the negative survey results, the southwestern willow flycatcher and

yellow-billed cuckoo are likely absent as breeders at this time. No critical habitat is designated for either species in the Arroyo Seco watershed.

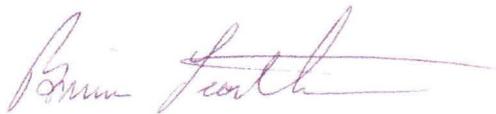
**Table 2. Number of Brown-headed Cowbirds Observed**

DATE	SURVEY No.	NUMBER OBSERVED		
		Males	Females	Juveniles
16-May	WIFL 1	1	1	0
1-Jun	WIFL 2	1	0	0
15-Jun	WIFL 3	3	0	0
16-Jun	YBCU 1	1	0	0
29-Jun	WIFL 4	1	0	0
1-Jul	YBCU 2	0	0	0
6-Jul	WIFL 5	2	1	1
15-Jul	YBCU 3	1	1	0
1-Aug	YBCU 4	0	0	0

A copy of this letter report will be sent to the USFWS and CDFW per the conditions of the 10(a)(1)(A) permit and MOU. Figures 1 and 2, the references cited, a list of the wildlife observed, and the required willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo survey forms are enclosed. Survey certification is provided below. It has been a pleasure to conduct this survey effort for ECORP Consulting. If you have any comments or questions regarding the information provided in this report you can reach me by phone at (714) 701-0863, or by email at [bleathermanwlb@aol.com](mailto:bleathermanwlb@aol.com).

Sincerely,

**LEATHERMAN BIOCONSULTING, INC.**



Brian Leatherman  
Principal Biologist

Enclosures

C:/...ecorp/ecorp.05/devils gate wifl\_ybcu rpt Final

CERTIFICATION:

I certify that the information in this survey report and attached exhibits fully and accurately represent my work.



---

Brian Leatherman  
Permit No. TE827493-6

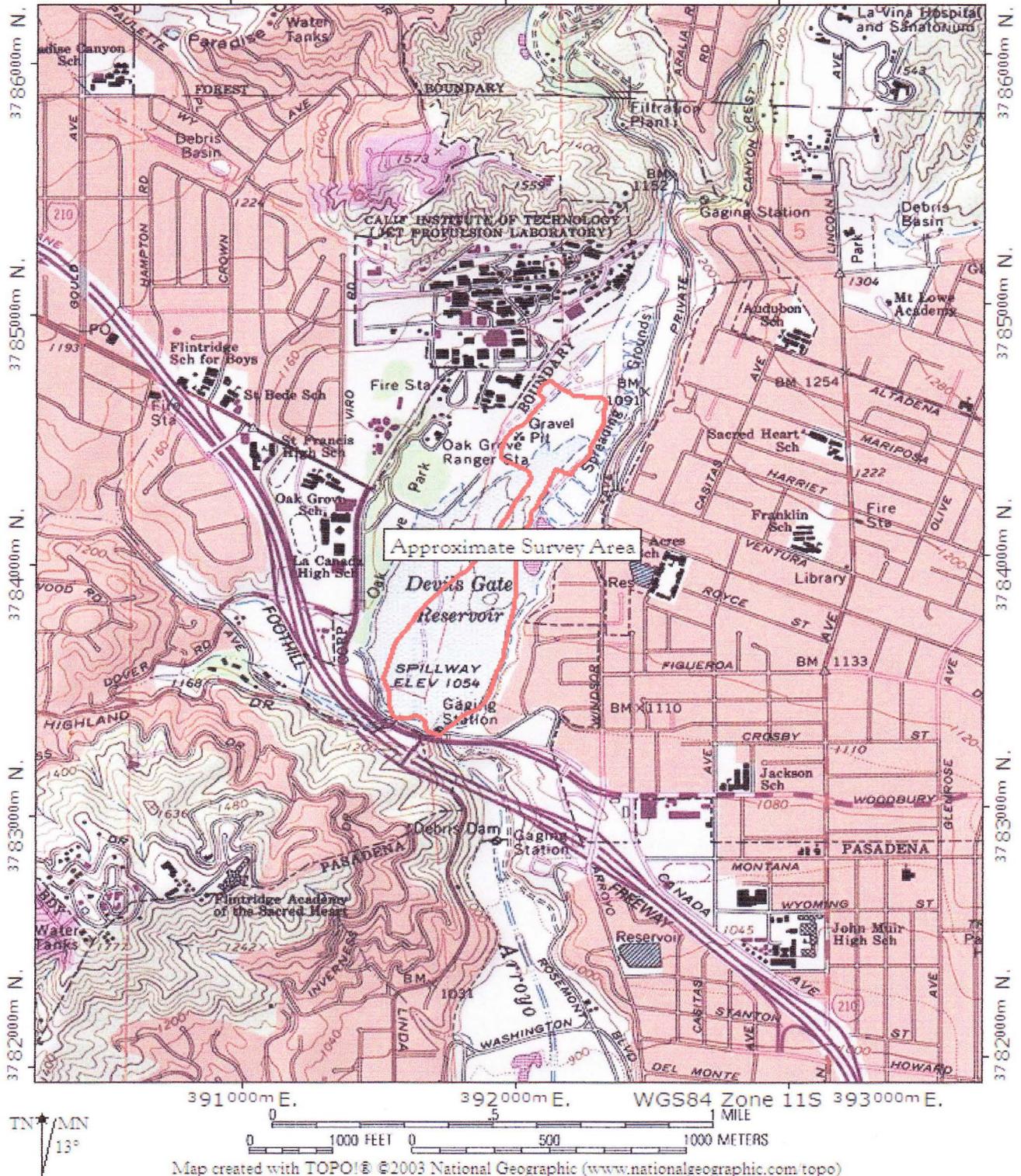
9/6/2016  
Date

## REFERENCES

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1998. Check-list of North American Birds. 7<sup>th</sup> ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington D.C.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW). 2016. Online Rarefind electronic data base of special status species locations for the Sunland, Condor Peak, Chilao Flat, Burbank, Pasadena, Mt. Wilson, Hollywood, Los Angeles, and el Monte USGS 7.5 minute series quadrangles. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Heritage Division, Sacramento.
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 1991. Endangered and threatened animals of California. State of California, the Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Wildlife. Sacramento, CA. 5 pp.
- Clark, Kevin B., B. Procsal, and M. Dodero. 2013. Recent Yellow-billed Cuckoo Sightings in Southern California. Presentation at Riparian Bird Working Group Meeting. Spring 2013.
- Grinnell, J. and A.H. Miller. 1944. The Distribution of the Birds of California. Pacific Coast Avifauna 27 (reprinted 1986 by Artemisia Press, Lee Vining, Calif.).
- Halterman, M., M.Johnson, J. Holmes and S. Laymon. 2015. A natural history summary and survey protocol for the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Techniques and Methods. 45 pp.
- Holland, R.F. 1986. Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California. California Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Division, Sacramento, California.
- Jones, J. K., R. Hoffmann, D. Rice, C. Jones, R. Baker, and M. Engstrom. 1992. Revised checklist of North American Mammals north of Mexico, 1991. Occasional Papers: The Museum of Texas Tech University. 23 pp.
- Sogge, M.K., D. Ahlers, and S.J. Sferra. 2010. A natural history summary and survey protocol for the southwestern willow flycatcher. U.S. Geological Survey. Survey Techniques and Methods 2A-10, 38 pp.
- Stebbins, R. 2003. A Field Guide to Western Reptiles and Amphibians. Third Edition. Houghton Mifflin Company. Boston MA., New York, NY. 533 pp.
- Unitt, P.K. 1987. *Empidonax traillii extimus*: An endangered species. Western Birds 18(3) 137-162.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Final rule determining endangered status for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Federal Register 60: 10694-10715.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2000. Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Protocol Revision 2000. California/Nevada Operations Office, Sacramento, California. Letter dated July 11, 2000. 4 pp.

- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2013. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Designation of critical habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher. Final Rule Federal Register 78:343-534.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014a. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Determination of threatened status for the western distinct population segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): Final Rule. Federal Register 79: 59992-60038.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014b. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Designation of critical habitat for the western distinct population segment of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*): Proposed Rule. Federal Register 79: 48547-48652.

TOPO! map printed on 08/25/16 from "California.tpo" and "Untitled.tpg"  
 391000m E, 392000m E, WGS84 Zone 11S 393000m E.

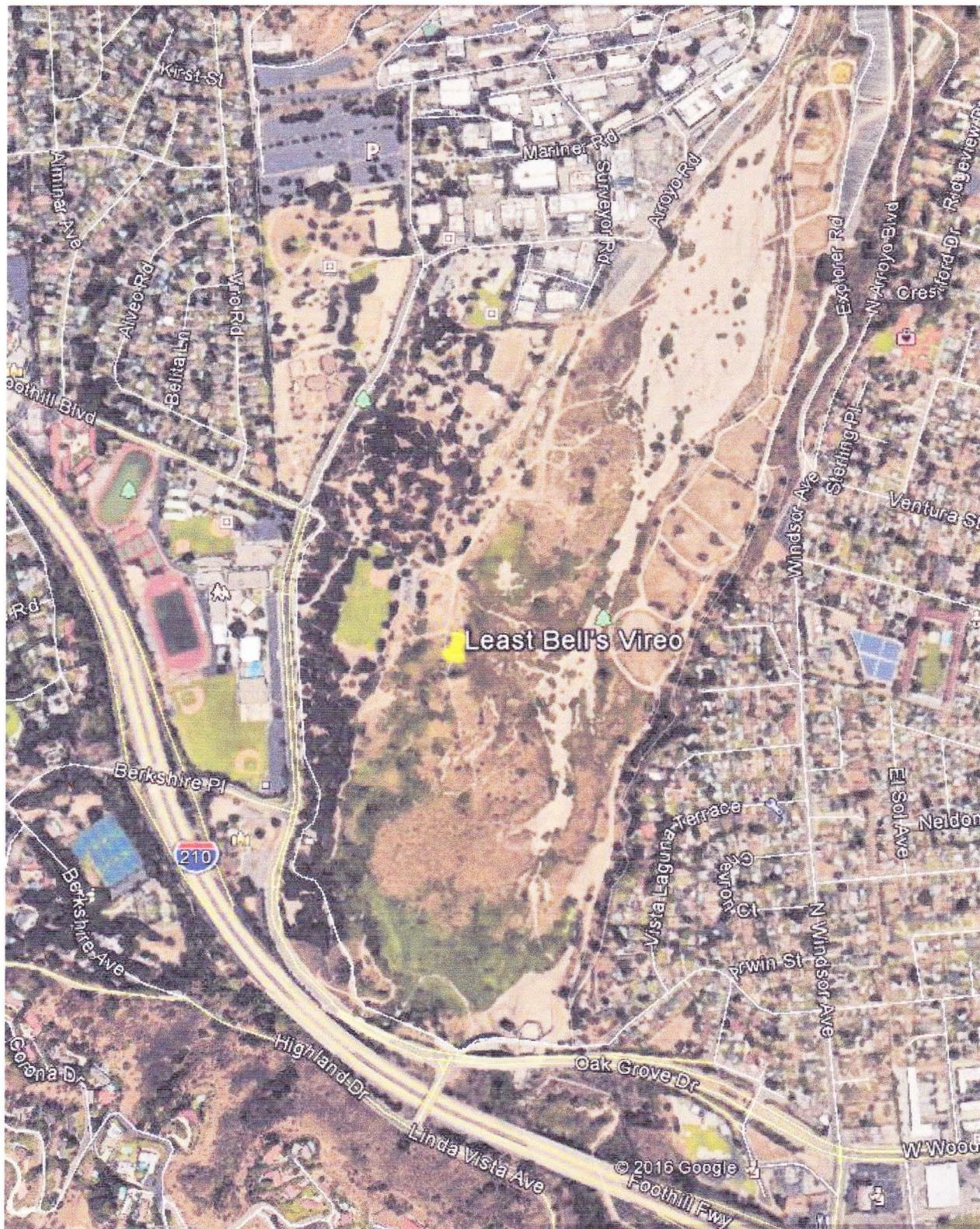


Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project

Project Location  
 Figure 1

Leatherman BioConsulting, Inc.  
 Source Map: TOPO!





Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project

Least Bell's Vireo Location

Figure 2

Leatherman BioConsulting, Inc.  
Source Map: Google Earth



Non-native species are indicated by an asterisk. Species on CDFW's Special Animals list are indicated by two asterisks. Other species may have been overlooked or inactive/absent because of the season (amphibians are more active during/after rains, reptiles during summer, some birds (and bats) migrate out of the area for summer or winter, some mammals hibernate etc.), or because of the time of the survey (some species are strictly nocturnal). Taxonomy and nomenclature generally follow NABA (2002) for butterflies, Stebbins (2003) for amphibians and reptiles, AOU (1998) for birds, and Jones et al. (1992) for mammals.

**COMMON NAME**

**REPTILES**

**Spiny Lizards, Horned Lizards, etc.**

Western fence lizard

Side-blotched lizard

**Whiptail Lizards**

\*\* Western whiptail

**BIRDS**

**Vultures**

Turkey vulture

**Geese and Ducks**

Mallard

**Hawks, Eagles and Kites**

\*\* Cooper's hawk

Red-shouldered hawk

Red-tailed hawk

**Quail**

California quail

**Pigeons and Doves**

\* Rock dove

Band-tailed pigeon

Mourning dove

**Swifts**

White-throated swift

**Hummingbirds**

Black-chinned hummingbird

Anna's hummingbird

\*\* Allen's hummingbird

**Woodpeckers**

Acorn woodpecker

\*\* Nuttall's woodpecker

**Parrots**

Amazon parrot

**Tyrant Flycatchers**

Western wood-pewee

Pacific-slope flycatcher

Black phoebe

Ash-throated flycatcher

Cassin's kingbird

Western kingbird

**Vireos**

\*\* Least Bell's vireo

**SCIENTIFIC NAME**

**REPTILIA**

**Phrynosomatidae**

*Sceloporus occidentalis biseriatus*

*Uta stansburiana*

**Teiidae**

*Cnemidophorus tigris*

**AVES**

**Cathartidae**

*Cathartes aura*

**Anatidae**

*Anas platyrhynchos*

**Accipitridae**

*Accipiter cooperii*

*Buteo lineatus*

*Buteo jamaicensis*

**Odontophoridae**

*Callipepla californica*

**Columbidae**

*Columba livia*

*Columba fasciata*

*Zenaida macroura*

**Apodidae**

*Aeronautes saxatalis*

**Trochilidae**

*Archilochus alexandri*

*Calypte anna*

*Selasphorus sasin*

**Picidae**

*Melanerpes formicivorus*

*Picoides nuttallii*

**Psittacidae**

*Amazonia sp.*

**Tyrannidae**

*Contopus sordidulus*

*Empidonax difficilis*

*Sayornis nigricans*

*Myiarchus cinerascens*

*Tyrannus vociferans*

*Tyrannus verticalis*

**Vireonidae**

*Vireo bellii pusillus*

Devil's Gate Wildlife List

- Hutton's vireo
- Warbling vireo
- Jays and Crows**
  - Western scrub-jay
  - American crow
  - Common raven
- Swallows**
  - Tree swallow
  - Violet-green swallow
  - Northern rough-winged swallow
  - Cliff swallow
  - Barn swallow
- Titmice and Chickadees**
  - \*\* Oak (Plain) titmouse
- Bushtits**
  - Bushtit
- Wrens**
  - Bewick's wren
  - House wren
- Gnatcatchers**
  - Blue-gray gnatcatcher
- Bluebirds and Thrushes**
  - Western bluebird
- Wrentits**
  - Wrentit
- Mockingbirds and Thrashers**
  - Northern mockingbird
  - California thrasher
- Starlings**
  - \* European starling
- Wood Warblers**
  - Orange-crowned warbler
  - \*\* Yellow warbler
  - Townsend's warbler
  - Common yellowthroat
  - \*\* Yellow-breasted chat
- Towhees and Sparrows**
  - Spotted towhee
  - California towhee
  - Song sparrow
- Grosbeaks and Buntings**
  - Black-headed grosbeak
- Blackbirds and Orioles**
  - \* Brown-headed cowbird
  - Hooded oriole
- Finches**
  - House finch
  - Lesser goldfinch
- Old World Sparrows**
  - \* House sparrow
- Estrildid Finches**
  - Nutmeg mannikin
- Vireo huttoni*
- Vireo gilvus*
- Corvidae**
  - Aphelocoma californica*
  - Corvus brachyrhynchos*
  - Corvus corax*
- Hirundinidae**
  - Tachycineta bicolor*
  - Tachycineta thalassina*
  - Stelgidopteryx serripennis*
  - Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*
  - Hirundo rustica*
- Paridae**
  - Baeolophus inornatus*
- Aegithalidae**
  - Psaltriparus minimus*
- Troglodytidae**
  - Thryomanes bewickii*
  - Troglodytes aedon*
- Silviidae**
  - Polioptila caerulea*
- Turdidae**
  - Sialia mexicana*
- Timaliidae**
  - Chamaea fasciata*
- Mimidae**
  - Mimus polyglottis*
  - Toxostoma redivivum*
- Sturnidae**
  - Sturnus vulgaris*
- Parulidae**
  - Vermivora celata*
  - Dendroica petechia*
  - Dendroica townsendi*
  - Geothlypis trichas*
  - Icteria virens*
- Emberizidae**
  - Pipilo maculatus*
  - Pipilo crissalis*
  - Melospiza melodia*
- Cardinalidae**
  - Pheucticus melanocephalus*
- Icteridae**
  - Molothrus ater*
  - Icterus cucullatus*
- Fringillidae**
  - Carpodacus mexicanus*
  - Carduelis psaltria*
- Passeridae**
  - Passer domesticus*
- Estrildidae**
  - Lonchura punctulata*

Devil's Gate Wildlife List

**MAMMALS**

**Opossums**

Virginia opossum (tracks)

**Hares and Rabbits**

Desert cottontail

**Squirrels**

California ground squirrel

Eastern fox squirrel

**Pocket Gophers**

Botta's pocket gopher (burrows)

**Old World Rats and Mice**

House mouse

**Dogs, Wolves and Foxes**

\* Domestic dog

Coyote (scat, tracks)

**Raccoons**

Common raccoon (tracks)

**Cats**

Bobcat (tracks)

**Horses**

\* Domestic horse

**MAMMALIA**

**Didelphidae**

*Didelphis virginiana*

**Leporidae**

*Sylvilagus audubonii*

**Sciuridae**

*Spermophilus beecheyi*

*Sciurus niger*

**Geomyidae**

*Thomomys bottae*

**Muridae**

*Mus musculus*

**Canidae**

*Canis familiaris*

*Canis latrans*

**Procyonidae**

*Procyon lotor*

**Felidae**

*Lynx rufus*

**Equidea**

*Equus caballus*

## Willow Flycatcher (WIFL) Survey and Detection Form (revised April, 2010)

Site Name: Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project State: CA County: LA  
 USGS Quad Name: Pasadena Elevation: 350 (meters)  
 Creek, River, or Lake Name: Arroyo Seco

*Is copy of USGS map marked with survey area and WIFL sightings attached (as required)?* Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Survey Coordinates: Start: E 03 92 264m N 37 84 720m UTM Datum: NAD83 (See instructions)  
 Stop: E 3 91 582m N 37 83 402m UTM Zone: 11S

If survey coordinates changed between visits, enter coordinates for each survey in comments section on back of this page.

**\*\*Fill in additional site information on back of this page\*\***

Survey # Observer(s) (Full Name)	Date (m/d/y) Survey Time	Number of Adult WIFLs	Estimated Number of Pairs	Estimated Number of Territories	Nest(s) Found? Y or N  If Yes, number of nests	Comments (e.g., bird behavior; evidence of pairs or breeding; potential threats [livestock, cowbirds, <i>Diorhabda</i> spp.]). If <i>Diorhabda</i> found, contact USFWS and State WIFL coordinator.	GPS Coordinates for WIFL Detections (this is an optional column for documenting individuals, pairs, or groups of birds found on each survey). Include additional sheets if necessary.			
							# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
Survey # 1 Observer(s): Brian Leatherman	Date: 5/16/2016	0					# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
	Start: 600									
	Stop: 1115									
	Total hrs: 5.25									
Survey # 2 Observer(s): Brian Leatherman	Date: 6/1/2016	0					# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
	Start: 600									
	Stop: 1045									
	Total hrs: 4.75									
Survey # 3 Observer(s): Brian Leatherman	Date: 6/15/2016	0					# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
	Start: 545									
	Stop: 1100									
	Total hrs: 5.25									
Survey # 4 Observer(s): Brian Leatherman	Date: 6/29/2016	0					# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
	Start: 530									
	Stop: 1045									
	Total hrs: 5.25									
Survey # 5 Observer(s): Brian Leatherman	Date: 7/6/2016	0					# Birds	Sex	UTM E	UTM N
	Start: 600									
	Stop: 1030									
	Total hrs: 4.5									
Overall Site Summary <small>Totals do not equal the sum of each column. Include only resident adults. Do not include migrants, nestlings, and fledglings. Be careful not to double count individuals.</small>		Total Adult Residents	Total Pairs	Total Territories	Total Nests	Were any WIFLs color-banded? Yes _____ No _____  If yes, report color combination(s) in the comments section on back of form and report to USFWS.				
Total survey hrs: 25.0		0	0							

Reporting Individual: Brian Leatherman Date Report Completed: 8/18/2016  
 US Fish & Wildlife Service Permit #: TE827493-9 State Wildlife Agency Permit #: SC-001562

**Submit form to USFWS and State Wildlife Agency by September 1st. Retain a copy for your records.**

Fill in the following information completely. Submit form by September 1<sup>st</sup>. Retain a copy for your records.

Reporting Individual Brian Leatherman Phone # (714) 701-0863  
 Affiliation Leatherman BioConsulting Inc. E-mail bleathermanwlb@aol.com  
 Site Name Devil's Gate Sediment Removal Project Date report Completed 8/18/2016  
 Was this site surveyed in a previous year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Unknown \_\_\_  
 Did you verify that this site name is consistent with that used in previous yrs? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ Not Applicable X  
 If name is different, what name(s) was used in the past? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If site was surveyed last year, did you survey the same general area this year? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_ If no, summarize below. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Did you survey the same general area during each visit to this site this year? Yes X No \_\_\_ If no, summarize below. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Management Authority for Survey Area: Federal X Municipal/County X State \_\_\_ Tribal \_\_\_ Private \_\_\_  
 Name of Management Entity or Owner (e.g., Tonto National Forest) LADPW, ANF

Length of area surveyed: 2.2 (km)

Vegetation Characteristics: Check (only one) category that best describes the predominant tree/shrub foliar layer at this site:

- X Native broadleaf plants (entirely or almost entirely, > 90% native)  
 \_\_\_ Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native, 50 - 90% native)  
 \_\_\_ Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic, 50 - 90% exotic)  
 \_\_\_ Exotic/introduced plants (entirely or almost entirely, > 90% exotic)

Identify the 2-3 predominant tree/shrub species in order of dominance. Use scientific name.

Alnus rhombifolia, Salix spp

Average height of canopy (Do not include a range): 4.5 (meters)

- Attach the following: 1) copy of USGS quad/topographical map (REQUIRED) of survey area, outlining survey site and location of WIFL detections;  
 2) sketch or aerial photo showing site location, patch shape, survey route, location of any detected WIFLs or their nests;  
 3) photos of the interior of the patch, exterior of the patch, and overall site. Describe any unique habitat features in Comments.

Comments (such as start and end coordinates of survey area if changed among surveys, supplemental visits to sites, unique habitat features. \_\_\_\_\_  
Attach additional sheets if necessary.

**Habitat consists of broad sandy wash upstream with patches of mulefat and willow and mature willow riparian forest downstream. Occasional cottonwoods and sycamores. Generally considered marginal habitat for WIFL.**

Territory Summary Table. Provide the following information for each verified territory at your site.

Territory Number	All Dates Detected	UTM E	UTM N	Pair Confirmed? Y or N	Nest Found? Y or N	Description of How You Confirmed Territory and Breeding Status (e.g., vocalization type, pair interactions, nesting attempts, behavior)

Attach additional sheets if necessary

## Yellow Billed Cuckoo Survey Summary Form

Site Name: <u>Devil's Gate Sediment Removal</u>	County: <u>Los Angeles</u>	State: <u>CA</u>	
USGS Quad Name: <u>Pasadena</u>		Elevation: <u>350 m</u>	
Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake Name: <u>Arroyo Seco</u>			
Site Coordinates: Start: E <u>3 92 264</u> N <u>37 84 720</u>		UTM Zone: <u>11S</u>	
Stop: E <u>3 91 582</u> N <u>37 83 402</u>		Datum: <u>NAD 83</u>	
Ownership: BLM Reclamation NPS USFWS USFS Tribal State Private Other (Municipal/County)			
Was site surveyed in previous year? Yes No Unknown If yes, what site name was used?			

Survey # Observer(s) (Last Name, First Initial)	Date (m/d/y) Survey, Time, Total Hours	Total Number of YBCUs detected.	Time Detected (AM):	Detect Type: I=Incidental P=Playback A=aural V=visual B=both	Voc. Type: CN=Contact CO=coo AL=alarm OT=other (describe)	Playback #: Number of times 'Kowlp' call played before YBCU responded	Behavior code	Surveyor Detection Coordinates		Distance (m)	Bearing	C u c k o o #	Corrected Coordinates	
								UTM E	UTM N				UTM E	UTM N
Survey Period #1 Observer(s): <i>Brian Leatherman</i>	Date:	0												
	Start:													
	Stop:													
	Total hrs:													
	Total:													
Survey Period #2 Observer(s): <i>Brian Leatherman</i>	Date:	0												
	Start:													
	Stop:													
	Total hrs:													
	Total:													
Survey Period #3 Observer(s): <i>Brian Leatherman</i>	Date:	0												
	Start:													
	Stop:													
	Total hrs:													
	Total:													
Survey Period #4 Observer(s): <i>Brian Leatherman</i>	Date:	0												
	Start:													
	Stop:													
	Total hrs:													
	Total:													
Survey Period #5 Observer(s):	Date:													
	Start:													
	Stop:													
	Total hrs:													
	Total:													

Survey Summary:	# Det	#PO	#PR	#CO	#Nests found	Total Survey Hours:		
-----------------	-------	-----	-----	-----	--------------	---------------------	--	--

Total YBCUs*								
Notes (refer to Cuckoo # associated with individual detections)								*Include justification for these designations.

VOCALIZATION	CODE	BEHAVIOR	CODE	BEHAVIOR	CODE	BREEDING	CODE
Contact	CON	No visual	NV	Catches Prey	CP	Copulation	COP
Coo	COO	Sitting	ST	Carry Food	CF	Feeds Mate	FM
Knock/Alarm	ALA	Foraging	FO	Eats Food	EF	Carry Nest Material	CN
Juvenile Calls	JUVC	Preening	PRE	At Nest	AN	Brooding/Incubating	BI
Other Vocalization	OV	Flying	FLY	Juvenile	JUV	Feeds Nestling	FN
		Distraction Display	DD	Vocal Exchange	VEX	Feeds Fledgling	FF

NB = nest building, NE = active nest with unbroken eggs in it, NY = nest with young seen or heard in it, ON = occupied nest, US = used, inactive nest with blue-green eggshells.

### Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Survey Site Description Form

This form is intended to provide a general description of the habitat surveyed at a site. More detailed vegetation analysis requires precise measurements, and is outside the scope of this survey protocol. Please check your permit for additional requirements.

<b>Fill in the following information completely</b>		<b>Date Report completed:</b>	
Site Name: <i>Devil's Gate Sediment Removal</i>	State: <i>California</i>	County: <i>Los Angeles</i>	
Name of Reporting Individual: <i>Brian Leatherman</i>	Affiliation: <i>Leatherman Bio Consulting, Inc.</i>		
Phone #: <i>714 779-7077</i>	Email: <i>b.leatherman@wbce.aol.com</i>		
USFWS Permit #: <i>TE-827493-9</i>	State Permit #: <i>SC-001562</i>		

Site Coordinates:	Start: E <i>392 264</i>	N <i>37 84 720</i>	UTM Zone: <i>11S</i>
	Stop: E <i>391 582</i>	N <i>37 83 402</i>	NAD: <i>83</i>
USGS Quad Name(s): <i>Pasadena</i>	Length of area surveyed (in kilometers) <i>2.2</i>		Elevation: <i>350m</i>
Name of nearest Creek, River, Wetland, or Lake: <i>Arroyo Seco</i>			
Ownership: BLM Reclamation NPS USFWS USFS Tribal State Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Municipal/County)			
Was site surveyed in previous year? Yes No Unknown		If yes, what site name was used?	
Did you survey the same general area during each visit this year?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, summarize in comments below
If "Yes", was the same general area surveyed this year?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If no, summarize in comments below

Native/Exotic: The species in tree/shrub layer at this site are comprised predominantly of (check one):			
Native broadleaf plants (>75% native)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly native 51%-75%)	
Exotic/introduced plants (>75% exotic)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mixed native and exotic plants (mostly exotic 51%-75%)	

List up to 5 species of overstory vegetation and percent canopy cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. <i>Salix laevigata</i> % cover:	2. <i>Salix lasiolepis</i> % cover:	3. <i>Salix goodingii</i> % cover:
4. % cover:	5. % cover:	
Average height of overstory (m)(do not include a range)		Estimated Overall Canopy Cover (percent)

List up to 5 species of understory/shrub vegetation (not all sites will have a separate understory) and estimate percent understory cover of each species. Use scientific names. For percent cover, please use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. <i>B. salicifolia</i> % cover:	2. <i>Salix exigua</i> % cover:	3. <i>Coumum maculatum</i> % cover:
4. <i>Xanthium</i> sp % cover:	5. % cover:	
Average height of understory (m)(do not include a range)		Estimated Overall Cover (percent)

Describe adjacent habitat (e.g. upland vegetation; desert scrub; urban/residential; agriculture/orchard; oak woodland)

*Regional park, open space, residential development*

List up to five categories of adjacent habitat, and estimate percent cover. Use <1%, 10%, 25%, 50%, 75%, 90%, 100%.

1. % cover:	2. % cover:	3. % cover:
4. % cover:	5. % cover:	

Was surface water or saturated soil present at or adjacent to site within 300 meters?	Yes No (circle one)
Was surface water or saturated soil present at or adjacent to all patches surveyed?	Yes No (circle one)

**Comments.** Please provide comments regarding differences between the survey patches within the site. For example, if the average canopy for this site is 30% cover, but within one patch it is 60% cover - please note. Also, please note significant differences between dominant overstory and understory vegetation among the patches. Document these differences with photographs whenever possible. Make sure to reference comments to photo number whenever available.

*Upstream area consists of smaller patches of willows & mullet.  
Downstream are increasingly has larger denser patches of willow riparian forest.*