

July 18, 2024
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Keith Hala
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: KHALA@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: June 2024 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California

Dear Mr. Hala,

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 2024 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' 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 1, 2024 and continued through June 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 June 2024. 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
06/04/24	TD	0600	1100	59	77	100	15	0-1	2-5
06/12/24	SD	0630	1100	62	70	100	30	0-1	0-1
06/20/24	CM	0635	1045	61	68	100	40	1-3	2-4
06/27/24	SD	0630	1100	63	70	0	0	0-1	0-2

TD= Taylor Dee, SD = Shelby Dunn, CM= Carla Marriner

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the June 2024 breeding season surveys. Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the June 2024 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in June 2024 did not detect least Bell’s vireo in or within 500-feet of the Project site. 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: July 18, 2024

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 Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor Dee
Submitted Time: 06/04/2024 11:15 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	77 °F	2-5 MPH	15 %

Date Observed

June 4, 2024

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

n/a

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH, CALT, SPTO, MODO, CAKI, EUST, ECDO, ACWO, HOFI, BHGR, CASJ, WREN, WTSP, CORA, BEWR, ATFL, CAQU, LEGO, ALHU, SOSP, YEWA, NRWS, red-crowned parrot, NOMO, BARS, AMGO, desert cottontail, HOWR, KILL, TRSW, AMCR, BGGN, California ground squirrel, NUWO, western toad, AMCO, MALL, ANHU, yellow-faced bumblebee, WEFL, Western fence lizard, CAGO, RUDU, COHU

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 06/12/2024 10:40 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	62°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	70 °F	0-1 MPH	30 %

Date Observed

June 12, 2024

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

BHGR LEGO MODO NRWS CORA ALHU BASW DEJU RCPA OTI ACWO CAKI WTSW CAQU YEWA CLSW
KILL CALT BEWR NUWO HOFI BUSH NOMO ANHU CANG BGN CASJ WEFL SPTO OCWA AMCR BLPH
MALL RUDU western toad Western fenced lizard California ground squirrel Tiger whiptail Desert cotton tail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Carla Marriner
Submitted Time: 06/20/2024 9:37 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:35	61°F	1-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:45	68 °F	2-4 MPH	40 %

Date Observed

June 19, 2024

Observer Name

Other

Other Observers (if present):

Carla Marriner

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CORA ANHU MODO NUWO BEWR CASJ SOSP BHGR LEGO Desert cottontail CA squirrel CATH CALT
RTHA CAQU SPTO NOMO BUSH YEWA BGGN MALL CANG BLPH RTHA NRWS Western toads

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 06/27/2024 1:56 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	63°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	70 °F	0-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 27, 2024

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CAKI ACWO NOMO OATI HOFI SPTO CALT LEGO CASJ NRWS MODO EUST AMRO BEWR RCPA NUWO
BHGR BGGN ALHU YEWA ANHU CAQU BUSH BLPH AMCR WEFW COHA WREN YBCH RSHA HOWR SAPH
SOSP WTWS MALL KILL RTHA CANG RUDU GBHE BCNH CLSW BASW ATFL desert cotton tail California ground
squirrel Western toad Side blotched lizard Coastal whiptail Western fenced lizard American bullfrog Swallow tail
Cabbage white California sister Carpenter bee Bombus californicus