

July 14, 2022
(2017-116.006/12D)

Mr. Wayne Lee
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: WaLee@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: June 2022 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. Lee,

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 2022 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 1, 2022 and continued through June 2022 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

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.

least Bell's vireo. All bird and wildlife species detected during the survey were recorded on standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

RESULTS

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during June 2022. 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
06/02/22	SS	0615	1025	61	74	100	40	0-1	0-1
06/11/22	JC	0710	0907	70	73	0	0	1-3	1-3
06/16/22	JC	0705	0915	62	69	85	0	1-3	1-3
06/23/22	CT	0605	1215	66	83	0	0	0-2	1-2
06/30/22	CM	0615	1010	64	75	70	30	0-2	1-3

CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso, CM = Carla Marriner, SS = Shannan Shaffer

No least Bell's vireos or Brown-headed cowbirds were detected during the June 2022 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in June 2022 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
 Staff Biologist
 ECORP Consulting, Inc.
 2861 Pullman Street
 Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: July 14, 2022

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.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate
Submitted By: Shannan Shaffer
Submitted Time: 06/02/2022 10:26 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	61°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:25	74 °F	0-1 MPH	40 %

Date Observed

June 2, 2022

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

Parrots, BEWR, BUSH, MODO, CASJ, CATH, ACWO, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, western toad, AMCR, common buckeye, NOFL, CAQU, SPTO, BLPH, CORA, HOFI, LEGO, western fence lizard, ANHU, BHGR, RTHA, ALHU, coyote, COYE, RSHA, KILL, NOMO, SOSP, GREG, GBHE, WTSW, MALL, WEKI, NRWS, CLSW, YEWA, common side-blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 06/11/2022 5:06 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	70°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	09:07	73 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 11, 2022

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, MODO, CATH, BUSH, LEGO, CAKI, SPTO, ACWO, CAQU, HOFI, PSFL, YWAR, ANHU, SOSP, NUWO, BEWR, CAJA, OATI, Red-crowned parrot, Western toad, Western whiptail, Western Fence lizard, Desert cottontail, California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 06/16/2022 3:15 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:05	62°F	1-3 MPH	85 %
End of Day	09:15	69 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 16, 2022

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO, SPTO, BHGR, ALHU, OATI, CALT, HOFI, CAKI, MODO, BUSH, ACWO, YWAR, BEWR, CASJ, CAQU with 7 chicks, SOSF, PSFL, COHA, Red-crowned parrot, Bobcat, Western toad, Western fence lizard, Desert cottontail, California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 06/23/2022 12:22 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:05	66°F	0-2 MPH	0 %
End of Day	12:15	83 °F	1-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 23, 2022

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Carla Marriner

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CAQU, CALT, NUWO, BHGR, BEWR, HOFI, ALHU, SPTO, WREN, CATH, MODO, HUVI, BUSH, AMCR, CORA, LEGO, YEWA, MALL, CLSW, CITE, KILL, SOSP, OATI, RTHA, COHA, BLGR, NOMO, cabbage white, common buckeye, western yellowtail, BNST, BLPH, EUCO, coyote, coastal whiptail, side blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate
Submitted By: Carla Marriner
Submitted Time: 06/30/2022 11:24 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	64°F	0-2 MPH	70 %
End of Day	10:10	75 °F	1-3 MPH	30 %

Date Observed

June 30, 2022

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

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, SCJA, NOMO, RSHS, BLPH, ACWO, Western fence lizard, Coyote, MALL, KILL, AMCO, HOWR, SOSP, Cabbage white, Western tiger swallowtail, Western toad, BUSH