

June 28, 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: May 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 May 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 May 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

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during May 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.

Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys									
Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
05/03/22	CT	0620	1100	59	61	100	100	0	1-3
05/11/22	LS	0645	1055	39	61	0	5	0-1	1-3
05/22/22	JC	0700	0915	59	57	100	100	0-1	0-1
05/28/22	JC	0715	1223	61	61	100	100	0-1	0-1

LS = Lauren Simpson, CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

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

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in May 2022 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Additionally, least Bell's vireo were not observed by onsite restoration monitors during May 2022. 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: June 28, 2022

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: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 05/03/2022 5:49 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:20	59°F	0 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	61 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 3, 2022

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CAQU, NOMO, BUSH, LEGO, CASJ, SPTO, red-crowned parrot, SOSP, BHGR, ANHU, coyote, AMCR, CALT, cottontail, BEWR, MODO, CATH, EUST, ROPI, ECDO, ACWO, NRWS, NUWO, RTHA, HOFI, KILL, CANG, COYE, CLSW, YEWA, WTSW, WIWA, OSFL, RSHA, PSFL, AMCO, PBGR, GREG, BARS, potential BANS (×3), VGSW, MALL, dainty sulphur, orange sulphur, common buckeye, OATI, western toad

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Lauren Simpson
Submitted Time: 05/11/2022 10:58 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	39°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:55	61 °F	1-3 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

May 11, 2022

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

DEJU, CASJ, NOMO, SPTO, ACWO, MODO, ANHU, BUSH, CAQU, COYE, SOSP, PARROT SP., HOOR, EUST, LEGO, BARS, CALT, OCWA, HOFI, BHGR, cottontail, NUWO, CLSW, GBHE, KILL, BEWR, NRWS, VASW, ALHU, SWTH, CORA, MALL, RNDU, YEWA, WTSW, AMCO, PSFL, RSHA, Western fence lizard, TUVU, AMRO, skunk, RTHA, WAVI, CAKI

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 05/22/2022 12:39 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	59°F	1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	09:15	57 °F	1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 21, 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

ACWO, DEJU, OATI, BHGR, NOMO, SPTO, BUSH, CAQU, CASJ, WEWP, CATH, ALHU, HOFI, MODO, ANHU, CALT, YEWA, BEWR, CORA, Parrot spp., California Ground squirrel, Desert cottontail, Western toad

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 05/28/2022 12:23 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	61°F	1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	12:23	61 °F	1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 28, 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

EUCD, ACWO, SPTO, CAQU, HOFI, CASJ, BUSH, BHGR, BUSH, BEWR, MODO, SOSP, COYE, ANHU, YEWA, AMRO, BLPH, CALT, NUWO, ATFL, OATI, KILL, Red crowned parrot, Desert cottontail, California ground squirrel
Western toad