

June 6, 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

Subject: May 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 May 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 May 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.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 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.

Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
05/05/23	CT	0647	1134	52	61	100	98	0-1	0-1
05/09/23	CM	0655	1035	55	61	90	100	0-2	1-3
05/19/23	JC	0715	1015	56	65	0	0	1-3	1-3
05/26/23	TD	0600	1100	58	62	100	100	0-1	0-1

CM = Carla Marriner, CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso, TD = Taylor Dee

Least Bell's vireos were not observed by Designated Biologists during focused survey work in the month of May however an individual was observed by a Designated Biologist monitoring onsite habitat restoration work. The date and details of the observation of least Bell's vireo during onsite restoration work is described below.

On May 8, 2023, a male least Bell's vireo was incidentally documented by the Stillwater Sciences restoration monitor. The vireo was observed foraging and singing full song phrases within the onsite mitigation area. Work in the area was paused until a new work area was cleared. No additional observations of the individual were made after the initial morning observation. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is provided in Attachment B.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in May 2023. While no observations of least Bell's vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys, one least Bell's vireo was detected on May 8, 2023 while restoration monitoring was taking place. During this observation, one vireo was heard singing, but was not observed exhibiting any nesting behaviors. Weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15) and Designated Biologists will closely monitor the presence of vireos onsite for evidence of breeding.

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.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (714) 648-0630 or lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

DATE: June 6, 2023

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

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

Attachment B: May Least Bell's Vireo CNDDDB Submission

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 05/05/2023 11:38 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:47	52°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:34	61.3 °F	0-1 MPH	98 %

Date Observed

May 5, 2023

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

Misting/light sprinkle between 10 and 11, sun emerging at 11:20.

Incidental Species Observed

OATI, CAQU, BHGR, COYE, ANHU, MODO SOSP, WREN, BGGN, ATFL, NRWS, SPTO, CALT, BUSH, CASJ, OCWA, EUST, HOFI, EUCD, ACWO, parrots, BLPH, BTGW, coyote, ALHU, western toad, YEWA, pin-tailed whydah female by disc golf course east of stables, YBCH* SW of Johnson field, HOWR, BEWR, RTHA, WEBL, WTSW, KILL, CLSW, WAVI, MALL, NUWO, CA ground squirrel, cottontail, NUWO, WIWA, CATH, COHU, COHA, PSFL, WETA

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: OtherS
ubmitted Time: 05/09/2023 11:43 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:55	55°F	0-2 MPH	90 %
End of Day	10:35	61 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed
May 9, 2023

Observer Name
Other

Other Observers (if present):
Carla Marriner

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed
No

Note:

Number of Individuals
0

Locations

Additional Notes
Stillwater bio monitor saw one LBVI adult on 5/8 LBV singing male foraging in willow tree in SW portion of the site.

Incidental Species Observed
MODO CALT CASJ HOFI ALHU NUWO SOSP ATFL OATI RTHA CATH LEGO BEWR COYE YEWA
WREN KILL SPTO BGGN Cottontail Squirrel CAQU ACWO AMRO LAGO BCHU MALL EUST WTSW BUSH
COHA CAGO NOMO Amazonia sp. ANHU

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 05/19/2023 8:24 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	56°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:15	65 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

May 18, 2023

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

OATI BEWR SOSP ANHU YEWA EUCD NOMO COYE ACWO CATH LEGO GHOW WEBL BHGR SPTO HOFI
AMRO PHAI CAQU CALT ATFL MODO WESJ EUST COHA Red crowned parrot California ground squirrel Desert
cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor DeeS
ubmitted Time: 05/26/2023 11:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	58°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	62 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 26, 2023

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

OATI, AMRO, CALT, MODO, BEWR, BLPH, NUWO, BUSH, SPTO, CAQU, CASJ, desert cottontail, HOFI, NOMO, ACWO, BHGR, SOSP, WREN, COYE, CORA, BGGN, LEGO, NORW, OATI, CATH, ATFL, KILL, ANHU, BARS, WTSW, TUVU, WAVI, PSFL, ALHU, MALL, CLSW, WEKI, HOOR, parrot sp., COHA, WEBL, YEWA,

ATTACHMENT B

May Least Bell's Vireo CNDDDB Submission

