

April 7, 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: March 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 March 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 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

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo were conducted during March 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
3/1/22	LS	0645	1045	46	80	0	0	0-3	0-3
3/11/22	TD	0600	1100	47	71	0	0	0-1	0-1
3/17/22	LS	0730	1100	46	73	0	15	0-3	0-2
3/24/22	LS	0645	1100	63	79	0	0	0	0-3
3/31/22	SS	0651	1025	59	61	100	100	0-1	0-1

LS = Lauren Simpson, SS = Shannan Shaffer, TD = Taylor Dee

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the March 2022 breeding season surveys. Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the March 2022 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in March 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: April 7, 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: Lauren SimpsonS
ubmitted Time: 03/01/2022 11:43 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	46°F	0-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:45	80 °F	0-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

March 1, 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

ACWO, CALT, MODO, OATI, LEGO, DEJU, WCSP, CASJ, BEWR, CORA, SOSP, ANHU, WREN, SPTO, RCKI, NUWO, EUST, HOFI, CAQU, NOFL, cottontail, BUSH, CA ground squirrel, YRWA, CATH, KILL, SAPH, RTHA, MALL, AMCO, western fenced lizard, ALHU, mole, RNDU, RUDU, BUFF, STJA, WTSW, NRWS, BLPH, WEBL, side blotched lizard, NOMO, CAKI

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor DeeS
Submitted Time: 03/11/2022 12:18 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	47°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	71 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

March 11, 2022

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Joshua Harris

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Restoration crews working within restoration sites. Edison biologists were observed surveying for a powerline road southwest of restoration work area.

Incidental Species Observed

CATH, ALHU, SPTO, CALT, WEBU, NOFL, ACWO, CASJ, WREN, MODO, LEGO, OATI, NOFL, YRWA, AMCO, CORA, SOSP, Patriot sp, CAQU, ANHU, BEWR, EUST, HOFI, NOMO, RTHA, CAKI, RSHA, MALL, CITE, RNDU, GRRO, NUWO, BUSH, DEJU, NRWS, WTSW, Desert cottontail, ground squirrel, western fence lizard,

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Lauren SimpsonS
ubmitted Time: 03/17/2022 1:31 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:30	46°F	0-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	73 °F	0-2 MPH	15 %

Date Observed

March 17, 2022

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

added ANHU-07 and -08 to map

Incidental Species Observed

MOD0, EUCD, CASJ, WCSP, CALT, NUWO, ACWO, WEBL, SOSP, SPTO, COYE, DEJU, ANHU, AMCR, NOMO, EUST, CAQU, YRWA, BEWR, HOFI, BUSH, Fox squirrel, parrots, LEGO, PSFL, COHA, GHOW, OATI, KILL, RCKI, WTSW, NRWS, AMCO, RUDU, RNDU, MALL, CORA, ALHU, western fence lizard, skunk, RTHA, NOFL, CATH, cottontail, GBHE, CA ground squirrel, BLPH

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Lauren SimpsonS
ubmitted Time: 03/24/2022 10:32 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	63°F	0 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	79 °F	0-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

March 24, 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

calt, wcsp, casj, oati, acwo, lego, amcr, hofi, cang, deju, modo, nomo, coye, spto, caqu, sosp, parrots, anhu, bewr, nofl, rcki, cottontail, cath, lago, alhu, yrwa, bush, nuwo, bggn, web1, amro, hosp, swth, psfl, kill, cite, mall, rudu, rndu, skunk(scent), eust, nrws, stja, ropi, caki, coha, cora, western fence lizard, side blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shannan ShafferS
ubmitted Time: 03/31/2022 10:28 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:51	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:25	61 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

March 31, 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

ACWO, CAQU, NOMO, LEGO, HOFI, BUSH, CASJ, SOSP NRWS, COHA, KILL, NUWO, COYE, SPTO, BEWR, desert cottontail, parrots, MODO, CATH, RNDU, RUDU, AMCO, YRWA, CANG