

April 28, 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: March 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 March 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 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 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 |
| 3/3/22 | CM | 0645 | 1010 | 40 | 57 | 0 | 10 | 0-1 | 1-3 |
| 3/9/22 | CM | 0700 | 1015 | 53 | 60 | 20 | 30 | 1-3 | 1-3 |
| 3/13/22 | CLT | 0715 | 1100 | 56 | 60 | 100 | 70 | 0-1 | 2-4 |
| 3/23/22 | TD | 0645 | 1100 | 48 | 54 | 100 | 100 | 0-1 | 0-1 |
| 3/31/22 | TD | 0715 | 1100 | 44 | 60 | 10 | 5 | 0 | 0-2 |

CM = Carla Marriner, CLT = Christine Tischer, TD = Taylor Dee

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the March 2023 breeding season surveys. Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed during the March 2023 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Five focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in March 2023 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: April 28, 2023

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: OtherS
ubmitted Time: 03/03/2023 1:22 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 06:45 | 40°F | 0-1 MPH | 0 % |
| End of Day | 10:10 | 57 °F | 1-3 MPH | 10 % |

Date Observed

March 3, 2023

Observer Name

Other

Other Observers (if present):

Carla Marriner

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

Locations

Additional Notes

SW and some areas within the SE are inundated and weren't easily accessible.

Incidental Species Observed

CALT AMRO SCJA YRWA MALL CORA HOFI BUSH ANHU NOFL COHA NOMO MODO RTHA WCSP
BEWR SOSP LEGO KILL BLPH RSHA ALHU EUST HUVI WREN OATI NUWO Cottontail Coyote Squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: OtherS
ubmitted Time: 03/09/2023 4:43 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:00 | 53°F | 1-3 MPH | 20 % |
| End of Day | 10:15 | 60 °F | 1-3 MPH | 30 % |

Date Observed

March 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

Landscape/restoration crews working onsite

Incidental Species Observed

CALT CASJ WREN MODO NOFL ANHU CATH AMRO NUWO LEGO BEWR HETH WCSP SOSP RTHA
NOMO HOFI CAGO BLPH BUSH DEJU OATI SPTO AMCR YRWA Cottontail Squirrel Coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 03/13/2023 9:08 PM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:15 | 56°F | 0-1 MPH | 100 % |
| End of Day | 11:00 | 60 °F | 2-4 MPH | 70 % |

Date Observed

March 13, 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

High school closed off with caution tape and several fire trucks upon arrival, willows dead in old mining pit from ISHB and flooded in SW corner, dodged runaway horse with no rider and saddle hanging from belly at end of survey.

Incidental Species Observed

WEBL, MODO, LEGO, AMCR, CAKI, DEJU, YRWA, CASJ, AMRO, SPTO, red-crowned parrots, WCSP, CALT, NOFL, coyote, RCKI, CATH, gopher, ECDO, BEWR, CAQU, BEKI, NUWO, CORA, WREN, KILL, ANHU, OATI, BUSH, HOFI, CAQU, SOSP, BLPH, EUST, E fox squirrel, COHA, RNDU, NRWS, WTSW, CANV, RUDU, AMKE, NOMO, RSHA, RWBL, OCWA, HOWR, ALHU, BTPI, CA gr squirrel, RTHA, desert cottontail, painted lady

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor DeeS
ubmitted Time: 03/23/2023 11:01 AM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 06:45 | 48°F | 0-1 MPH | 100 % |
| End of Day | 11:00 | 54 °F | 0-1 MPH | 100 % |

Date Observed

March 23, 2023

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/a

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO, AMCR, BEWR, SPTO, CATH, BUSH, CALT, AMRO, HUVI, CASJ, SOSP, RCKI, YRWA, NOFL, NUWO, ANHU, WCSP, CAQU, EUST, DEJU, HOFI, RUDU, RTHA, KILL, NRWS, TUVU, OATI, CITE, LESC, HOME, ACWO, BLPH, ECDO, WREN, CORA, OCWA, BGGN, AMAV, MALL, COHA, WEBL, NOMO, CAKI, CAGO, BUFF, California ground squirrel, eastern fox squirrel, desert cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor DeeS
ubmitted Time: 03/31/2023 11:31 AM

| | Time | Temperature (°F) | Wind Range (MPH) | Cloud Cover (%) |
|---------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Start of Day | 07:15 | 44°F | 0 MPH | 10 % |
| End of Day | 11:00 | 60 °F | 0-2 MPH | 5 % |

Date Observed

March 31, 2023

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/a

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed a pair of DEJU nest building

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO, LEGO, BEWR, SOSP, RCKI, ACWO, WCSP, CASJ, CATH, MODO, CAQU, ECDO, NOFL, ANHU, SPTO, AMRO, YRWA, COYE, BUSH, CALT, ALHU, HOFI, BLPH, Coyote, AMCR, BGGN, desert cottontail, LISP, KILL, COHA, common raccoon (tracks), HOME, DEJU, OATI, CA ground squirrel, WTSW, NRWS, LESC, EUST, OCWA, RSHA, HOWR, western side-blotched lizard, RTHA, BUFF, CAKI, HOOR, TUVU