

September 27, 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: September 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 September 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 September 15, 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 standardized data sheets. All surveys were conducted in compliance with the Nesting Bird Management Plan prepared for the Project.²

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.

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.

RESULTS

Two focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during September 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
9/6/2023	LS	0655	1045	65	75	100	80	0-1	0-1
9/15/2023	LS	0640	1006	63	70	100	100	1-3	0-1

LS = Lauren Simpson

No least Bell's vireos or brown-headed cowbirds were observed by Designated Biologists during the September 2023 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Two focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in September 2023. No observations of least Bell's vireo were made during the focused breeding season surveys. September 15, 2023 marked the end of the 2023 breeding season. No breeding least Bell's vireos were documented at the Project site during the 2023 season.

Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo will resume in March 2024 to support ongoing habitat restoration activities occurring at the Project site.

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: September 27, 2023

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 09/06/2023 10:45 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0655	65	0-1	100
End of Day	1045	75	0-1	80

Date Observed

September 6, 2023

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, EUST, MODO, RTHA, ANHU, CORA, OATI, BUSH, BEWR, BGGN, WREN, SOSP, AMCR, CAQU, NUWO, SPTO, BTPI, RSHA, CASJ, CATH, HOFI, BLPH, YEWA, TUVU, Parrot sp., desert cottontail, western toad, deer mouse, western fence lizard, California ground squirrel.

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devil's Gate (Environmental Conditions)

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 09/15/2023 10:06 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0640	63	1-3	100
End of Day	1006	70	0-1	100

Date Observed

September 15, 2023

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

BLPH BEWR, AMCR, SOSP, ANHU, NUWO, ALHU, LEGO, ACWO, CALT, CASJ, BUSH, RSHA, RTHA, WREN, OATI, CATH, MODO, SPTO, CAQU, HOFI, BGGN, YEWA, Parrot sp., desert cottontail, fox squirrel, California ground squirrel.