

September 5, 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: August 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 August 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;"

Per Conservation Measure 11b of the USFWS Informal Section 7 Consultation, if sediment removal is conducted between March 15 and August 31 "twice weekly surveys for the vireo will be conducted by the biological monitor in areas of suitable habitat within 500 feet of proposed construction activities to determine the presence of vireo nest building activities, egg incubation activities, or brood rearing activities."

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 3, 2023 and continued through July 6, 2023. Between July 6 and August 13, 2023, preconstruction LBV surveys were conducted to accommodate the initiation of sediment removal activities scheduled for August 14, 2023. The results of the 2023 preconstruction surveys were negative and are presented under a separate cover.

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on August 15 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated. Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys continued through the end of August 2023.

SURVEY METHODS

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in compliance with ITP Condition 7.3.4 and Section 7 Conservation Measure CM 11b 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

RESULTS

Six focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted between August 15 and 31, 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
8/15/2023	LS	0655	1058	66	86	5	5	0-3	0-3
8/18/2023	LS	0637	1029	62	83	0	0	0-1	0-1
8/23/2023	LS	0640	1015	63	82	0	0	0-2	0-2
8/25/2023	LS	0630	1010	61	76	0	0	0-1	0-2
8/28/2023	LS	0650	1013	68	89	0	0	0-1	0-1
8/31/2023	LS	0650	1052	67	87	0	0	0-3	0-2

LS = Lauren Simpson

Least Bell's vireos were not observed by Designated Biologists during focused survey work in the month of August.

DISCUSSION

Six focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted between August 15 and 31, 2023. No observations of least Bell's vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys. 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.

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.

SIGNED: _____



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

DATE: September 5, 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: 08/15/2023 11:00 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0655	66	0-3	5
End of Day	1058	86	0-3	5

Date Observed

August 15, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

HOOR, DEJU, MODO, ACWO, OATI, CASJ, NUWO, WEBL, HOFI, ANHU, AMCR, BEWR, CALT, RSHA, SPTO, YEWA, EUST, BLPH, CORA, CAKI, LOSH, NRWS, SOSP, monarch butterfly, swallowtail butterfly, parrot sp., California ground squirrel, side-blotched lizard, coastal whiptail, western toad

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

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 08/18/2023 10:29 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0637	62	0-1	0
End of Day	1029	83	0-1	0

Date Observed

August 18, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, CAKI, EUCD, NUWO, ACWO, AMCR, CORA, OATI, CALT, ANHU, CASJ, BEWR, LEGO, COHA, ALHU, NOMO, BLPH, RTHA, HOFI, SOSP, YEWA, BGGN, SPTO, BUSH, RSHA, CAQU, SSHA, CATH, parrot sp., side-blotched lizard, western fence lizard, coastal whiptail, western toad

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

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 08/23/2023 10:16 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0640	63	0-2	0
End of Day	1015	82	0-2	0

Date Observed

August 23, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, OATI, BEWR, ACWO, CASJ, CALT, WEBL, ANHU, NUWO, AMCR, HOFI, BGGN, SOSP, CAQU, SPTO, BUSH, ALHU, RSHA, BLPH, HOOR, WTSW, KILL, EUST, YEWA, WREN, NOMO, parrot sp., monarch butterfly, western honeybee, swallowtail, California ground squirrel, western fence lizard, western toad

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

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 08/25/2023 10:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0630	61	0-1	0
End of Day	1010	76	0-2	0

Date Observed

August 25, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

AMCR, ACWO, ANHU, HOFI, BEWR, CASJ, CALT, MODO, BLPH, SOSP, RTHA, CAQU, BUSH, BGGN, YEWA, NUWO, WREN, parrot sp., coyote, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, side-blotched lizard, western toad

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

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 08/28/2023 10:14 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0650	68	0-1	0
End of Day	1013	89	0-1	0

Date Observed

August 28, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

BEWR, CALT, CASJ, WREN, AMCR, ANHU, NUWO, KILL, BLPH, HOWR, COHA, EUCD, ACWO, HOFI, SPTO, BUSH, YEWA, ALHU, EUST, RSHA, OATI, MODO, BGGN, CAKI, CAQU, parrot sp., swallowtail, coyote, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, side-blotched lizard, western fence lizard

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

Submitted By: Lauren Simpson

Submitted Time: 08/31/2023 10:53 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	0650	67	0-3	0
End of Day	1052	87	0-2	0

Date Observed

August 31, 2023

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed?

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

NA

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

BLPH, CALT, SOSA, AMCR, CASJ, ANHU, CAQU, BEWR, BUSH, MODO, LEGO, WREN, NUWO, RSHA, HOFI, BGGN, RTHA, HOOR, parrot sp., desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, western fence lizard, side-blotched lizard, western toad