

October 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: September 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 September 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, were completed in September 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 surveys 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

Two focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during September 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
09/08/22	CM	0630	0925	78	82	50	80	0-1	2-4
09/14/22	CM	0620	0910	66	69	100	90	0-2	1-3

CM = Carla Marriner


No least Bell's vireos or Brown-headed cowbirds were detected during the September 2022 breeding season surveys. However, on September 16, 2022, an individual least Bell's vireo was incidentally observed by a Designated Biologist monitoring onsite habitat restoration work. The bird was observed briefly foraging and singing on the west side of the reservoir.

DISCUSSION

Two focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in September 2022. While no observations of least Bell's vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys, an individual least Bell's vireo was detected foraging at the Project site while restoration monitoring was taking place on September 16, 2022. September 15, 2022 marked the end of the 2022 breeding season. No breeding least Bell's vireos were documented at the Project site during the 2022 season.

Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo will resume in March 2023 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
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
2861 Pullman Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: October 7, 2022

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