



September 22, 2026
(2022-226.03/006)

Mr. Allen Xie
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: AXie@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: August 2026 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. Xie,

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 2026 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' 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 6, 2026 and continued through July 27, 2026. Between July 29 and August 3, 2026, preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were conducted to accommodate the initiation of sediment removal activities scheduled for August 3, 2026. The results of the 2026 preconstruction surveys were negative and are presented under a separate cover.

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on August 7, 2026 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 2026. The surveys are summarized below.

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

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during August 2026. 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.

Table 1. Weather Conditions During Surveys									
Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
8/3/26	JC	0707	1015	67	80	0	0	1-3	1-3
8/7/26	SD	0640	1103	68	86	0	0	0-1	0-1
8/11/26	JP	0715	1053	73	84	60	75	0-2	0-3
8/14/26	JC	0700	0945	65	74	100	100	1-3	1-3
8/18/26	SD	0715	1051	66	87	0	0	0-1	0-1
8/20/26	CLT	0630	1100	73	89	0	30	0-1	0-2
8/24/26	JP	0710	1059	75	90	0	5	0-1	0-1
8/28/26	TD	0620	1100	69	91	5	0	0-1	0-2
* JC = Jill Coumoutso, SD = Shelby Dunn, JP = Jillian Petersen, CLT = Christine Tischer, TD = Taylor Dee									

Least Bell's vireo and brown-headed cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were not observed by Designated Biologists during the August 2026 breeding season surveys.

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.

DISCUSSION

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in August 2026 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo 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 (619) 455-1134 or cgarcia@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

Caroline Garcia
Staff Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
111 Academy Way, Suite 210
Irvine, CA 92617

DATE: September 22, 2026

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 08/03/2026 10:04 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:07	67°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:15	80 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 3, 2026

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

BEWR, ANHU, CALT, SPTO, WREN, ALHU, ANHU, HOFI, HOOR, EUST, AMRO, OATI, LEGO, SOSP, OCWA, ACWO, NUWO, *YEWA, CASJ, BHGR, WEBL, BUSH, CAQU, CATH, BGGN, CORA, red-crowned amazon

Western side-blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

Western toad

California striped racer

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Coyote

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

Submitted By: Shelby Dunn

Submitted Time: 08/07/2026 11:16 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:40	68°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:03	86 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 7, 2026

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed multiple locations of YEWA, including one location where a mobile fledgling was following and adult YEWA food begging. Locations recorded in FieldMaps. Checked on YEWA nest ID: YEWA0706CLT1 and updated point with observations.

Incidental Species Observed

BEWR, MODO, BGGN, CAKI, ACWO, CAQU, NUWO, EUCD, CASJ, EUST, CALT, BARS, AMCR, ANHU, LEGO, BLPH, WREN, CATH, CLSW, ALHU, SOSP, CLSW, TUVU, *YEWA, parrot sp.

Eastern fox squirrel

Western fence lizard

Western side-blotched lizard

Western toad

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Jillian Petersen

Submitted Time: 08/11/2026 11:09 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	73°F	0-2 MPH	60 %
End of Day	10:53	84 °F	0-3 MPH	75 %

Date Observed

August 11, 2026

Observer Name

Jillian Petersen

Other Observers (if present):

Hannah Nemnich (shadowing)

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Started in the middle for the west side of the restoration area and worked our way north. Then crossed over to cover the eastern side. Crossed again and covered the southern half of the western side. No LBVI detected during survey.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, CALT, ANHU, CAQU, AMCR, CATH, HOFI, CAKI, SOSPO, CASJ, NUWO, BEWR, *YEWA, BUSH, BARS, LEGO, RSHA, BGGN, OATI, ALHU, BLPH, RTHA, COHA, GRRO, NRWS, HOOR, RCPA, SPTO, EUCD

Gulf fritillary

Western tiger swallowtail

Cabbage white

Western toad

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 08/14/2026 5:04 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	65°F	1-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	09:45	74 °F	1-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

August 14, 2026

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, CALT, ANHU, MODO, WBNU, BHGR, BEWR, CASJ, *YEWA, BUSH, OATI, HOFI, SPTO, AMCR, SOSP, NUWO, EUCD, CAQU, red-crowned amazon

Western toad

Desert cottontail

Coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 08/18/2026 10:52 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	66°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:51	87 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 18, 2026

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed multiple YEWA individuals. Locations are in FieldMaps.

Incidental Species Observed

OCWA, EUCD, ACWO, CASJ, CALT, BGGN, NUWO, ANHU, parrot sp., BEWR, HOFI, LEGO, WBNU, MODO, CATH, NOMO, RSHA, SOSP, AMCR, BLPH, WREN, CAQU, OATI, BHGR, *YEWA, WTSW, BCHU, SPTO, ALHU, ATFL, RTHA

Western honeybee

Western side blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Eastern fox squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer

Submitted Time: 08/20/2026 6:52 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	73°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	89 °F	0-2 MPH	30 %

Date Observed

August 20, 2026

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

AMRO, HOWR, WREN, CATH, BEWR, CALT, WBNU, ANHU, RTHA, BGGN, red-crowned amazon, CASJ, ACWO, RUHU, BUSH, NUWO, AMCR, HOFI, YEWA*, SPTO, KILL, ATFL, SOSP, COYE, DEJU, BARS, NOMO, OCWA, ANHU, BLPH, CAQU, HOOR, COHA, OATI, MODO, ECDO, GRRO

Cloudless sulphur

Checkered white

Gulf fritillary

Bee fly sp.

Lorquin's admiral

Western tiger swallowtail

Western honeybee

Western fence lizard

Western side-blotched lizard

Western toad

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Jillian Petersen

Submitted Time: 08/24/2026 11:02 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	75°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:59	90 °F	0-1 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

August 24, 2026

Observer Name

Jillian Petersen

Other Observers (if present):

Hannah Nemnich (shadowing)

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

0710- Began survey beginning in the center of the western restoration area working south. 0910- Surveyed eastern side of restoration area 1000- Surveyed northern half of western restoration area working south 1057- End survey. No LBVI detected.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, MODO, BUSH, OATI, CATH, HOFI, CAQU, CASJ, BEWR, *YEWA, AMCR, CALT, ANHU, CORA, RCPA, NUWO, SOSP, LEGO, OATI, EUST, RSHA, ALHU, HOOR, BGGN, BLPH, BARS, TUVU, KILL, SPTO

Gulf fritillary

Cabbage white

Checkered white

Western tiger swallowtail

Western fence lizard

Western side-blotched lizard

Desert cottontail

CA ground squirrel

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

Submitted By: Taylor Dee

Submitted Time: 08/28/2026 11:34 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:20	69°F	0-1 MPH	5 %
End of Day	11:00	91 °F	0-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 28, 2026

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Hannah Nemnich (shadowing)

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Heard 5 YEWA and observed 1 coastal whiptail. Points marked in FieldMaps.

Incidental Species Observed

LEGO, BGGN, BEWR, CASJ, CALT, SPTO, BUSH, NUWO, AMCR, HOFI, BLPH, HOOR, RSHA, SOSP, OATI, EUST, *YEWA, ANHU, ACWO, ALHU, MODO, WREN, CAQU

Checkered white

California sister

Cabbage white

Western tiger swallowtail

Gulf fritillary

Carpenter bee

*Coastal whiptail

Western fence lizard

Western toad

Western fox squirrel

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail