



August 17, 2026
(2022-226.03/006)

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

Subject: July 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 July 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;"

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 6, 2026 and continued through July 2026 and are summarized below. Between July 24 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.

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

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.

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 during July 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.

Date	Surveyors*	Time		Temperature (°F)		Cloud Cover (%)		Wind Speed (mph)	
		start	end	start	end	start	end	start	end
7/2/26	JP	0705	1050	59	68	100	100	0-3	0-3
7/10/26	TD	0545	1100	63	87	100	0	0-1	3-6
7/17/26	CLT	0546	1120	68	84	0	0	1-2	0-2
7/24/26	SD	0635	1115	71	85	0	0	1-3	0-1
7/27/26	SD	0700	1105	67	87	0	0	1-3	0-1
7/29/26	CLT	0615	1050	66	85	50	0	0-1	1-2

* JP = Jillian Petersen, TD = Taylor Dee, CLT = Christine Tischer, SD = Shelby Dunn

On July 9, 2026, an individual least Bell's vireo was incidentally documented by an ECORP biologist conducting botanical quantitative monitoring onsite. The least Bell's vireo was first heard singing and then was observed foraging between willow and cottonwood trees within a mitigation area in the northeastern portion of the site. The individual was observed at the edge of habitat where it meets a public trail. It foraged on insects before flying north. No nesting behaviors or evidence of breeding was observed. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is also provided in Attachment B.

Least Bell's vireo was observed by Designated Biologists during the July 2026 breeding season surveys as well. One adult least Bell's vireo was observed silently foraging in an oak tree adjacent to a trail in the southwest area of the site during the survey conducted on July 10, 2026. No nesting behavior or evidence of breeding was observed. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is provided in Attachment B. Brown-headed cowbirds were not observed by Designated Biologists during the July 2026 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in July 2026 did detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. One least Bell's vireo was detected during the July 10, 2026 weekly survey. A day prior, on July 9, 2026, least Bell's vireo was observed during

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.

botanical quantitative monitoring onsite. It is unknown if this was the same least Bell's vireo individual observed across the two-day period from July 9-10, 2026, however, there is a high likelihood that it could have been the same individual. Least Bell's vireo was not detected onsite for the remainder of the month of July 2026. It is presumed that the least Bell's vireo observed onsite in July 2026 was migrating through the area. 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: August 17, 2026

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

Attachment B: Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDDB Submittals

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted By: Jillian Petersen

Submitted Time: 07/06/2026 1:06 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:05	59°F	0-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:50	68 °F	0-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

July 2, 2026

Observer Name

Jillian Petersen

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

0705- Began LBVI survey, starting from the center of the west side going south. Then turned around and surveyed the east side. Then turned and covered the northern half of the west side. 1050- Finished LBVI survey. No LBVI observed.

Incidental Species Observed

CAQU, ACWO, OATI, HOFI, RTHA, SPTO, BUSH, CATH, CALT, *YEWA, NUWO, BLPH, BEWR, RCPA, SOSP, ALHU, BHGR, WREN, LEGO, CORA, CLSW, HOOR, RSHA, COYE, ANHU, MALL, GREG, SNEG, PBGR, WTSW, CASJ, BGGN, NOMO

Western toad

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Taylor Dee

Submitted Time: 07/10/2026 11:38 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:45	63°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	87 °F	3-6 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 10, 2026

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

Lucy Stiff (shadowing)

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

Yes

Note:

One adult least Bell's vireo was observed silently foraging in an oak tree adjacent to a trail in the southwest area of the site. No nesting behavior observed. Point added to Field Maps and CNDDDB form will be submitted for the observation.

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

BGGN, AMCR, ACWO, WREN, CASJ, CALT, CAQU, CATH, NUWO, MODO, ALHU, HOFI, RSHA, LEGO, BLPH, OATI, BUSH, ATFL, NUWO, NOMO, HOOR, OCWA, *YEW, PBGR, GRHE, SNER, MALL, KILL, TUVU, COHA
Western fence lizard
Western toad
Desert cottontail

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer

Submitted Time: 07/17/2026 8:51 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:46	68°F	1-2 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:20	84 °F	0-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 17, 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

In reservoir: 1 GBHE (young of year), 1 SNEG, 1 BCNH (Fully fledged juvie), ~45 ducks MALL, and domestic mallards, 5 juvie PBGE losing striping on head but lacking ring on bill, no adults, 3 KILL. 2 ECORP 2-person crews doing botanical surveys; Gothic and ICF, 2 County crews staking in basin, 2 frisbee discs removed from restoration area (NW side), 1 homeless man seen leaving area near tent in NW portion of wash.

Incidental Species Observed

BGGN, BEWR, EUST, NUWO, CAKI, CALT, OATI, MODO, LEGO, HOFI, SPTO, HOOR, CASJ, BUSH, WBNU, WEBL, BHGR, ANHU, CAQU, SOSP, parrots, CORA, amazon parrots, CATH, OCWA, *YEWA (not singing in western buffer), EUCD, WREN, AMCR, BARS, WTSW, WREN, ALHU, AMRO, BLGR, NRWS, CLSW, SNEG, MALL, TUVU, PBGR, BLPH, GBHE, BCNH, ACWO, mitred parakeet

Satyr anglewing

Western tiger swallowtail

Tarantula hawk

Orange sulphur

Checkered white

Cabbage white

Lorquin's admiral

Western fence lizard,

Western toad toadlets

American bullfrog

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 07/24/2026 1:51 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:35	71°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:15	85 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 24, 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 an ACWO nest and multiple YEWA. All observations are uploaded to Field Maps.

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH, BEWR, RTHA, parrot sp., CALT, LEGO, RSHA, CORA, ANHU, CASJ, AMCR, KILL, BUSH, ACWO, CLSW, HOFI, NUWO, ALHU, OATI, BUSH, CAQU, BGGN, MODO, PUFI, *YEWA, WREN, SPTO, HOOR, ATFL, BLPH, SOSP, COHA, BARS, MALL, PBGR, WBNU, OCWA, SNEG, BHGR

Western toad

Western side blotched lizard

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 07/27/2026 2:45 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	67°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:05	87 °F	0-1 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 27, 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

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, ACWO, ALHU, *YEWA, BGGN, CALT, NUWO, MODO, ANHU, SPTO, BEWR, EUCD, NRWS, BUSH, OATI, LEGO, BLPH, HOOR, PUFI, AMCR, WEFL, TUVU, HOFI, WREN, BGGN, BHGR, MALL

Red eared slider

American bullfrog

Western toad

Western side blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 07/29/2026 1:47 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	66°F	0-1 MPH	50 %
End of Day	10:50	85 °F	1-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

July 29, 2026

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Taylor Dee and Alexis Dorough conducting NB precon survey, Daniel Jaques and Eliza McLean biomonitoring

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

No activity at YEWA0706CLT1 nest along haul road between 0845 and 0905. 1 YEWA singing to the SE and 1 singing to north. Eliza came and continued nest monitoring at 0905. At YEWA0722CLT1, there are fledglings still in area but have moved south and are spread out so are not dependent on nest tree. 0945 could hear man yelling wildly from direction of encampment along west side so avoided that area. Man with shepherd mix off leash in upper end of walk.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, MODO, EUCD, BHGR, AMRO, HOWR, BGGN, CALT, HOFI, BEWR, ANHU, CASJ, WREN, ALHU, BLPH, NUWO, HOOR, CATH, CAQU, ATFL, SPTO, CAKI, WEBL, AMCR, BARS, 2-4 red whiskered bulbul in oak in NE corner movng toward JPL, BUSH, NOMO, Amazon parrots, pair of WIWA in sycamore in basin in NE corner, juvie COHA heard near Johnson Field, OATI, SOSP, COYE, MALL, TRES, CLSW, parakeets, WTSW, KILL, GRRO, RSHA, *YEWA, LEGO

Checkered white

Lorquin's admiral

Gulf fritillary

Cabbage white

Western honeybee

Western tiger swallowtail

Western toad toadlets

Western fence lizard

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Domestic horse (scat)

ATTACHMENT B

Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDb Submittals

CNDDDB Online Field Survey Form Report



California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, Suite 1266
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.324.0475
cnddb@wildlife.ca.gov
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/>



Source code PET26F0002
Quad code 3411822
Occ. no. _____
EO index no. _____
Map index no. _____

This data has been reported to the CNDDDB, but may not have been evaluated by the CNDDDB staff

Scientific name: *Vireo bellii pusillus*

Common name: *least Bell's vireo*

Date of field work (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-09-2026

Comment about field work date(s): *Incidentally observed during botanical quantitative monitoring*

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer: *Jillian L. Petersen*

Affiliation: *ECORP Consulting, Inc.*

Address: *111 Academy Way, Suite 210 , Irvine, CA 92617*

Email: *jpetersen@ecorpconsulting.com*

Phone: *(760) 908-9870*

Other observers: *Carley Adams, ECORP*

DETERMINATION

Personal expertise: *Yes*

Keyed in:

Compared w/ specimen at:

Compared w/ image in:

By another person:

Other:

Identification explanation: *Identification made with visual observation and vireo was singing*

Identification confidence: *Very confident*

Species found: *Yes* If not found, why not?

Level of survey effort: *Incidental observation*

Total number of individuals: *1*

Collection? *No*

Collection number:

Museum/Herbarium:

ANIMAL INFORMATION

How was the detection made? *Heard singing then seen*

Number detected in each age class:

1

adults

juveniles

larvae

egg mass

other

Age class comment: *Adult*

Bird site use:

- ☐ Nesting ☐ Rookery ☐ Nesting colony ☐ Burrow site ☐ Lek
☐ Non-breeding (over-wintering) ☐ Communal roost ☒ Other (foraging, fly-over, etc.)

Site use description: Flying between willow and cottonwood branches and foraging on insects

What was the observed behavior? LBVI sang (no counter-singing heard) and then came into view. LBVI flew between cottonwood and willow branches along the edge of where the restoration area met the public trail (visible from the trail) and was flying north. LBVI would occasionally perch and forage on insects.

Describe any evidence of reproduction: N/A

SITE INFORMATION

Habitat description: Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project Site. Riparian (willow) scrub. Onsite habitat mitigation area. Mature willows, sycamores, cottonwoods present.

Slope:

Landowner/manager: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Aspect:

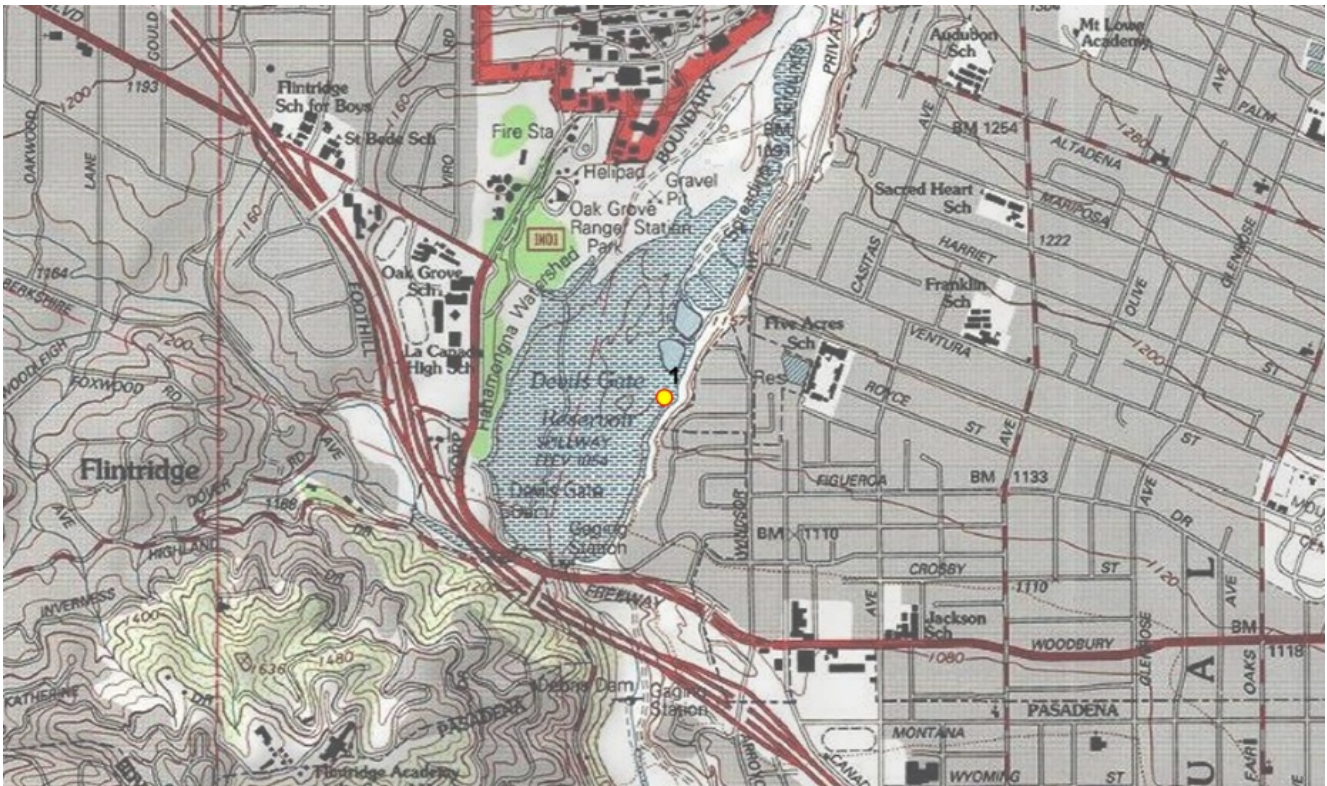
Site condition + population viability: Good

Immediate & surrounding land use: Recreational trails, flood control reservoir, restoration area, roads, neighborhood

Visible disturbances: Active trail with hikers

Threats: Hikers, dogs

General comments:

MAP INFORMATION

ID	County	24K Quadrangle	Elev. (ft)	Latitude NAD83	Longitude NAD83	UTM E NAD83	UTM N NAD83	UTM Zone
	Los Angeles	Pasadena	1041	34.19023	-118.17162	392042	3783869	11
1	Public Land Survey	Feature Comment						
	S T01N R12W 7							

The mapped feature is accurate within: [5 m](#)

Source of mapped feature: [Field Maps](#)

Mapping notes:

Location/directions comments:

Attachment(s):

CNDDDB Online Field Survey Form Report



California Natural Diversity Database
Department of Fish and Wildlife
1416 9th Street, Suite 1266
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: 916.324.0475
cnddb@wildlife.ca.gov
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/>



Source code DEE26F0004
Quad code 3411822
Occ. no. _____
EO index no. _____
Map index no. _____

This data has been reported to the CNDDDB, but may not have been evaluated by the CNDDDB staff

Scientific name: *Vireo bellii pusillus*

Common name: least Bell's vireo

Date of field work (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-10-2026

Comment about field work date(s):

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer: Taylor Dee

Affiliation:

Address: 215 N 5th St , Redlands, CA 92374

Email: tdee@ecorpconsulting.com

Phone: (909) 307-0046

Other observers: Lucy Stiff

DETERMINATION

Personal expertise: Yes

Keyed in:

Compared w/ specimen at:

Compared w/ image in:

By another person:

Other:

Identification explanation:

Identification confidence: Very confident

Species found: Yes If not found, why not?

Level of survey effort: observed during focused LBVI survey conducted 1/week

Total number of individuals: 1

Collection? No

Collection number:

Museum/Herbarium:

ANIMAL INFORMATION

How was the detection made? Seen

Number detected in each age class:

1

adults

juveniles

larvae

egg mass

other

Age class comment:

Bird site use:

- ☐ Nesting ☐ Rookery ☐ Nesting colony ☐ Burrow site ☐ Lek
☐ Non-breeding (over-wintering) ☐ Communal roost ☒ Other (foraging, fly-over, etc.)

Site use description: vireo was perched in oak tree, later moving between branches while foraging. No breeding behavior was detected.

What was the observed behavior? foraging in oak live oak

Describe any evidence of reproduction:

SITE INFORMATION

Habitat description: Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project Site. Riparian forest next to reservoir and public park. Riparian forest is located within restoration area that is actively being managed/restored. Riparian forest mainly is composed of black, red, and arroyo willows; Fremont cottonwood, mule fat and coyote bush.

Slope: Landowner/manager: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Aspect:

Site condition + population viability: Good

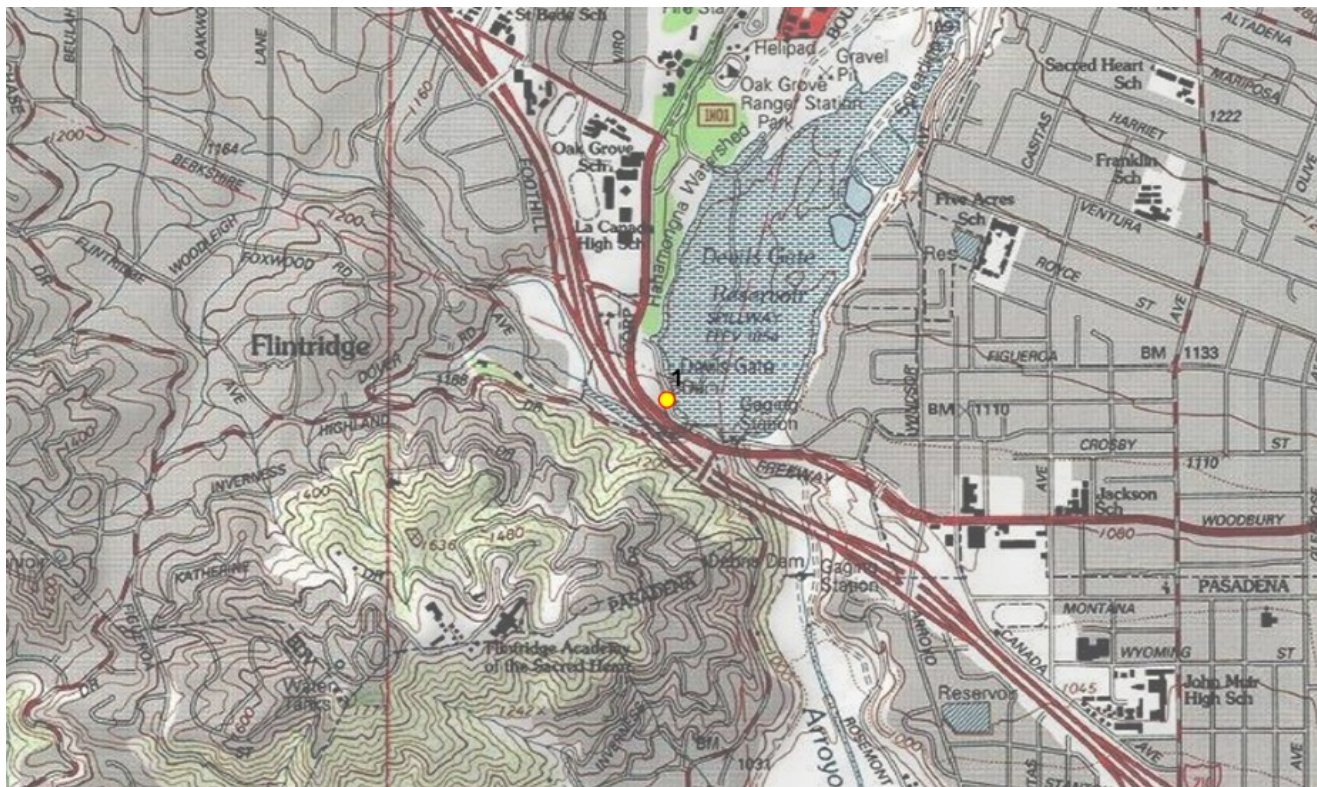
Immediate & surrounding land use: Recreational trails, flood control reservoir, restoration area, roads, city public park (Hahamonga Watershed Park)

Visible disturbances: recreational trails, paved access road, public park

Threats: pedestrian foot traffic, dogs (on and off leash), cyclists,

General comments:

MAP INFORMATION



ID	County	24K Quadrangle	Elev. (ft)	Latitude NAD83	Longitude NAD83	UTM E NAD83	UTM N NAD83	UTM Zone
	Los Angeles	Pasadena	1051	34.18658	-118.17748	391497	3783471	11
1	Public Land Survey	Feature Comment						
	S T01N R12W 7							

The mapped feature is accurate within: 10 m

Source of mapped feature: Esri's Field Maps app using android phone

Mapping notes:

Location/directions comments: observed at edge of oak tree branch adjacent to paved trail

Attachment(s):
