



July 10, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

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

Subject: June 2025 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 June 2025 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 4, 2025 and continued through June 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 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

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.

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

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during June 2025. 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
6/3/25	TD	0645	1100	65	77	80	35	0-2	0-2
6/11/25	SD	0650	1100	59	73	100	10	0-1	1-3
6/18/25	CT	0544	1043	63	87	0	0	0-1	1-3
6/27/25	JC	0645	0939	59	73	0	0	1-3	1-3

TD = Taylor Dee, SD = Shelby Dunn, CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

No least Bell's vireos or brown-headed cowbirds were observed by Designated Biologists during the June 2025 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted in June 2025 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: July 10, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

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

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Taylor Dee
Submitted Time: 06/03/2025 11:00 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	65°F	0-2 MPH	80 %
End of Day	11:00	77 °F	0-2 MPH	35 %

Date Observed

June 3, 2025

Observer Name

Taylor Dee

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Observed 1 YEWA nest in DG-4 restoration area west of reservoir. Observed YEWA pair make multiple trips with food items (insects including a crane fly) to same location in oak tree. Upon the birds' visit, begging chicks could be heard. The nest is not visible due to foliage. Pair appear to be feeding young.

Incidental Species Observed

SOSP, BHGR, CASJ, LEGO, SPTO, MODO, GREG, WTSW, BUSH, CAQU, HOFI, NRWS, BARS, AMCR, CALT, western toad, YEWA, BEWR, KILL, CLSW, parrot sp., desert cottontail, California ground squirrel, BGGN, RSHA, eastern fox squirrel, EUST, WREN, TUVU, ACWO, MALL, OATI, CORA, RUDU, CANG, BLPH, carpenter bee, western fence lizard, western tiger swallowtail, CATH, HUVI, PHAI, coastal whiptail, LABU, ATFL, western side-blotched lizard, NOMO, RTHA, western honey bee

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 06/11/2025 1:21 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:50	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	73 °F	1-3 MPH	10 %

Date Observed

June 11, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

MOD0 BHGR BUSH AMRO RCPA SPT0 LEGO YEWA AMCR CALT LEGO ANHU NRWS BEWR EUST ACWO
NUWO WTSW CASJ HOFI CATH OATI CALT ATFL BLPH COHA GREG MALL CANG CLSW KILL COYE RSHA
SAPH SOSP NOMO
Desert cottontail
Western toad
California ground squirrel
Western fence lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 06/18/2025 10:45 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:44	63°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:43	87 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 18, 2025

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Sam Harrison monitoring restoration crew

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Restoration crew weeding along sides of egress road in southwestern end of site. Marked LEGO-1 nest in NB Field Maps.

Incidental Species Observed

CAKI, HOOR, ACWO, CAQU, MODO, CASJ, SPTO, CALT, desert cottontail, HOFI, RSHA, AMRO, BGGN, COHA, parrots, SOSP, CATH, westerntoad, NRWS, LEGO, KILL, YEWA*, CORA, GREG, MALL, GBHE, AMCR, BUSH, BHGR, HUVI, NUWO, DOWO, WREN, OATI, Bombus californicus (male), western fence lizard, WTSW, gulf fritillary, BEWR, ALHU, DEJU, COYE, coyote, ATFL, PHAI western tiger swallowtail, CA whipsnake, NOMO, ANHU, RTHA flying with fresh CAGS kill, common buckeye, cabbage white

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 06/27/2025 9:45 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	59°F	1-3 MPH	0 %
End of Day	09:39	73 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

June 27, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO MODO CAQU HUVI CORA CANG NUWO CALT SPTO KILL RSHA MOCH YEWA BUSH BLPH GREG
GBHE WREN MALL COYE BHGR BEWR HOFI DEJU SOSP NRWS LEGO CASJ

Parrots

Coyote pup

Coastal whiptail

Side-blotched lizard

Western fence lizard

Cottontail

CA ground squirrel

Western toad