



May 5, 2026
(2023-005.13/006)

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

Subject: April 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 April 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 April 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 April 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
4/7/26	JC	0710	1035	55	68	5	5	0	1-3
4/14/26	JP	0655	1100	49	63	50	10	0-3	0-3
4/22/26	JP	0710	1100	50	62	50	50	0-3	0-3
4/30/26	JP	0659	1100	53	69	100	0	0-3	0-3


JC = Jill Coumoutso, JP = Jillian Petersen

Least Bell’s vireo was not observed by Designated Biologists during the April 2026 breeding season surveys. One brown-headed cowbird (BHCO) within a BHCO trap located on the site was observed by Designated Biologists during the April 2026 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell’s vireo conducted in April 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: May 5, 2026

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: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 04/07/2026 10:11 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	55°F	0 MPH	5 %
End of Day	10:35	68 °F	1-3 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

April 7, 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

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

CAQU, CALT, EUST, EUCD, CAKI, BLPH, BUSH, YRWA, CATH, SOSP, ANHU, WEFL, CANG, ACWO, BEWR, HOFI, OCWA, BGGN, OATI, LEGO, *YEWA, BHGR, NOMO, WREN, HOOR, SPTO,
Side blotched lizard
Western fence lizard
Desert cottontail
California ground squirrel
Coyote

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jillian Petersen
Submitted Time: 04/14/2026 11:41 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:55	49°F	0-3 MPH	50 %
End of Day	11:00	63 °F	0-3 MPH	10 %

Date Observed

April 14, 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

Additional Notes

0655: Began survey. Marked yellow warbler locations.

1100: Completed survey. No LBVI, YBCH, or BHCO detected.

Incidental Species Observed

*YEWA, ACWO, CALT, BHGR, CAKI, HOFI, MODO, CAQU, SOSP, ANHU, CATH, CASJ, SPTO, LEGO, CANG, COYE, BUSH, KILL, RCAM, OATI, NRWS, MALL, RSHA, BLPH, YRWA, ALHU, OCWA, EUST, BEWR, CLSW, VGSW, WTSW, GREG, ATFL, BGGN, NUWO, EUCD, CORA, NOMO, RTHA

Swallowtail sp.

Western fence lizard

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jillian Petersen
Submitted Time: 04/22/2026 11:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	50°F	0-3 MPH	50 %
End of Day	11:00	62 °F	0-3 MPH	50 %

Date Observed

April 22, 2026

Observer Name

Jillian Petersen

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

1

Locations

In trap in southern portion on west side of reservoir.

Additional Notes

0710 - Began survey. Started going south of west side of restoration area, then turning around and going north through the remaining half of the area. Later cut across reservoir to complete eastern side.

Marked several YEWA observations, one YBCH, one BHCO. No LBVI were detected.

1100 - End of survey.

Incidental Species Observed

*YEWA, SPTO, CALT, ACWO, BHGR, CAQU, HOFI, LEGO, SOSP, BGGN, CORA, CAKI, NRWS, ANHU, BUSH, RCPA, BEWR, NUWO, EUST, BARS, CANG, CASJ, COYE, KILL, CATH, RSHA, HUVI, BLPH, AMCO, MALL, BGGN, MODO, NOMO, OATI, VGSW, BHCO, *YBCH

Red admiral

Western fence lizard

Domestic turtle sp. (carcass)

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jillian Petersen
Submitted Time: 04/30/2026 12:00 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:59	53°F	0-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	69 °F	0-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 30, 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

Additional Notes

0700 - Began survey, starting in the middle of the west side, working south and around the east side, then finishing the northern half of the west side.

1100 - Completed survey. No LBVI, BHCO, or YBCH. Many YEWA observed.

Incidental Species Observed

CAQU, *YEWA, CALT, SPTO, BGGN, BEWR, CASJ, SOSP, ATFL, CORA, RCPA, BHGR, CANG, NUWO, BUSH, HUVI, BUOR, CATH, GREG, COYE, KILL, RSHA, NRWS, HOFI, BLPH, MALL, LEGO, OATI, WTSW, EUST, WETA, VGSW, ACWO

Buckeye

Red admiral

Western toad

Western fence lizard

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel