



June 5, 2026
(2023-005.13/006)

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

Subject: May 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 May 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 May 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 May 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
5/4/26	JP	0655	1100	53	59	70	100	0-3	0-3
5/11/26	CMT	0600	1025	59	82	0	0	0-1	1-3
5/22/26	CLT	0605	1112	68	78.8	100	0	0-1	1-4
5/28/26	JC	0710	1006	51	60	80	85	1-3	1-3

JP = Jillian Petersen, CMT = Carly Taylor, CLT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

Least Bell's vireo was not observed by Designated Biologists during the May 2026 breeding season surveys. One brown-headed cowbird (BHCO) was observed by Designated Biologists during the May 2026 breeding season surveys. It was perched on wires located northwest of the project. The biologist noted that it was a male attracted to a nearby BHCO trap located on the site but it did not enter the trap.

DISCUSSION

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

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.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

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

Submitted By: Jillian Petersen

Submitted Time: 05/04/2026 11:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:55	53°F	0-3 MPH	70 %
End of Day	11:00	59 °F	0-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 4, 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. Started on the middle of the west side and headed south, went around the eastern side of the reservoir going north, then finished the northern half of the western side 1100 - Finished survey. No LBVI, YBCH, or BHCO detected. YEWA detected and marked on map.

Incidental Species Observed

WEBL, CAKI, ACWO, CALT, OATI, COYE, SPTO, CAQU, CASJ, RCPA, SOSP, CATH, LEGO, ATFL, KILL, CANG, ANHU, CORA, BEWR, *YEWA, BUSH, NRWS, HOFI, BHGR, BARS, BUOR, WTSW, RSHA, ALHU, WEFL, NUWO, EUST, WETA, VGSW, BLPH, AMCO, CLSW, MALL, OCWA, BGGN

Western fence lizard

Western toad

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

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

Submitted By: Carly Taylor

Submitted Time: 05/11/2026 12:06 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	59°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:25	82 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

May 11, 2026

Observer Name

Carly Taylor

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed two nests in the southwest of reservoir in restoration area.

1) OATI0511CMT1 - OATI pair feeding chicks in cavity.

2) BUSH0511CMT1 - BUSH pair nest building in willow.

At least 8+ YEWA individuals observed throughout restoration area. No nesting activity observed.

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO, CAKI, CALT, CAQU, CASJ, MODO, BGGN, *YEWA, MALL, HOFI, ACWO, BUSH, SOSP, CANG, AMCR, BLPH, CLSW, AMCO, PBGR, SPTO, ANHU, RCPA, BHGR, CATH, WREN, OATI, NRWS, WEFL, GREG, LEGO, KILL, WTSW, RSHA, COYE, OCWA, ATFL, ALHU, BUSH, GRRO, EUST, BEWR, DEJU

Western fence lizard

Western toad

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

Fox squirrel

Coyote

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

Submitted By: Christine Tischer

Submitted Time: 05/22/2026 5:52 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:05	68°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:12	78.8 °F	1-4 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

May 22, 2026

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

1

Locations

On wires west of NW of project. 1 male attracted to northern cage but didn't go in.

Additional Notes

0650 - 1 man dressed in all tan with Shepard mix off leash just south of Johnson Field on upper edge of riparian above wash Throughout survey: Several people with dogs off leash on trails.

1030 - Reported graffiti ridden habitat restoration sign that needs replacement to Carley Adams (Ecorp PM).

Incidental Species Observed

MODO, AMRO, BEWR, ECDO, CSJA, BUSH, LEGO, OATI, SPTO, CALT, HOFI, ACWO, NRWS, BGGN, NUWO, CEWA, BHGR, CAKI, SOSP, parrots, rooster (at stables), BLPH, ANHU, HOOR, CATH, CORA, WTSW, CAQU, MALL, KILL, ALHU, WREN, CANG (with a 4-week old chick), PBGR, COYE, AMCO, RTHA, TUVU, RSHA, 2 groups of MALL ducklings (6 onshore, 9 in water, both about 3-4 weeks old), SPSA, CLSW, VGSW, DEJU, BHCO (1 male), WEFL, EUST

Acmon blue

Checkered white

Gray buckeye

Gulf fritillary

Morning cloak

Red admiral

Western tiger swallowtail

European honeybee

Western toad

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

Brown rat

Coyote

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

Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso

Submitted Time: 05/28/2026 10:10 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	51°F	1-3 MPH	80 %
End of Day	10:06	60 °F	1-3 MPH	85 %

Date Observed

May 28, 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

SPTO, YEWA, ACWO, CAQU, EUCD, BEWR, HOFI, HOSP, BHGR, WEBL, PHAI, MODO, CALT, SPTO, SOSP, WBNU, BUSH, WEWP, WAVI, WESJ, COYE, NUWO, DOWO, BGGN, HOOR, BLPH

Western toad

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail