

May 16, 2023
(2017-116.006/12D)

Mitzi Kim Rios
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: MKimRios@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: April 2023 Summary of Least Bell's Vireo Breeding Season Surveys for the Devil's Gate Reservoir Restoration Project, in the City of Pasadena, California

Dear Ms. Kim Rios,

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 2023 by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP) for Los Angeles County Public Works' (LACPW) 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 3, 2023 and continued through April 2023 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 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

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.

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

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during April 2023. 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
04/06/23	CM	0640	0945	48	60	10	0	0-1	1-2
04/11/23	CT	0650	1100	52	73	100	5	0-1	0-2
04/19/23	JC	0730	1030	48	60	85	0	1-3	1-3
04/25/23	CT	0615	1100	59	69.3	100	40	0-1	2-4

CM = Carla Marriner, CT = Christine Tischer, JC = Jill Coumoutso

Least Bell's vireos were not observed by Designated Biologists during focused survey work in the month of April however individuals were observed by Designated Biologists monitoring onsite habitat restoration work. The dates and details of observations of least Bell's vireo made during onsite restoration work are described below.

On April 19, 2023, a least Bell's vireo was incidentally documented by the Stillwater Sciences restoration monitor. The vireo was heard singing and jumping from tree to tree. The individual was observed throughout the day and at one point was heard roughly 200 feet from work. Work in the area was paused until a new work area was cleared. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is provided in Attachment B.

DISCUSSION

Four focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in April 2023. While no observations of least Bell's vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys, one least Bell's vireo was detected on April 19, 2023 while restoration monitoring was taking place. During this observation, one vireo was heard singing, but was not observed exhibiting any nesting behaviors. Weekly focused breeding season surveys at the Project site will continue until the end of the breeding season (September 15) and Designated Biologists will closely monitor the presence of vireos onsite for evidence of breeding.

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.

If you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter report, please contact me at (714) 648-0630 or lsimpson@ecorpconsulting.com.

SIGNED: 

Lauren Simpson
Senior Biologist
ECORP Consulting, Inc.
2861 Pullman Street
Santa Ana, CA 92705

DATE: May 16, 2023

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

Attachment B: April Least Bell's Vireo CNDDDB Submission

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: OtherS
ubmitted Time: 04/06/2023 11:29 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:40	48°F	0-1 MPH	10 %
End of Day	09:45	60 °F	1-2 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 6, 2023

Observer Name

Other

Other Observers (if present):

Carla Marriner

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

YEWA observed on SW portion of the site. Maintenance crews working on both sides of the reservoir within restoration areas.

Incidental Species Observed

BUSH CALT SCJA MODO NOMO HOFI NUWO ACWO DEJU CATH LEGO AMCR SPTO YRWA WCSP
BEWR COHA WREN MALL BLPH SOSP AMRO AMGO YEWA* ALHU COYE KILL Cottontail California
ground squirrel CAGO CAQU RTHA ANHU

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 04/11/2023 11:18 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:50	52°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	73 °F	0-2 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

April 11, 2023

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Maddy and Dawn (Stillwater) monitoring on west side, Kristen (ICF) monitoring east side

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Fog at start ~100'-300' visibility. sun burning through at 0830.

Incidental Species Observed

HOWR, LEGO, BEWR, AMRO, OCWA, NUWO, YRWA, WCSP, BHGR, SPTO, RCKI, CAKI, ECDO, HOFI, MODO, BUSH, CALT, AMCR, CASJ, BGGN, COYE, OATI, ANHU, KILL, WTSW, parrots, coyote, NRWS, SOSP, YEWA, MALL, RNDU, EUST, BARS, CLSW, BLPH, CA ground squirrel, CANG, CATH, BUFF, RUDU, CAQU, WEBL, COHA, CEWA, NAWA, CORA, TUVU, alligator lizard, PSFL, eastern fox squirrel, ATFL, desert cottontail, side-blotched lizard, western fence lizard, NOMO, painted lady, ACWO, funereal duskywing, ROPI

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 04/19/2023 12:59 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:30	48°F	1-3 MPH	85 %
End of Day	10:30	60 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

April 19, 2023

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO MODO BHGR ANHU SPTO BEWR CALT OATI YWAR LEGO HUVI SOSP DEJU WREN CATH WESJ COYE
HOFI YRWA CAQU ALHU BGGN COHA AMRO Desert Cottontail California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 04/25/2023 4:25 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	69.3 °F	2-4 MPH	40 %

Date Observed

April 25, 2023

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

AMRO, MODO, CALT, CAKI, NUWO, CASJ, ACWO, SPTO, CAQU, BUSH, HOFI, BEWR, CATH, BGGN, ANHU, COHU, SWHA (circling above), BHGR, ATFL, MALL, cottontail, LEGO, NAWA, HOWR, WEBL, KILL, parrots, RTHA, WAVI, CORA, SOSP, OCWA, COHA, WTSW, coyote, alligator lizard, western fence lizard, fox squirrel, CA gr squirrel, WETA, BUOR, CEWA, PSFL, HOME, BUFF, CLSW, raccoon, EUST, BASW, NRWS, GTGR, HOOR, OATI, YRWA, AMCR

ATTACHMENT B

April Least Bell's Vireo CNDDDB Submission

