



September 15, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

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

Subject: August 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 August 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;"

Per Conservation Measure 11b of the USFWS Informal Section 7 Consultation, if sediment removal is conducted between March 15 and August 31 "twice weekly surveys for the vireo will be conducted by the biological monitor in areas of suitable habitat within 500 feet of proposed construction activities to determine the presence of vireo nest building activities, egg incubation activities, or brood rearing activities."

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 1, 2025 and continued through June 27, 2025. Between July 3 and July 9, 2025, preconstruction LBV surveys were conducted to accommodate the initiation of sediment removal activities scheduled for July 10, 2025. The results of the 2025 preconstruction surveys were negative and are presented under a separate cover.

Twice-weekly least Bell's vireo surveys per Section 7 began on July 14 after preconstruction least Bell's vireo surveys were completed, and sediment removal activities were initiated. Twice-

weekly least Bell's vireo surveys continued through the end of August 2025. The surveys 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 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

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during August 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
8/4/25	JC	0715	1015	65	75	5	10	0	1-3
8/8/25	CLT	0615	1019	68	85	0	0	0-1	1-3
8/12/25	SD	0630	1100	63	76	0	0	0-1	1-3
8/15/25	CMT	0558	1025	65	70	100	90	0-1	0
8/19/25	SS	0615	1040	68	80	10	0	0-1	1-3
8/22/25	JC	0703	1005	74	88	5	0	1-3	1-3
8/25/25	CMT	0612	1013	68	82	0	5	0	0-1
8/29/25	SD	0635	1050	64	86	0	0	0-1	1-3

JC = Jill Coumoutso, CLT = Christine L. Tischer, SD = Shelby Dunn, CMT = Carley M. Taylor, SS = Shannan Shaffer

No least Bell's vireos were observed by Designated Biologists during the August 2025 breeding season surveys. One brown-headed cowbird fledgling was observed being fed by a female hooded oriole during the August 4, 2025 breeding season survey.

On August 11, 2025, an individual least Bell's vireo was incidentally documented by the ECORP onsite restoration monitor. The least Bell's vireo was observed singing from a stand of mature

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.

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.

Fremont cottonwoods within the onsite mitigation area. The individual was heard periodically for approximately 5 minutes and then it was heard moving to the east. No nesting behaviors or evidence of breeding was observed. It was not detected again for the rest of the day. A CNDDDB submission for this observation is also provided in Attachment B.

DISCUSSION

Eight focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo conducted between August 4 and 29, 2025 did not detect least Bell's vireo in or within 500 feet of the Project site. One least Bell's vireo was incidentally observed on August 11, 2025 during restoration monitoring. During this observation, the least Bell's vireo was heard singing, but was not observed exhibiting any nesting behaviors. Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo 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.

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: September 15, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheets

Attachment B: Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDDB Submittal

ATTACHMENT A

Survey Datasheets

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 08/05/2025 2:37 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:15	65°F	0 MPH	5 %
End of Day	10:15	75 °F	1-3 MPH	10 %

Date Observed

August 4, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

1

Locations

Marked on Field Maps - adult HOOR female feeding BHCO fledgling

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, BEWR, HOFI, ANHU, BUSH, CALT, CAQU, HUVI, SOSP, CASJ, BHGR, HOOR, BLPH, YEWA, BGGN, NUWO, RSHA, SPTO, OATI, BHCO

Red-crowned parrot

California ground squirrel

Desert cottontail

Western fence lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Christine Tischer
Submitted Time: 08/08/2025 10:22 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	68°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:19	85 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 8, 2025

Observer Name

Christine Tischer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Very low bird activity except in SW willow/oak riparian and several (at least 4) RSHA throughout site.

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, AMCR, CORA, ANHU, BGGN SOSP, CASJ, HOFI, BUSH, COHA, CATH, BEWR, LEGO, AMRO, desert cottontail, CALT, MODO, CALT, CA ground squirrel, RSHA, woodrat (midden), NUWO, CAQU, BARS, WREN, domestic horse (scat, tracks), BTPI, SPTO, HOOR, DEJU, parrot, WTSW, cabbage white, western tiger swallowtail, YEWA*, CATH, HOWR, western fence lizard, ALHU, HUVI, gulf fritillary, BHGR, common buckeye, checkered white, CAKI, orange-throated whiptail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 08/12/2025 11:21 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:30	63°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	11:00	76 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 12, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

NUWO, WBNU, BGGN, BLPH, CAKI, HOFI, MODO, ACWO, BEWR, BUSH, CALT, CASJ, RSHA, LEGO, BCHU, YEWA*, COHA, DEJU, OATI, SOSP, WEFL, ALHU, CAQU, NRWS, TUVU, AMCR, RCPA, HOOR, NOMO, CATH, SPTO, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, western fence lizard, western tiger swallowtail, western side-blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Carly Taylor
Submitted Time: 08/15/2025 12:09 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	05:58	65°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	10:25	70 °F	0 MPH	90 %

Date Observed

August 15, 2025

Observer Name

Carly Taylor

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

Incidentally observed at least five YEWA singing and foraging within riparian areas on site. No nesting activity observed. All YEWA locations were marked in FieldMaps.

Incidental Species Observed

CALT, MODO, RSHA, ACWO, RCPA, CAQU, BUSH, WREN, BEWR, SOSP, AMCR, BLPH, SPTO, OATI, LEGO, NUWO, YEWA, ANHU, CORA, DOWO, HOFI, CASJ, BGGN, CATH, OCWA, RTHA, WIWA, California ground squirrel, desert cottontail, western toad

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shannan Shaffer
Submitted Time: 08/19/2025 11:28 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:15	68°F	0-1 MPH	10 %
End of Day	10:40	80 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 19, 2025

Observer Name

Shannan Shaffer

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, CALT, MODO, NUWO, COHA, coyote, ANHU, AMCR, SPTO, BLPH, RTHA, CAQU, WREN, LEGO, parrot, CASJ, BEWR, BUSH, OATI, HOOR, CORA, WTSW, ALHU, CA ground squirrel, western fence lizard, CAKI, RSHA, western toad

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Jill Coumoutso
Submitted Time: 08/22/2025 3:44 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:03	74°F	1-3 MPH	5 %
End of Day	10:05	88 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 22, 2025

Observer Name

Jill Coumoutso

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

ACWO, OATI, MODO, CAQU, CALT, CATH, BLPH, SOSP, HOFI, BUSH, HOSP, LEGO, NUWO, BEWR, SPTO, YEWA*

Red-crowned parrot

Desert cottontail

California ground squirrel

Western fence lizard

Side-blotched lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Carly Tailor
Submitted Time: 08/25/2025 12:23 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:12	68°F	0 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:13	82 °F	0-1 MPH	5 %

Date Observed

August 25, 2025

Observer Name

Carly Tailor

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

One YEWA observed during the survey. No nesting activity observed.

Incidental Species Observed

OATI, ACWO, CALT, DOWO, RSHA, BARS, CAQU, BEWR, CASJ, MODO, BUSH, CORA, ANHU, BLPH, CATH, AMCR, LEGO, RCPA, BGGN, HOFI, SOSP, HUVI, OCWA, ALHU, YEWA*, fox squirrel, California ground squirrel, common side-blotched lizard, western toad, monarch, coastal whiptail*, western tiger swallowtail, coyote, desert cottontail, western fence lizard

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 08/29/2025 10:59 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:35	64°F	0-1 MPH	0 %
End of Day	10:50	86 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

August 29, 2025

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

N/A

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

N/A

Number of Brown Headed Cowbird Observations

0

Locations

N/A

Additional Notes

N/A

Incidental Species Observed

CASJ, CALT, BUSH, RCPA, WBNU, BEWR, BUSH, ANHU, HOFI, ACWO, CAQU, BGGN, ALHU, BLPH, LEGO, NUWO, AMCR, MODO, EUST, BASW, CATH, HOFI, OATI, SOSP, YEWA*, NRWS, MOCH, OCWA, WEFL, DEJU,
Western tiger swallowtail
Eastern fox squirrel
California ground squirrel
Side-blotched lizard
Western fence lizard

ATTACHMENT B

Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDb Submittal

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
www.dfg.ca.gov/biogeodata/cnddb/



Source code JAQ25F0001
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): *08-11-2025*

Comment about field work date(s):

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer: *Daniel R. Jaques*

Affiliation: *ECORP Consulting Inc.*

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

Email: *djaques@ecorpconsulting.com*

Phone: *(949) 390-4887*

Other observers: *Sam Harrison*

DETERMINATION

Personal expertise: *Yes*

Keyed in:

Compared w/ specimen at:

Compared w/ image in:

By another person: *Christine Tischer (USFWS- and CDFW-approved LBVI biologist) reviewed audio recording of observation.*

Other:

Identification explanation:

Identification confidence: *Very confident*

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

Level of survey effort: *Observed while conducting monitoring of restoration maintenance.*

Total number of individuals: *1*

Collection? *No*

Collection number:

Museum/Herbarium:

ANIMAL INFORMATION

How was the detection made? *Heard singing*

Number detected in each age class:

1

adults

juveniles

larvae

egg mass

other

Age class comment: *Presumed adult singing, not visually observed.*

Bird site use:

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

Site use description: Foraging, no nesting behavior observed, no nesting confirmed.

What was the observed behavior? Heard singing to the northwest of the point location early in the morning in a stand of mature Fremont cottonwoods. Singing continued for approximately 5 minutes before the song was heard moving to the east.

Describe any evidence of reproduction:

SITE INFORMATION

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

Slope:

Landowner/manager: Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Aspect:

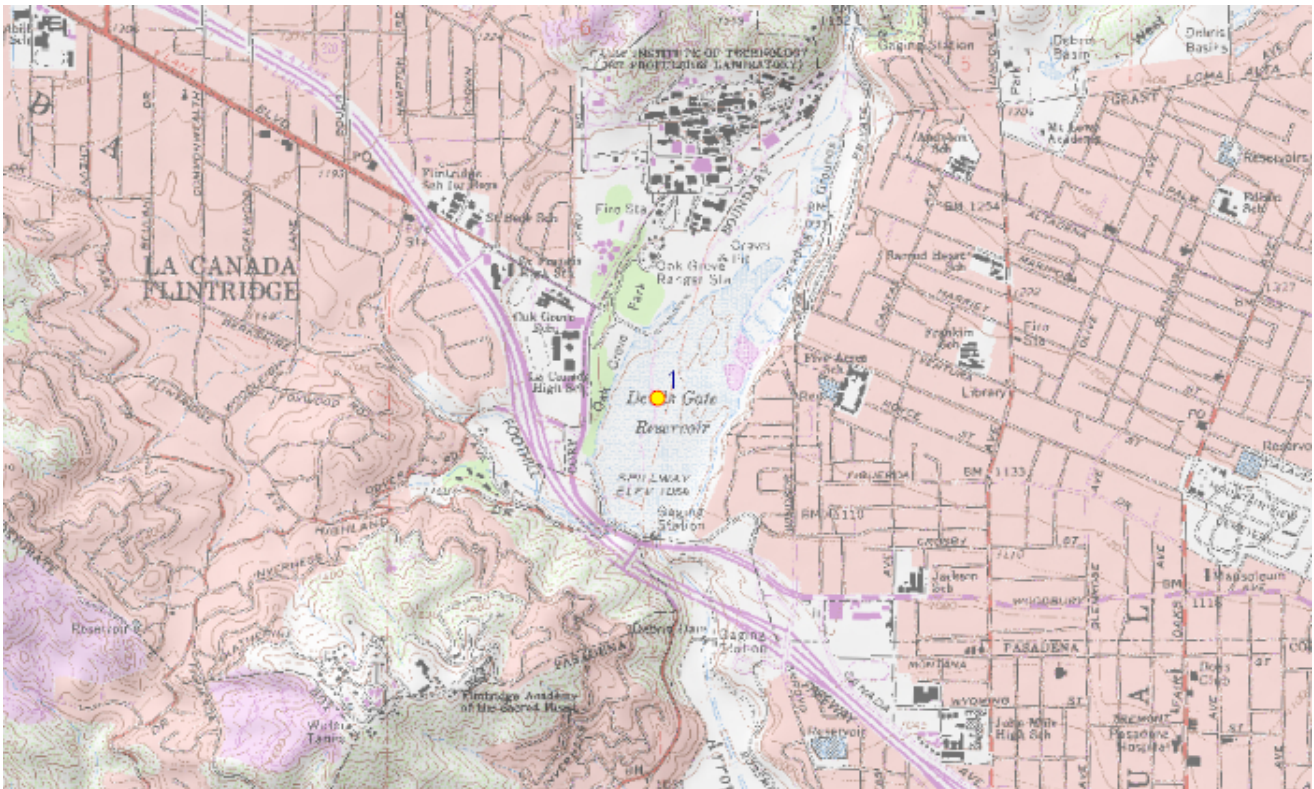
Site condition + population viability: Good

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

Visible disturbances:

Threats: Hikers and 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	1039	34.19065	-118.17491	391740	3783919	11
1	Public Land Survey	Feature Comment						
	S T01N R12W 7							

The mapped feature is accurate within: [20 m](#)

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

Mapping notes:

Location/directions comments:

Attachment(s):
