

June 5, 2024
(2023-005.07/006)

Mr. Keith Hala
Los Angeles County Public Works
Stormwater Engineering Division
Via Email: KHALA@dpw.lacounty.gov

Subject: May 2024 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. Hala,

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 2024 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 1, 2024 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 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

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.

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 2024. 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
5/8/24	LS	0635	1109	65	70	100	0	0-3	1-3
5/15/24	SD	0700	1100	61	68	100	100	0-1	0-1
5/21/24	LS	0600	1100	55	62	100	100	0-1	0-3
5/28/24	SD	0645	1100	57	70	100	30	0-1	0-1

LS= Lauren Simpson, SD = Shelby Dunn

No least Bell’s vireos were detected during the May 2024 breeding season surveys. However, an individual was observed by a Designated Biologist monitoring onsite habitat restoration work. The date and details of the observation of least Bell’s vireo during onsite restoration work is described below. Three Brown-headed cowbird individuals were observed during the May 2024 breeding season surveys.

On May 6, 2024, a male least Bell’s vireo was incidentally documented by the ECORP restoration monitor. The vireo was observed foraging and singing within the onsite mitigation area. Work in the area was paused until a new work area was cleared. No additional observations of the individual were made after the initial morning observation. 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 May 2024. While no observations of least Bell’s vireo were made during focused breeding season surveys, one least Bell’s vireo was detected on May 6, 2024 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: June 5, 2024

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: lauren_simpson
Submitted Time: 05/08/2024 12:11 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:35	65°F	0-3 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:09	70 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed
May 8, 2024

Observer Name
lauren_simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed
No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals
0

Locations

Additional Notes
Added new PSFL, LEGO, and BUSH nests to the nest map

Incidental Species Observed
SPTO, HOFI, MODO, BUSH, YEWA, ACWO, CAQU, CASJ, CAKI, BEWR, NOMO, EUST, NUWO, SOSP, BHGR, CALT, LEGO, CANG, KILL, MALL, NRWS, SPSA, AMCO, ANHU, parrot sp, Cottontail, COYE, RSHA, fox squirrel, CLSW, WTSW, BARS, PSFL, WEBL, WETA, CA ground squirrel, ALHU, HETH, western fence lizard, side blotched lizard, BLPH, RTHA

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 05/15/2024 1:17 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:00	61°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	68 °F	0-1 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 15, 2024

Observer Name

Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

1

Locations

11S 391517 3783498

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

MODO SPTO CATH CAKI CAQU SOSP HOFI CALT WTSW LEGO BEWR BHGR RCPA WEBL ACWO BUSH MALL
YEWA CASJ ANHU WREN BGGN COHA NUWO NOMO AMCR BLPH AMCO CLSW CANG RUDU NRWS COYE
BHCO HUVI RTHA Cotton tail California ground squirrel

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Lauren Simpson
Submitted Time: 05/21/2024 11:09 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:00	55°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	62 °F	0-3 MPH	100 %

Date Observed

May 21, 2024

Observer Name

Lauren Simpson

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed

No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals

0

Locations

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed

CANG, SPTO, WTSW, BEWR, YEWA, ANHU, BUFF, MALL, cottontail, KILL, RTHA, CORA, LEGO, CASJ, NRWS, AMCO, SPSA, BARS, CLSW, HOFI, CALT, DEJU, SOSP, BUSH, PSFL, fox squirrel, NOMO, WREN, Parrot sp, BHGR, AMRO, MODO, CAKI, ACWO, CAQU, NUWO, TUVU, COYE, CATH, CA ground squirrel, BGGN, ATFL, OCWA, OATI, ALHU, RUDU, PBGR, COHA

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 05/28/2024 1:17 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:45	57°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	70 °F	0-1 MPH	30 %

Date Observed
May 28, 2024

Observer Name
Shelby Dunn

Other Observers (if present):

Were Least Bell's Vireo Observed
No

Note:

Brown-Headed Cowbird Observations

Number of Individuals
2

Locations
11S 391519 3783490

Additional Notes

Incidental Species Observed
ACWO BGGN MODO CAKI BHGR BLPH CALT ALHU CLSW KILL CASJ AMCR SPTO HOFI BEWR NUWO SOSP
WAVI CORA RTHA CAQU COHA BUSH ANHU NRWS RCPA HOWR YEWA OATI BHCO LEGO CATH WEFL ATFL
WEKI NOMO WTSW MALL RUDU HUVI California ground squirrel Western toad Western fenced lizard

ATTACHMENT B

Least Bell's Vireo Observation CNDDDB Submittal

Mail to:
California Natural Diversity Database
California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov

For Office Use Only

Source Code: _____ Quad Code: _____
Elm Code: _____ Occ No.: _____
EO Index: _____ Map Index: _____

Date of Field Work (mm/dd/yyyy): _____

California Native Species Field Survey Form

Scientific Name: _____

Common Name: _____

Species Found? Yes No _____ If not found, why? _____	Reporter: _____
Total No. Individuals: _____ Subsequent Visit? Yes No	Address: _____
Is this an existing NDDDB occurrence? _____ No Unk. Yes, Occ. # _____	E-mail Address: _____
Collection? If yes: _____ Number _____ Museum / Herbarium _____	Phone: _____

Plant Information Phenology: % vegetative _____ % flowering _____ % fruiting _____	Animal Information # adults _____ # juveniles _____ # larvae _____ # egg masses _____ # unknown _____ wintering _____ breeding _____ nesting _____ rookery _____ burrow site _____ lek _____ other _____
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Location Description (please attach map AND/OR fill out your choice of coordinates, below)

County: _____ Landowner / Mgr: _____
Quad Name: _____ Elevation: _____
T _____ R _____ Sec _____, _____ 1/4 of _____ 1/4, Meridian: H M S Source of Coordinates (GPS, topo. map & type): _____
T _____ R _____ Sec _____, _____ 1/4 of _____ 1/4, Meridian: H M S GPS Make & Model: _____
DATUM: NAD27 NAD83 WGS84 Horizontal Accuracy: _____ meters/feet
Coordinate System: UTM Zone 10 UTM Zone 11 OR Geographic (Latitude & Longitude)
Coordinates: _____

Habitat Description (plants & animals) plant communities, dominants, associates, substrates/soils, aspects/slope:
Animal Behavior (Describe observed behavior, such as territoriality, foraging, singing, calling, copulating, perching, roosting, etc., especially for avifauna):

Please fill out separate form for other rare taxa seen at this site.

Site Information Overall site/occurrence quality/viability (site + population): Excellent Good Fair Poor
Immediate AND surrounding land use: _____
Visible disturbances: _____
Threats: _____
Comments: _____

Determination: (check one or more, and fill in blanks) Keyed (cite reference): _____ Compared with specimen housed at: _____ Compared with photo / drawing in: _____ By another person (name): _____ Other: _____	Photographs: (check one or more) Slide Print Digital Plant / animal Habitat Diagnostic feature May we obtain duplicates at our expense? yes no
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