



October 2, 2025
(2023-005.07/006)

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

Subject: September 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 September 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;"

Weekly focused least Bell's vireo surveys began on March 1, 2025 and continued through September 15, 2025. The September weekly 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

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

Three focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted during September 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
9/2/25	JC	0710	1000	70	83	10	75	0	1-3
9/9/25	SS	0628	1050	60	73	20	0	0-2	3-5
9/15/25	SD	0650	1100	59	80	100	0	0-1	1-3

JC = Jill Coumoutso, SS= Shannan Shaffer, TD = Taylor Dee, SD = Shelby Dunn


No least Bell's vireos or brown-headed cowbirds were observed by Designated Biologists during the September 2025 breeding season surveys.

DISCUSSION

Three focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo were conducted in September 2025. No observations of least Bell's vireo were made during the focused breeding season surveys. September 15, 2025 marked the end of the 2025 breeding season. No breeding least Bell's vireos were documented at the Project site during the 2025 season.

Weekly focused breeding season surveys for least Bell's vireo will resume in March 2026 to support ongoing habitat restoration activities occurring at the Project site.

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: October 2, 2025

Attachments:

Attachment A: Survey Datasheet

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: 09/02/2025 11:36 PM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	07:10	70°F	0 MPH	10 %
End of Day	10:00	83 °F	1-3 MPH	75 %

Date Observed
September 2, 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
MODO, ACWO, SPTO, CAQU, SOSP, BEWR, RSHA, BUSH, CALT, ANHU, OATI, HOFI, NUWO, LEGO, HUVI, red-crowned parrot, CA ground squirrel, western fence lizard, desert cottontail

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shannan Shaffer
Submitted Time: 09/09/2025 11:09 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:28	60°F	0-2 MPH	20 %
End of Day	10:50	73 °F	3-5 MPH	0 %

Date Observed
September 9, 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
Parrot, BEWR, BUSH, MODO, CASJ, CATH, ACWO, CA ground squirrel, desert cottontail, AMCR, CAQU, SPTO, BLPH, CORA, HOFI, LEGO, western fence lizard, ANHU, BHGR, RSHA, ALHU, coyote, COYE, NOMO, SOSP, WTSW, PHAI, common side-blotched lizard, NUWO

Least Bell's Vireo Log for Devils Gate (Environmental Conditions)
Submitted By: Shelby Dunn
Submitted Time: 09/15/2025 11:07 AM

	Time	Temperature (°F)	Wind Range (MPH)	Cloud Cover (%)
Start of Day	06:50	59°F	0-1 MPH	100 %
End of Day	11:00	80 °F	1-3 MPH	0 %

Date Observed

September 15, 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

ANHU, parrot sp., RTHA, NUWO, CALT, CASJ, LEGO, BEWR, OATI, AMCR, SOSP, BGGN, NOMO, WTSW, CAQU, BUSH, MODO, HOFI, SPTO, CAQU, AMCR, EUST, WAVI, WEWP, OCWA, WIWA, coastal whiptail*, western fence lizard, California ground squirrel