



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

Date: December 14, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 14, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with high winds. Temperatures ranged from 47°F in the morning to 58°F in the afternoon. Overnight, it is apparent that rain fell but according to NOAA it was not measurable (i.e. 0.00 in). However, recordable rain occurred just to the east. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing and spreading of topsoil along the concrete wall in the West Basin, grading and spreading soils in the North and Northwest Mudflat areas, pouring and forming concrete along Washington Boulevard and the Bike Path, debris and unwanted vegetation removal along Admiralty Way, trenching and laying of pipe, hauling pipe, and stockpiling of construction and vegetation debris. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area. According to nearby NOAA weather stations, rain was not recorded overnight (i.e. 0.00 in). Bank soils are damp and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:30 am. The initial biological survey begins. Three California gulls fly over. Running water is

coming into the basin at the Washington Boulevard Stormwater Inlet. Below where the water is coming in is a pool and a pump intake to pump water to the low flow sewer at the Southeast Channel. A small amount of water is present in the East Basin. One Allen's hummingbird and one American crow fly over. Yellow-rumped warblers and house finches are heard in the trees along the Bike Path. Wildlife activity was very limited, possible because of limited light.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives the bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on protection of monarch butterflies and being aware of wildlife in the work area. All 23 crew members present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, one western gull, one double-crested cormorant, and three mallard ducks fly over the Staging Area.

7:30 am. Work begins and crews prepare back hoes for work at the Northwest and Northeast Peninsulas. One worker uses a front end loader along the Bike Path. A crew with a small grader works in the West Basin while another crew manually gathers debris and unwanted vegetation along Admiralty Way. Western and California gulls fly overhead. One mourning dove flies over Washington Boulevard.

7:50 am. All work activity is focused on the West Basin. Very little wildlife activity noted except for gulls, crows, pigeons, and doves flying over. One back hoe and grader operator are working in the Northwest Mudflat area. One western and two ring-billed gulls fly over. The back hoe is now loading material into a dump truck in the Staging Area. One crow is at the Northwest Peninsula. A crew of five continue to manually gather and pile debris, rocks, and unwanted vegetation along Admiralty Way.

8:20 am. Two mallards fly over to the northwest of the project area. Two crows fly over the Staging Area. Two California gulls fly over the Basin. Now a grader is working in the Central Basin. One black phoebe and Anna's hummingbird are heard. A crew is excavating a trench and installing pipe between the Northwest Mudflat area and the Tide Gates.

8:40 am. A crew works on a concrete form at the Northeast Peninsula. Work continues on the trench and grading in the West Basin. Fill dirt is now being added to the Central Basin. Two house finches are seen near the Staging Area. Two western gulls fly over the West Basin and another two western gulls fly over the Central Basin. One yellow-rumped warbler is seen in a pine tree along Admiralty Way. One crow, one western gull, and one California gull fly over.

9:00 am. A crew of five are clearing debris and disassembling fence material at the east end, east of the Pump House. No signs of monarch butterfly activity. Two yellow-rumped warblers are seen along the Bike Path. A concrete crew is now working along Washington Boulevard. One black phoebe observed on the Washington Boulevard Stormwater Inlet. One California gull flies over the Basin.

9:25 am. A crew from Los Angeles County Vector Control inspect the drainage at Washington Boulevard and the pool that is being pumped to the low flow sewer at the east end inlet. There is a concern that standing water will provide breeding habitat for mosquitos. Fence is being removed along Washington Boulevard to allow for concrete work.

9:45 am. A total of five activities are occurring at the same time. Pipe installation, large back hoe cleaning, and grading in the West Basin. Manual debris clearing and gathering continues along Admiralty Way. Concrete work continues along Washington Boulevard. Crows and gulls continue to fly over infrequently. Five mallards fly over the Staging Area.

10:20 am. One black phoebe is foraging along the edge of the small area of water at the base of the Stormwater Inlet in the East Basin. Grading continues in the Central Basin. The entire concrete crew is on a break. The pipe, debris collection, and the large back hoe cleaning crews continue. Two rock pigeons perch on a pole above the Staging Area.

10:40 am. A crew with a small back hoe and dump truck are going around the perimeter loading debris that has been gathered and piled on top of the bank along Admiralty Way.

11:00 am. Two front end loaders are now hauling topsoil from the Staging Area to the north edge of the West Basin, along Washington Boulevard. A crew is disassembling pump piping and loading the pipe on to a trailer in the Staging Area. Two black phoebes forage in the West Basin. Three ring-billed gulls fly over the West Basin. Fifteen additional ring-billed gulls soar high above the West Basin. Two rock pigeons fly over the Staging Area. A truckload of plants is being unloaded at the Northwest Peninsula.

11:30 pm. The pipe crew completes loading the pipe and leave the site. Black phoebes continue to forage in and around the Northwest Peninsula. Plant species unloaded include southwest spiny rush, common pickle weed, salt grass, and sandy marsh sprurry.

11:40 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. The biological monitor and the construction crews return from lunch. Sediment control fence is being reinstalled at the base of the south bank along Admiralty Way. Hauling and grading of topsoil continues in the Northwest Mudflat area. A crew of seven are pouring and forming concrete along Washington Boulevard, near the Bike Path. A crew of five gather debris and pile it at the top of the bank adjacent the Southeast Channel. The temperature is 58 degrees, with a very strong wind. Cassin's kingbird, rock pigeon, black phoebe, and yellow-rumped warbler are present in the East Basin. Two ring-billed gulls fly over. One red-tailed hawk flies over the East Basin.

12:45 pm. The concrete crew is now pouring and molding along the Bike Path. A total of eleven crew members gather and haul debris along Admiralty Way. Black phoebes, Cassin's kingbird, and yellow-rumped warblers forage in the East Basin, in the mud interspersed with standing water. One great egret lands in the Central Basin and then perches on the concrete of the Stormwater Inlet. One snowy egret now lands in the Central Basin. The great egret flies away.

1:15 pm. Four monarch butterflies are identified in the Stormwater Inlet area east of the Pump House, among the Eucalyptus trees adjacent the Pump House and along the Bike Path. No worker activity is occurring nearby. The crew working along Admiralty Way continue to gather and stack debris and unwanted vegetation for hauling. Black phoebes continue to forage in the area.

1:30 pm. Windy conditions persist. Monarch butterflies are very active in spite of the strong winds. Eleven individual monarch butterflies are seen at one time.

1:50 pm. A crew of nine workers continue manually gathering debris and unwanted weed material from the Basin bank along Admiralty Way. Two small back hoe operators and one dump truck operator, make the crew number a total of 12. The cement crew continue to pour and form concrete along the Bike Path. One great blue heron flies over the West Basin. Black phoebes and yellow-rumped warblers continue to forage in the east end. Monarch butterflies persist around the Eucalyptus trees. One red-tailed hawk, several crows, and one ring-billed gull fly over the east end. Fifteen rock pigeons fly over the west end.

2:10 pm. Rubble and debris is stockpiled on top of the bank adjacent the Bike Path. The cement crew are finishing the cement and putting the fence along Washington Boulevard back up. One great egret, along with the continuing Cassin's kingbird and black phoebe, are seen in the East Basin.

2:40 pm. Additional activities along Admiralty Way include trenching, laying pipe, finish grading, and watering. One dark-eyed junco is near the fence line, along the Bike Path. The manual debris gathering crew at the east end is now made up of three individuals. Hauling and grading of topsoil continue in the West Basin. Three rock pigeons fly over the east end. Seven monarch butterflies persist in the Eucalyptus trees alongside the Bike Path, in spite of increasing winds. Black phoebes continue to forage in the east end.

3:00 pm. Palm tree branches are being blown off the trees along Washington Boulevard due to winds from 14 to 24 miles per hour.

3:20 pm. All work stops for the day. Crews being cleaning up and prepare to leave the site.

4:00 pm. All construction crew members and the biological monitor leave the site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Monarch butterflies were observed in the afternoon, flying in and around the Eucalyptus trees in the eastern end of the project site. This was in midst of extremely high winds. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of eleven.
4. Some green algae was observed in the stagnant pools of the East Basin.
5. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
6. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 14, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 14, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	2 individuals observed flying over the East Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead with 15 seen at one time
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual observed flying over the West Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2-5 individuals observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed in the East Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed in the East Basin and the Stormwater Inlet area
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	At least 1 individual observed foraging in the East Basin and the Stormwater Inlet area
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Seen on the fence line along the east edge of the staging area
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	A few individuals observed flying overhead or perched on power lines
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	1 individual observed along the Bike Path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 individual observed in Central Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 individual observed in trees along the bike path



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

Date: December 15, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 15, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 48°F in the morning to 59°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with placing and spreading of topsoil along the concrete wall in the West and Central Basins, grading, spreading and spraying of soils in the West and Central Basins, debris and unwanted vegetation removal along the banks of the East Basin and the Southeast Channel, loading and hauling of rescued plants along Admiralty Way, trenching and laying of pipe along Admiralty Way, clean up in the new concrete along the Bike Path, and stockpiling of construction and vegetation debris. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area. According to nearby NOAA weather stations, no rain was recorded overnight. Bank soils are dry and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:26 am. The initial biological survey begins. Nine gulls fly high over the East Basin. Two

cormorants fly over the West Basin. Three California gulls and two ring-billed gulls fly over the East Basin. One Brandt's cormorant flies over the Basin. Five more ring-billed gulls fly over the East Basin. One black phoebe, one yellow-rumped warbler, and two Allen's hummingbirds are identified near the Pump House. American crows are heard in the distance and three California gulls fly over the Basin.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis was placed on the protection of monarch butterflies at the east end and being aware of wildlife in the work area. All 18 crew members present sign the sign-in sheet. During the training, one great egret, one snowy egret, two crows, and three gulls fly over the Staging Area.

7:30 am. Topsoil smoothing, grading, hauling, and spraying occurs in the West Basin. Three rock pigeons fly over the West Basin. Clearing and grading activities occur along Admiralty Way. Debris and unwanted vegetation gathering continue adjacent the Southeast Channel Inlet on the Admiralty Way bank. Three gulls fly over East Basin. Three western gulls fly over the Staging Area. Two rock pigeons fly over the Basin.

7:50 am. Two crows are seen near the pines along the Bike Path. Two California gulls fly over. One yellow-rumped warbler forages near the pines along the Bike Path. No monarch butterflies are present at the east end.

8:10 am. One monarch flies near the Eucalyptus trees near the Bike Path, east of the Pump House. Allen's hummingbird, black phoebe, and yellow-rumped warbler are also present. Two western gulls and three California gulls fly over the East Basin. A group of nine monarch butterflies bask in the sun on one Eucalyptus branch hanging over the site, east of the Pump House. These appear undisturbed from the workers. Two Townsend's warblers forage in the Eucalyptus trees. Two additional monarchs fly around the edge of the Eucalyptus leaves that are in the sun.

8:40 am. Groups of three and four monarchs continue to bask in the sun on Eucalyptus leaves. They seem unaffected by the crew manually gathering rocks, debris, and unwanted vegetation into piles on top of the bank. Crows and gulls fly over the Pump House infrequently. Two crows are on the ground near the Southeast Channel. Rock pigeons perch on apartments across Admiralty Way.

9:00 am. Seven monarch butterflies continue to bask in the sun on Eucalyptus leaves. Two to three other monarchs fly around nearby, with one flying infrequently over the work area. None of the monarchs seem disturbed by the workers. Allen's hummingbird, yellow-rumped warbler, and black phoebe persist in the area. Crow calls are heard in the distance and two rock pigeons fly over the east end. One monarch is on the ground in the work area. Workers were quick to identify the monarch and to avoid disturbing the butterfly. Bio-awareness training is working. One black phoebe continues to forage in the area. A few monarchs continue to bask in the Eucalyptus leaves while a few others fly around the Eucalyptus trees.

9:30 am. One dark-eyed junco is perched just west of the Pump House. Yellow-rumped warblers and Allen's hummingbirds continue to be active in and around the Eucalyptus trees.

9:50 am. The debris clearing and stacking crew now work to the west of the Pump House. One monarch infrequently flies over the work area. Black phoebes, yellow-rumped warblers, and Allen's hummingbirds continue activity in the Pump House area. Two workers now work on piping along Admiralty Way. Topsoil spreading and grading in the West Basin has ceased.

10:25 am. The debris clearing and stacking crew continue to work toward the East Basin. A crew is also gathering and loading rescued pickleweed plants along Admiralty Way. Two men are surveying points at the east end boat ramp. One monarch flies back and forth above the Southeast Channel. An excavator is now trenching just east of the Tide Gates, along Admiralty Way. Crows continue to fly over the Basin.

10:45 am. Ten rock pigeons fly over the East Basin. One yellow-rumped warbler and two black phoebes forage in the East Basin. One Anna's hummingbird flies around the pines along the Bike Path. One yellow-rumped warbler and one dark-eyed junco are in the East Basin.

11:00 am. Two yellow-rumped warblers are present at the Northeast Peninsula. California gulls continue to fly over. The debris clearing and stacking crew continue at the edge of the East Basin, the pipe trenching and laying crew work along Admiralty Way, and a number of individuals are measuring and planning in areas recently set in concrete. Stockpiled debris is being loaded on a dumpster along the Bike Path. One Cassin's kingbird is perched on the powerline above the Washington Boulevard Stormwater Inlet.

11:25 pm. A crew is now backfilling where the new concrete walls have been created along the Bike Path.

11:30 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. Hauling and grading of topsoil continues along the Washington Boulevard side concrete wall in the Central Basin. A large front end loader and grader are being used for this work. A crew continues with buried pipe installation along Admiralty Way. The debris crew continues to work along the edge of the East Basin. Another front end loader is loading debris into the dumpster near the Bike Path. New topsoil is being hauled into the Staging Area. Four crows are now in the West Basin. One belted kingfisher perches on the powerlines above the Washington Boulevard Stormwater Inlet.

12:50 pm. The debris gathering crew is now manually hauling debris at the east end and placing it in the bucket of a front end loader to the west of the Pump House. Black phoebes, dark-eyed juncos, and monarch butterflies fly in the area around the Eucalyptus trees. Up to five monarchs are seen flying at the same time. One monarch now lands on the ground briefly. A Cassin's kingbird joins one black phoebe and one dark-eyed junco, to forage in the east end. A crew is once again loading rescued and potted plants along Admiralty Way.

1:25 pm. A few monarch butterflies continue to fly around the Eucalyptus trees, above the debris clearing workers. No disturbance to the butterflies is observed. A small pump has been added to the east end, just west of the low flow sewer. The pump is taking water out of the new boat ramp area

and discharging it into the low flow sewer to the east.

1:45 pm. Debris hauling and loading at the east end is complete. One monarch butterfly flies over the Southeast Channel, just west of the Pump House.

2:10 pm. Debris hauling and loading continues on the edge of the East Basin. A very large back hoe is now working in the Central Basin. Twenty-four crows fly over the East Basin. Rescued plant gathering and loading continues along Admiralty Way. Black phoebes and yellow-rumped warblers forage on the edge of the East Basin. Two California gulls fly over the Basin. Hauling and grading of topsoil continues on the Washington Boulevard side of the Central Basin. Rescued potted plants are being unloaded just east of the Construction Trailer.

2:45 pm. Black phoebes remain active in the East Basin. One Cassin's kingbird and one yellow-rumped warbler are active in the Southeast Channel area. Gulls fly over the West Basin area. Two yellow-rumped warblers are now at the Northeast Peninsula. One ring-billed gull and one rock pigeon fly over the East Basin. An Inspector from Los Angeles County Vector Control checks the east end slow flow sewer. A crew of four are now spreading topsoil along the Admiralty Way side of the East Basin. Two construction vehicles have developed problems. One bobcat along Admiralty Way and one small back hoe near the Bike Path.

3:15 pm. All work stops for the day. Crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site. A few try to repair the bobcat along Admiralty Way.

4:00 pm. All construction crew members and the biological monitor leave the site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

Monarch butterflies were observed during the day at the east end of the project site. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas, especially at the eastern end.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.

2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of eleven.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 15, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 15, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks; 24 seen at one time
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead with 12 seen at one time
Townsend's Warbler	<i>Setophaga townsendi</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in the east end Eucalyptus trees
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual observed on the powerline above the Stormwater Inlet
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual observed flying over the West Basin
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed flying over the West Basin
Brandt's Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax penicillatus</i>	1 individual observed flying overhead
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	2 individuals observed flying overhead
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in the muddy areas
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	At least 1 individual observed foraging in the East Basin, Central Basin, and on the powerline above the Stormwater Inlet
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Heard along Washington Boulevard
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	3-4 individuals observed along the Bike Path
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 individuals observed in Central Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	3-4 individuals observed in trees along the Bike Path



Memorandum

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*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

Date: December 16, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 16, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 59°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the West and Central Basins, debris and unwanted vegetation removal along the banks of the East Basin, loading and stockpiling of construction and vegetation debris, loading, hauling, and unloading of rescued potted plants, and slope stabilization along the Southeast Channel. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area. According to nearby NOAA weather stations, no rain was recorded overnight. Bank soils are dry and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:27 am. The initial biological survey begins. Three gulls fly high over the West Basin. Two more gulls fly over the Basin. One mallard duck flies over the West Basin. Two California gulls and two ring-billed gulls fly over the West Basin. Limited bird activity is observed early this morning, most

likely due to lower temperatures.

7:00 am. The biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis is placed on the protection of monarch butterflies at the east end and being aware of wildlife in the work area. The biological monitor praised for workers for their efforts of the previous day. A crew identified a monarch on the ground, avoided the monarch, and then later the butterfly flew away. All 18 crew members present signed the sign-in sheet. During the training, mourning doves (3), mallards (4), California gull (2), rock pigeons (4), and great blue heron (1) fly over.

7:30 am. Topsoil hauling and grading occurs in the West and Central Basins. Debris loading also takes place at the pine area near the Bike Path. House finches call from nearby palm trees and one crow flies over. One dark-eyed junco is near the Pump House.

8:00 am. Five dark-eyed juncos, one yellow-rumped warbler, one black phoebe, and one Allen's hummingbird are active in the Southeast Channel area, east of the Pump House. In addition, one juvenile golden-crowned kinglet is observed adjacent the Bike Path. Two monarchs now are flying around the Eucalyptus trees.

8:30 am. House finches and crows call from nearby properties. One California gull and rock pigeons fly over the Central Basin. Hauling and grading of topsoil continues in the Central Basin along Washington Boulevard. Debris and unwanted vegetation clearing continues along the edge of the East Basin. Workers are installing steel brackets on the concrete cross member of the Stormwater Inlet at Washington Boulevard.

8:50 am. All work activity is now occurring along the edge of Washington Boulevard in the west portion of the East Basin, the Central Basin, and the West Basin. Activities include topsoil hauling and grading, grading along concrete walls, installation of steel brackets at the Stormwater Inlet, and gathering of debris and unwanted vegetation into piles.

9:10 am. Two workers are taking measurements from the top of the large diversion berm in the middle of the West Basin.

9:45 am. Wildlife activity is low in the Basin. Rock pigeons, gulls, and crows are seen infrequently. House finches are active in palm trees along Washington Boulevard.

10:00 am. One crow, one California gull, and one western gull fly over the Basin.

10:20 am. Work is now focused, for the most part, in the Stormwater Inlet area. Clearing and grading to the west and steel bracket installation at the inlet. A few workers are also at the large diversion berm in the West Basin. One black phoebe forages just east of the Stormwater Inlet.

10:40 am. One black phoebe and one semipalmated plover forage in the East Basin. Two rock doves fly over the Central Basin. Debris hauling is now taking place alongside the Bike Path.

11:00 am. Two black phoebes and one semipalmated plover forage in the East Basin and along the

East Basin shore. Nearby debris gathering and hauling has little impact on wildlife behavior.

11:20 am. Except for a few workers walking around the diversion berm in the West Basin, all work has shifted to the East Basin. There is a topsoil spreading crew along Admiralty Way and grading and debris hauling along the Bike Path. Two mallards fly over the Staging Area.

11:40 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. Hauling and grading of topsoil continue in the Central Basin and around the Stormwater Inlet. A back hoe is now present at the gate east of the Tide Gates. The operator is digging up pavement and debris at the west gate. One yellow-rumped warbler forages in and around the rescued potted plants on the east edge of the Staging Area.

1:00 pm. Hauling and grading of topsoil at the Stormwater Inlet continues. A large back hoe has now entered the east edge of the East Basin, along Admiralty Way.

1:20 pm. A crew is now moving the large back hoe toward the east end, along the Southeast Channel, on the Admiralty Way side. One Cassin's kingbird forages along the Southeast Channel. One monarch butterfly flies around Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. American crows call from the east. One ring-billed gull flies over the east end. Two monarchs fly around the Eucalyptus trees just east of the Pump House.

1:50 pm. The large back hoes gathers and loads debris along Admiralty Way across from the Southeast Channel and Pump House. One monarch across the way does not seem impacted by the work. One black phoebe perches adjacent the Southeast Channel. Rescued potted plants are now being gathered and loaded on a truck along Admiralty Way, at the East Basin. One yellow-rumped warbler and one black phoebe forage along the Southeast Channel. A portion of the silt fence is moved downslope to give access to the large back hoe for gathering debris and loading that debris on to a dump truck.

2:05 pm. Twenty rock pigeons and two California gulls fly over the Southeast Channel. The large back hoe continues to gather and load debris. One Allen's hummingbird flies along the Bike Path. A crew is now unloading rescued potted plants, just east of the construction trailer. Grading continues at the Northeast Peninsula and near the Stormwater Inlet. One black phoebe and one Cassin's kingbird forage in the East Basin while gulls continue to fly over.

2:30 pm. Two yellow-rumped warblers forage along the Bike Path in and around a newly dumped pile of debris. One Cassin's kingbird, two black phoebes, and two yellow-rumped warblers forage along the shoreline of the East Basin. One crew is cleaning up along Admiralty Way, one crew is gathering and loading rescued potted plants along Admiralty Way, one crew continues hauling and grading topsoil at the Northeast Peninsula, and one crew with the large back hoe is smoothing the slopes along the Southeast Channel. Algae is seen in the East Basin. Dark-eyed juncos and yellow-rumped warblers forage around stacked waddles near the Bike Path. Both slate-colored and Oregon varieties of juncos are present.

3:00 pm. Clean up along Admiralty Way is complete. Unloading of rescued potted plants again occurs just east of the construction trailer. Hauling and grading of topsoil continues in the Central Basin. The large back hoe slope work continues along the Southeast Channel. One California gull and one ring-billed gull fly over the Central Basin.

3:30 pm. All work stops for the day. Crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site.

4:30 pm. All construction crew members have left and the biological monitor leaves the site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

A few monarch butterflies were observed during the day at the east end of the project site. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas, especially at the eastern end.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of two.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 16, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 16, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks; 24 seen at one time
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead with 2 seen at one time
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	1 individual juvenile feeding adjacent the Bike Path at the east end of the project site
Great-blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual seen and heard flying overhead
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	1-3 individuals flying over the Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Up to 4 flying over the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	At least 1 individual observed foraging in the Southeast Channel and East Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	Heard along Washington Boulevard
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 5 individuals observed along the Bike Path; Slate-colored and Oregon varieties present
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Up to 3 individuals observed in trees along the Bike Path
Semipalmated Plover	<i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	1 individual foraging at the edge of mud in the East Basin



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

Date: December 17, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 17, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:00 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 43°F in the morning to 62°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with grading, spreading and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, gathering and loading of soil and construction debris along the Southeast Channel, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area. According to nearby NOAA weather stations, no rain was recorded overnight. Bank soils are dry and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:28 am. The initial biological survey begins. Two California gulls fly high over the West Basin. One more California gull flies over the East Basin. Three crows perch to the east of the east gate. Yellow-rumped warblers call from trees along the Bike Path. One American coot is in the Southeast

Channel. Fifteen more gulls [ring-billed (2), California (12), and western (1)] fly over the Basin. One double-crested cormorant also flies over the Basin.

6:55 am. The biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Emphasis is placed on the protection of monarch butterflies at the east end and being aware of wildlife in the work area. Waterfowl is also mentioned as a concern, after seeing the American coot in the Southeast Channel. All 19 crew members present signed the sign-in sheet. During the training two western gulls and six rock pigeons fly over the Staging Area.

7:30 am. One crow and one California gull perch above the Staging Area. Grading and hauling of topsoil at the Northeast Peninsula continues. Truckloads of topsoil are being unloaded near the pines adjacent the Bike Path. One crow perches on a utility pole above the Bike Path. The large back hoe crew is now working on the Southeast Channel slope adjacent Admiralty Way. Another crew is loading pavement debris near the Tide Gates. One Anna's hummingbird and one yellow-rumped warbler fly along the Bike Path. Two crows fly over the East Basin.

7:50 am. Two mourning doves fly over the Southeast Channel. One black phoebe forages along the Southeast Channel. One crew moves the silt curtain downslope to give the large back hoe access for slope smoothing work. Two Allen's hummingbirds fly in and around the Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. Five dark-eyed juncos forage near the east gate. Two yellow-rumped warblers also forage along the Southeast Channel.

8:10 am. Rock pigeons, ring-billed gulls, mourning doves, crows, and California gulls fly over the east end of the project area.

8:30 am. A flock of fifteen bushtits flies over and forages near the east gate. One immature golden-crowned kinglet is also foraging with the bushtits. Juncos, Allen's hummingbird, and a black phoebe are active in and around the Pump House. No monarchs are seen at this time. Two house finches fly near the east gate.

9:00 am. One monarch butterfly flies along the lower branches of the Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. One yellow-rumped warbler forages east of the Pump House. The coot continues to swim in the Southeast Channel. Cassin's kingbird, black phoebe, and juncos forage along the edge of the Southeast Channel. Three crows and one western gull fly over the East Basin.

9:25 am. Topsoil work continues at the Northeast Peninsula and slope grading continues along the Admiralty Way side of the Southeast Channel. Gulls continue to fly over infrequently. One yellow-rumped warbler lands in the pines along the Bike Path. Now a crew is working on the edge of the Bike Path. An AT&T service person stops by briefly at the Pump House. One snowy egret flies over the East Basin and the Southeast Channel. A crew of three men from Los Angeles County Public Works enter the Pump House area.

10:00 am. One Anna's hummingbird, one yellow-rumped warbler, one Cassin's kingbird, and two black phoebes are active between the Bike Path and the Southeast Channel, west of the Pump House. Three crows perch about the east gate. One monarch butterfly flies along the Southeast

Channel. The Los Angeles County Public Works crew is letting water run out from under the Pump House and into the Southeast Channel.

10:20 am. Back hoe work continues on the Admiralty side of the Southeast Channel. Workers near the large back hoe are cleaning up the slope and reinstalling silt fence and waddles along the Southeast Channel. One bobcat and one front end loader are moving gravel near the Bike Path. One yellow-rumped warbler and one black phoebe forage in the East Basin. Topsoil work continues at the Northeast Peninsula.

10:40 am. Two yellow-rumped warblers fly near the pines adjacent the Bike Path. Phoebes and one kingbird forage along the Southeast Channel. Three monarchs fly near the Pump House, one monarch flies along the Southeast Channel, and one monarch basks in the sun on a Eucalyptus tree. One monarch now lands in the middle of the Southeast Channel. All the monarchs appear not to be impacted by worker activity.

11:00 am. Kingbird, phoebe, and yellow-rumped warbler persist in and around the Southeast Channel.

11:35 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. Hauling and grading of topsoil continue in the Central Basin and around the Stormwater Inlet. A back hoe continues to excavate just west of the Tide Gates. Work on the slope at the Southeast Channel continues.

1:00 pm. Hauling and grading activities are now focused on the Northwest Peninsula. One front end loader has been added to the large back hoe crew along the Southeast Channel. Three yellow-rumped warblers fly over the Southeast Channel. One Cassin's kingbird and one black phoebe forage in the Southeast Channel.

1:25 pm. One black phoebe forages in the East Basin.

1:50 pm. Four crows mob one juvenile red-tailed hawk flying over the East Basin. Gulls and pigeons also fly over the East Basin. Six crows fly over the Southeast Channel. One black phoebe perches at the Stormwater Inlet. One northern mockingbird flies into a palm tree on Washington Boulevard at the Stormwater Inlet. All heavy equipment activity is now focused on the Northwest Peninsula and along the Southeast Channel.

2:20 pm. Workers are moving potted plants from the Northwest Peninsula and placing them on the Diversion Berm. Gulls, crows, and pigeons continue to fly over the Basin infrequently. Two crows are perched on top of a utility pole above the Bike Path. One yellow-rumped warbler is present at the Northeast Peninsula. Three Los Angeles County Vector Control staff visit the Stormwater Inlet at Washington Boulevard.

2:50 pm. Work continues to focus around the Northwest Peninsula area. Very little wildlife activity observed in the Central and West Basins. One black phoebe is perched just below the Northwest

Peninsula.

3:30 pm. Two black phoebes forage at the Northwest Peninsula. One California gull flies over the Basin.

3:40 pm. All work stops for the day. Crews begin cleaning up and prepare to leave the site.

4:00 pm. All construction crew members have left and the biological monitor leaves the site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

A few monarch butterflies were observed during the day at the east end of the project site. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas, especially at the eastern end.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of five.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the Basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 17, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 17, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	1 individual spent much of the morning in the Southeast Channel
Red-tailed Hawk	<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	1 juvenile identified being mobbed by crows
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual observed overhead
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual observed overhead
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the Basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; Very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead
Bushtit	<i>Psaltriparus minimus</i>	Flock of 15 observed feeding adjacent the Bike Path
Golden-crowned Kinglet	<i>Regulus satrapa</i>	1 individual juvenile feeding adjacent the Bike Path at the east end of the project site with bushtits
Great-blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual seen and heard flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Up to 2 at a time flying over the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	1 individual observed in a palm tree on Washington Boulevard
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	At least 1 individual observed foraging in the Southeast Channel and East Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	2 individuals observed flying at the east end
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 5 individuals observed along the Bike Path; Slate-colored and Oregon varieties present
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 Individuals observed along the Bike Path
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Up to 3 individuals observed in trees along the Bike Path



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

Date: December 18, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 18, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, beginning at 6:10 am and ending at 4:00 p.m. Weather conditions were mostly sunny with calm winds. Temperatures ranged from 48°F in the morning to 69°F in the afternoon. Overnight, there was no rain. No rain was observed today.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with hauling, grading, and spraying of topsoil in the vicinity of the Northeast and Northwest Peninsulas, unloading new plants, measuring and clearing near the boat ramp at the east end of the Southeast Channel, and loading of construction debris near the Tide Gates. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

6:10 am. Biological monitor arrives onsite to conduct initial assessment. The construction trailer gate is open and several crew members are present in the Staging Area. According to nearby NOAA weather stations, no rain was recorded overnight. Bank soils are dry and water levels in the Basin have not increased.

6:25 am. The initial biological survey begins. Two gulls fly over the Staging Area. One western gull flies over Washington Boulevard. One yellow-rumped warbler flies away from the Northeast Peninsula. Eight western gulls and one ring-billed gull fly over the Staging Area.

6:50 am. The biological monitor gives bio-awareness training to the construction crew. Last night, work continued a bit later than usual and this morning the crew wanted to start a bit earlier. Emphasis is placed on the protection of monarch butterflies at the east end and being aware of wildlife in the work area. Waterfowl is also mentioned as a concern, after seeing the American coot in the Southeast Channel the previous day. All 24 crew members present signed the sign-in sheet.

7:20 am. Hauling and grading of topsoil is focused on the Northwest Peninsula area. Access to this area is through the West Basin in the northwest corner of the project site. One crow flies over the Staging Area. One black phoebe and one yellow-rumped warbler forage at the Southeast Channel. A crew of six workers work at the east end boat ramp. Two American crows fly over the Southeast Channel, east of the Pump House. Five crows land on the Admiralty Way side bank of the Southeast Channel. Two dark-eyed juncos forage at the east end. One Allen's hummingbird flies around the Eucalyptus trees on the Bike Path. No monarch butterfly activity is observed.

8:00 am. Three mourning doves fly near the east end. One rock pigeon flies over the East Basin.

8:20 am. Topsoil hauling occurs at the Northeast Peninsula. One monarch flies over the Southeast Channel. Two water pumps from the base of the boat ramp and discharge into the Southeast Channel. House finches call from along Admiralty Way.

8:45 am. Mourning doves and California gulls fly over the east end. Black phoebe, Allen's hummingbird, and yellow-rumped warbler fly and forage in the Southeast Channel area. Hauling, grading, and spraying of topsoil continues at the Northwest Peninsula and at the west side of the Stormwater Inlet. Three crows fly over the West Basin. Seven crows land just east of the Staging Area. One black phoebe forages on the east side of the Stormwater Inlet. One Anna's hummingbird is heard along the Bike Path.

9:15 am. Cassin's kingbird, black phoebe, yellow-rumped warbler (2), and crow (2) forage near the Southeast Channel. Two monarchs fly at the eastern edge of the Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. Only two workers, taking measurements, remain at the east end boat ramp. One Anna's hummingbird flies near the pines along the Bike Path. Kingbird, phoebe, and yellow-rumped warbler forage along the East Basin shoreline. A truck delivery of new plants is being unloaded at the west edge of the West Basin. Hauling, grading, and spraying of topsoil continues at the Northeast Peninsula, the Northwest Peninsula, and on the west side of the Stormwater Inlet.

9:50 am. Topsoil work continues on the Northwest Peninsula. Limited topsoil work continues at the Northeast Peninsula and near the Bike Path. There is very little wildlife activity in the Basin at this time. One crow perches on a power line at the west end of the West Basin.

10:20 am. Topsoil work remains primarily focused on the Northwest Peninsula. Unloading of new plants continues at the west edge of the West Basin.

11:00 am. One yellow-rumped warbler flies in the West Basin. Unloading of new plants at the west end of the West Basin continues. The topsoil crews seem to be protecting the mudflat area soils

between the Northwest Peninsula and the Northeast Peninsula. A small back hoe is now being used in the east end boat ramp area, east of the Pump House. One yellow sulfur butterfly flies across the Stormwater Inlet.

11:30 am. One black phoebe and two spotted sandpipers forage in the East Basin.

11:40 am. All crews and the biological monitor break for lunch.

12:20 pm. Work resumes at the Northwest Peninsula and the Northeast Peninsula. One yellow-rumped warbler is heard along the Bike Path. One crow flies over the Bike Path. One black phoebe and one Cassin's kingbird forage along the Southeast Channel. Two monarch butterflies fly around the Eucalyptus trees that are along the Bike Path. One ring-billed gull and one California gull fly over the Basin.

12:50 pm. Two workers with a small back hoe continue work at the boat ramp. Crows call from a distance. Rock pigeons, crows, and house finches are active in the area. Five monarchs are now flying in and around the Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. One water pump is now pumping water from the base of the boat ramp into the Southeast Channel, to the west.

1:20 pm. Three monarchs continue to fly at the east end of the Eucalyptus trees along the Bike Path. Monarchs are not impacted by the ongoing work at the boat ramp. One yellow-rumped warbler is heard from along the Bike Path. Yellow-rumped warblers and black phoebes forage along the edge of the East Basin. Gulls and crows continue to fly over the Basin infrequently. One monarch flies and lands in the East Basin.

1:50 pm. One large back hoe is being loaded in the West Basin to be taken off site. Two western gulls and one crow fly over the East Basin. Two crows perch on a utility line along the Bike Path. One yellow-rumped warbler flies into a pine along the Bike Path. The crew of two at the boat ramp is now measuring and manually digging at the base of the boat ramp.

2:00 pm. One western gull flies over the Stormwater Inlet. One crow lands at the Stormwater Inlet. Two black phoebes forage in the East Basin.

2:30 pm. Twelve rock pigeons, one western gull, and one crow perch in the Staging Area vicinity.

3:00 pm. Most work continues along the Washington Boulevard side of the West Basin, Central Basin, and the Stormwater Inlet. One crew is also at the Tide Gates. Work along Washington Boulevard has to do with topsoil hauling, grading, and spraying. One small back hoe digs at the Northeast Peninsula. One ring-billed gull flies over the West Basin.

3:20 pm. The topsoil crew has finished for the day. A crew at the Tide Gates continues to work.

3:30 pm. The crew at the Tide Gates has now finished. All workers begin clean up and prepare to leave the site.

4:00 pm. All construction crew members have finished for the day and the biological monitor leaves the site.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

No savannah sparrows, and therefore no potential Belding's savannah sparrows, were observed today.

A few monarch butterflies were observed during the day at the east end of the project site. No butterflies or other wildlife were harmed during construction. Construction crews were reminded to be on the lookout for any monarchs that fly into active work areas, especially at the eastern end.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.
2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am, with the exception of American crows, black phoebes, and gulls. Wildlife activity often increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Monarch butterflies were observed today. The highest number observed was a total of five.
4. Waterfowl and wading birds have routinely been observed flying over the Basin and landing to the northwest in Venice's canals. These canals, the marina, and the Ballona Wetlands Ecological Reserve are areas where some birds may have temporarily relocated while construction occurs at the Basin.
5. Wildlife activity largely consists of flyovers and occurs around the periphery of the project site; relatively little activity is observed within the basin itself. Wildlife activity is concentrated along Admiralty Way and Washington Boulevard, and near the bike path and Yvonne Burke Park.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 18, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 18, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
Spotted Sandpiper	<i>Actitis macularius</i>	2 individuals observed foraging in the East Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead, perching on power line poles, and exploring the basin banks
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Several individuals; very common flying overhead
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Many individuals observed flying overhead
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Up to 3 at a time flying over the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south and west of the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Several observed flying from perch-to-perch throughout the Basin; especially feeding in and adjacent to muddy areas
Cassin's Kingbird	<i>Tyrannus vociferans</i>	At least 1 individual observed foraging in the Southeast Channel and East Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Dendroica coronate</i>	Several individuals observed flying from perch to perch and in trees throughout the Basin
House Finch	<i>Carpodacus mexicanus</i>	2 individuals observed flying at the east end
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 5 individuals observed along the Bike Path; Slate-colored and Oregon varieties present
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	1 Individual observed along the Bike Path
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Up to 3 individuals observed in trees along the Bike Path



Memorandum

To: Rick Sun, Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

*From: Wendy Katagi, CDM Smith
Francesca Massarotto, SWCA Environmental Consultants*

Date: December 19, 2015

Subject: Draft Daily Biological Monitoring for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project

Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on December 19, 2015, for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. Information regarding the regulatory drivers and methodology of daily biological monitoring can be found in the Biological Monitoring – Introduction and Methods for Phase 2 Construction Memo, dated June 23, 2015.

Biological monitoring was conducted by Francesca Massarotto, SWCA biologist, beginning at 7:00 am and ending at 3:20 p.m. Weather conditions during the day were clear in the morning and gradually became mostly cloudy by the afternoon with temperatures ranging from 46°F in the morning to a high of 63°F by noon. No measureable rain was recorded during the workday. Sprinkling began only after the site was locked back up and the crew was already gone.

During the daily monitoring, the biologist observed activities associated with earthmoving and soil compaction around the north side of the Basin along the new cement retaining wall. Construction activities around the flood and tide gates were also observed. All crews were overseen by the Contractor Superintendent and the Inspector of Record.

The following sections provide the biologist's field-log notes, with observations of the day's activities and wildlife presence and behavior.

Biologist's Field Log

7:00 am. Biological monitor arrives on site. Most of the crew is present and the gate is already open for entering the construction site.

7:10 am. The biological monitor gave the bio-awareness training to the site superintendent and his crew of 9 workers.

7:20 am. Potted plant delivery on the east side of the Basin via the Washington Boulevard truck entrance.

Mr. Rick Sun
December 19, 2015
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7:30 am. Wildlife present on the east side Basin include Yellow-rumped Warblers, and Black Phoebes foraging on the site and Anna's Hummingbirds, Allen's Hummingbirds, American Crows, and Western Gulls flying in and out of the project area around the trees.

7:45 am. The crew is spraying down the areas before beginning construction activities to prevent blowing dust, while others survey and take measurements.

8:00 am. The crew has begun the earth moving activities using the mini dozers on the north side of the Basin west of the storm drainage, compacting the soil around the new retaining wall and on the large mound around the electric poles.

8:25 am. Crew continues to add soil--compacting it using the heavy machinery and hand-tools while slowly making their way westward along the cement wall.

9:00 am. The LACDPW Inspector of Record and the SoCal Stormwater Solutions Monitor have arrived at the site.

9:30 am. Crew continues compacting soils in a westward direction. A Black Phoebe and a Yellow-rumped Warbler forage in the eastern channel, while a male Anna's Hummingbird displays above the pepper trees offsite.

10:00 am. The crew lead supervisor arrives onsite bringing additional supplies.

10:15 am. The sweeper/scrubber truck is being used to wash the parking lot outside of the site due to the dirt tracked in by the vehicles bringing extra dirt in from the opposite side of the Basin.

10:20 am. A Western Sandpiper forages among the shallow waters in the Central Basin. A Black Phoebe continues to forage nearby it.

10:30 am. A Monarch butterfly enters from the northwest heading east passed the stationary equipment before leaving the site.

10:35 am. An Ash-throated Flycatcher forages over the eastern channel.

10:55 am. The Monarch returns from the northeast and forages in the Basin above the muddy patches where no vehicles are anywhere present. And it remained in the area for over 10 minutes moving over the Basin and the pines. A second Monarch entered from the northwest going east, paused for five minutes in the pine and then moved out of the site going east over the pepper trees.

11:05 am. Two Black Phoebes forage over the East Basin.

11:15 am. One crewmember measures and surveys the completed and compacted locations as the rest of the crew moves west.

11:45 am. The crew is stopping work and breaks for lunch. An Ash-throated Flycatcher forages in the west.

12:15 pm. A Great Egret flies over the Basin from the southeast towards the northwest.

12:20 pm. A Monarch flies over the resting crew in the parking lot coming from the north going south.

12:30 pm. Crew is back to work.

12:32 pm. Another Monarch flies over the West Basin from the northwest going southeast into the pines near the tide gates.

1:00 pm. Most of the crew continues to compact, while a few others work on building catwalks over the tide gates, and removing the old trash grates over the eastern channel floodgate.

1:30 pm. A Yellow-rumped Warbler forages within the pair of pines on the south side of the Basin.

1:45 pm. Another Yellow-rumped Warbler forages in the northeast pines.

2:00 pm. Two Black Phoebes and an Ash-throated Flycatcher forage over the East Basin, with the Western Sandpiper continuing to forage in the shallow water around them.

2:30 pm. The crew has reached the west side of the Basin, now compacting the area around the western set of electric poles.

2:47 pm. Four Mallards fly over the Basin from the northeast to the west.

3:00 pm. Finished for the day, the crew preps the site for rain: covering the large dirt pile on the lot in plastic sheeting and sandbags, gathering trash in the area, and covering certain equipment.

3:20 pm. All crew out and the site fences are locked up.

Additional Observations

No Black Skimmers, Osprey, or California Least Terns were observed today.

Conclusions

Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Biological awareness training emphasizes caution to avoid harm to birds and wildlife in and

around the Basin during construction activities. In general, wildlife tends to slowly move away from an area when crews approach to conduct work activities. They return to the area once the crews move on.

2. In general, wildlife is most active in the morning with a dramatic decrease in observed wildlife activity after 10:00 am. Wildlife activity increases slightly in the late afternoon.
3. Most of the individual birds stayed in the wet areas of the Basin throughout the day undisturbed by the activities around them. All Monarchs that entered the site stayed out of the active construction areas, preferring the edges of the Basin where the trees are or foraging down near the muddy patches of water in the east Basin.

Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on December 19, 2015.

Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on December 19, 2015		
Common Name	Scientific Name	Comments
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Very common; flying overhead and outside of site
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 observed flying over the Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	2 observed foraging in the Basin
Western Sandpiper	<i>Calidris mauri</i>	1 observed foraging in the Basin
Ash-throated Flycatcher	<i>Myiarchus cinerascens</i>	1 observed foraging in the Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	2 observed singing and displaying near the Basin
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 observed singing around the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	2 observed foraging in and around the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Very common; observed flying overhead and on structures to the south of Basin