



## Memorandum

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

*From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 19, 2015*

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

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 19, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## Methods

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist (i.e., ornithologist) on January 19, 2015, beginning at 7:15 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed stump and tree cutting, debris hauling, and stump hauling activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several previously-felled trees into manageable sections and manually hauling branches and cut material. Today's work included cutting a large felled eucalyptus tree along Admiralty Way and a number of felled palm trees along the north boundary. Two chain saws, a Case Uniload, and a dump truck were the main large equipment used by the crew today.

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

7:15 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for initial biological survey. This initial survey for this biologist includes observations of American crow, waterfowl (American wigeon, gadwall, lesser scaup, bufflehead, mallard), American coot, snowy egrets, gulls (California and western), eared grebe, double-crested cormorant, rock pigeons, and Anna's hummingbirds. The waterfowl was dominated in numbers by American wigeon (31) and lesser scaup (20). No monarch butterflies were observed.

7:45 am. The Biologist meets Marcy Diaz, the head of the field crew.

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8:00 am. The Biologist goes over wildlife protection measures and has each of the four crew members sign the sign-in sheet. Crews begin manually hauling previously-cut material from the south shore to the staging pile in the southeast corner of the site with use of a Case Uniloader. The crew chainsaws larger limbs to small, more manageable sizes.

8:05 am. The Biologist notes a black phoebe and a number of dark-eyed juncos near the pump house. The juncos were pecking and searching for food on top of the wrapped up wattles. A number of pictures were taken and three American Crows flew overhead.

8:15 am. Wood hauling commences from a wood pile along Admiralty Way to a pile of stumps and woody debris just inside the East Gate. Three Rock pigeons are observed flying overhead and a number of American crows are curious but are content to view from the opposite bank or on top of light poles.

8:30 am. Two new crew members arrive and are signed in. Wigeon and scaup are seen below the haul area, while crows continue to be curious. A yellow-rumped warbler is also seen near the pump house.

9:00 am. The activities of loading and hauling stumps does not appear to be disturbing birds of the area. A male Anna's hummingbird shows sight fidelity to trees outside the fence to the north opposite the walking and bike path. More pictures are taken, rock pigeons are observed on top of the edge of apartments on the south side of Admiralty Way. A number of small fish are seen surface feeding near the east outflow.

9:30 am. In addition to the loading and hauling along Admiralty Way, now chain sawing of large eucalyptus logs begins. Waterfowl down in the Basin move off a bit, but no other disturbance is noted.

9:40 am. Marcy leaves with a loaded truck of woody debris to go to the landfill for dumping there. The waterfowl seem to be acclimating to the chain saw activity.

10:00 am. A number of birds are observed including California gull, black phoebe, American coot, American wigeon, willet, and lesser scaup. American wigeon, and to a lesser extent, American coot have been loafing and feeding in previously cleared areas on the north bank near the still standing pines.

10:11 am. No birds at this point seem interested in the stump cutting and loading activities. Anna's hummingbird activity is noted outside and north of the fence.

10:17 am. Chain saw activity has stopped temporarily.

10:20 am. Wendy Katagi called and spoke to the Biologist. The Biologist provided Wendy an update on the crew's plans for the day, for Tuesday, and for Wednesday. Also discussed was the thought that only one wildlife observer would be needed this week.

11:00 am. The Biologist spoke with Marcy and confirmed the planned activities for the next three days. Today stump cutting and hauling, Tuesday mulching and chipping, and Wednesday stump grinding.

11:15 am. Two monarch butterflies are seen flying to the east of the pump house.

11:20 am. Three monarchs flew around in the eucalyptus trees above the east outflow and then flew outside the fence to the north.

11:30 am. Three to five monarch butterflies persist near the eucalyptus trees outside the fence to the northeast of the pump house.

11:35 am. Four of the cutting crew take a break for lunch.

12:30 pm. One monarch remains in the area of the eucalyptus trees near the east outflow, outside the fence to the north. No chain saws are running at this time. Hauling of cut stumps and woody debris continues, with another truckload headed to the landfill.

12:45 pm. Waterfowl closest to the stump haul area has decreased to a few scaup, coot, and gadwall. A breeze from the west has picked up considerably.

12:50 pm. A chain saw is started up again.

1:00 pm. Three monarchs persist near the east gate and the growing stump and debris pile there. Each time the Case Uniloader comes, the flying monarchs dart away to the adjacent eucalyptus trees. One male Allen's hummingbird is also present for a short time. A northern mockingbird also checks out the pile quickly and then flies outside the fence to the north. Crows continue to fly overhead.

1:20 pm. The levels in the Basin are falling considerably.

1:34 pm. One snowy egret flew, landed, flew, and landed as he headed east toward the east outlet, near the stump and debris piles. After checking the water, the egret flew back to the west.

1:38 pm. Up to five monarchs continue to be active near the east gate. Sometimes landing on the ground for a short period and then flying north towards eucalyptus trees outside the fence and the two eucalyptus trees inside the fence that will remain until the monarchs leave for the season.

2:00 pm. Along with the 4-5 monarchs persisting in and around the eucalyptus trees near the east gate, four dark-eyed juncos were seen in the same trees. The Basin tide continues to fall.

2:11 pm. One of the crew is moving and stacking cut palm logs adjacent the middle inlet that goes under Washington Boulevard. Waterfowl closest to this location do not seem to notice as they are taking advantage of the shallow water to feed. Puddle ducks (i.e., mallard, gadwall, wigeon) along with coots and scaup are “tipping up” to access the shallows for food. Also seen in the area are snowy egret, mourning dove, American crow, California gull, dark-eyed junco, American robin, and rock pigeon, with 14 seen near the high rise apartments.

2:34 pm. Two more workers are now at the middle inlet working on the downed palm trees. The waterfowl have moved to the far west of the Basin, Two snowy egrets seemed to survey the entire Basin, first from west to east and then from east to west. A willet is also seen feeding.

3:00 pm. Now the worker with the Case Unloader is also working just east of the middle inlet. Crows are observed overhead along with eight coots and four gadwall. The low tide is impacted bird behavior more than any of the work going on.

3:04 pm. A comprehensive survey was conducted of the birds now squeezed into the west end of the Basin due to the shallow or non-existent water in other parts of the Basin. Gadwall (12), lesser scaup (52), American wigeon (10), bufflehead (1), American coot (10), eared grebe (1), snowy egret (1), and mallard (2).

3:15 pm. A peregrine falcon is observed hunting rock pigeons flying around the top of the high rise apartments on the south side of Admiralty Way.

3:25 pm. One ring-billed gull, one willet, and five American wigeon are seen in the middle mudflat of the Basin.

3:30 pm. All crew are now working at the stump and debris pile near the east gate. Major work is to load the truck one last time for the day and to cut up a very large palm tree log.

4:00 pm. Fog is starting to roll in. Gulls seen flying overhead include California, ring-billed, and western.

4:10 pm. A black phoebe flies to the east outlet area, near the active work crew, to observe.

4:30 pm. Crew has packed up for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, monarch butterflies were also observed. No other wildlife species were observed.

No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary.

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

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 19, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 male foraging perching near the Pump House
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Up to 10 foraging throughout Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on lamp poles, and flying over Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Up to 31 individuals foraging in Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Up to 6 individuals observed around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging around Basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Flyovers during the day
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 20 observed foraging in eastern portion of the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual in the northeast portion of the Basin
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	4 individuals foraging throughout the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Up to 12 individuals foraging in Basin
Gull	<i>Larus sp.</i>	Several flyovers; 4 landed in eastern and central portions of Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Numerous heard in the northern and western portions of Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Up to 52 foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed, particularly on power lines in the northern and western portions of the basin
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	One individual foraging in the Basin
Northern Mockingbird	<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>	One individual checking out the debris piles near the east gate
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Hunting rock pigeons around the tops of the high rise apartments
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rises south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	Up to 2 individuals foraging in Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Flyovers during the day
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual in the west portion of the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	1 observed near the Pump House - numerous heard along the north fence line

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 19, 2015, during tree removal activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed. As the Basin transitions from a closed canopy to an open system, a larger number of ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds are being observed and a smaller number of songbirds are being observed. The greatest songbird density is located near the bike path along the eastern fence of the site.
2. Several monarchs were observed at the site. The number of monarchs observed on January 19 ranged from 1-5. Monarchs continue to be primarily using the Eucalyptus trees near the eastern end of the site, along the bike path. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree cutting activities conducted at the site.
3. As noted previously, monarchs were again observed flying around and landing, often moving from tree to tree both inside and outside the fence. This indicates that the Eucalyptus trees outside the fence provide directly adjacent habitat for monarchs to that afforded by the 2 trees inside the fence.
4. For the most part, tree cutting activities are not resulting in flee responses from nearby wildlife. Wildlife tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach. They return to the area once the crews move on.
5. Despite the removal of most of the trees on-site, water quality and clarity in the basin was relatively high. While the implementation of E&S controls like fiber rolls play a role, it appears that the slopes of the Basin are stable and do not erode easily. A very strong low tide exposed a high percentage of mudflats in the Basin.
6. New grasses are rapidly colonizing the exposed banks and large numbers of wigeon and coot have been observed foraging on the young grass shoots.



## Memorandum

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

*From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 20, 2015*

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

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 20, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## Methods

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist, (i.e., ornithologist) on January 20, 2015, beginning at 7:30 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed stump and tree cutting, debris and stump hauling, and chipping activities within the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several previously-felled trees into manageable sections, manually hauling branches and cut material, and then chipping smaller woody debris. Today's work included three loads of stumps etc. hauled off with a large dump truck and three truckloads of chipped material being hauled off. Two chain saws, a Case Unloader, a large dump truck, a smaller dump truck, a chipper, and a chipper truck were the large equipment used by the crew today.

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

7:30 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for the day. None of the work crew is present. Lesser scaup are diving and feeding in the Basin. One eared grebe is diving and feeding in the channel directly adjacent to the pump house.

7:53 am. Marcy Diaz arrives at the site with the dump truck. No other crew is present yet.

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8:00 am. One black phoebe and one American crow are seen near the east gate. Four yellow-rumped warblers are also seen.

8:04 am. More crew and a large dump truck arrive.

8:10 am. A few mallards, gadwall, and eight wigeon have joined the scaup in the Basin.

8:14 am. A total of six workers were reminded of the wildlife protection measures and each of these crew members signed the sign-in sheet for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement Project – Biological Awareness Training. Two major activities underway: Hauling and loading a large dump truck with palm tree debris and chipping of the woody pile at the extreme west end and at the east gate.

8:20 am. Four California gulls were seen flying overhead. One snowy egret, two mallards, four gadwall, 25 American wigeon, and 35 lesser scaup are also observed on the Basin. Eight crows are perched nearby the hauling and loading activities.

8:33 am. Two American coots have now appeared in the Basin. One ring-billed gull flies over. Seven crows land momentarily on the south bank.

8:40 am. Three ring-billed gulls fly over. A black phoebe is perched at the east outlet. Six Canada geese fly over the Basin heading west.

8:53 am. Twelve wigeon are observed loafing and feeding on top of the bank just east of the Washington Boulevard inlet. Ten crows are also picking at the disturbed ground near and under the two pines.

8:59 am. Three more crew arrive. Total of 6 in addition to Marcy and the Large Dump Truck driver. Dump truck leaves with a full load.

9:03 am. One Anna's hummingbird is darting around the pump house. Two ring-billed, one western, and two California gulls fly over. A number of dark-eyed juncos are curiously checking out the east debris pile.

9:16 am. One crew is on the south bank of the channel reducing sizes of eucalyptus stumps while another crew is loading and hauling with the Case Unloader.

9:30 am. A double-crested cormorant flies over. Three pictures were taken of wigeon foraging in areas of disturbed soils. Six wigeon are feeding on the bank with 22 more on the water in the Basin. There are also 10 coot, 30 lesser scaup, four gadwall, two mallards, two ring-billed gull flyovers, one Anna's hummingbird, one eared grebe, and one bufflehead.

9:46 am. The chipper and chipper Truck from Philand Tree Service arrives.

10:00 am. Waterfowl move away from construction activity. One black phoebe darts around to observe construction activity. Various gulls are also flying overhead. The chipper crew (three crew workers) with Frederico of Diaz begin chipping at the far west water intake. California and western gulls fly over. Chain saws continue on both sides of the channel to the east. A great-blue heron and two crows fly over. The chipper remains in the west location with workers hauling in items to be chipped. Disturbance is localized in the western corner and waterfowl move to the east end of the Basin. The chipper is located in the southeast corner of the Hilton Garden Inn parking lot. The biologist scans the area with binoculars. The biologist does not observe any birds in close proximity to the chipping operation. Another western gull and ring-billed gull fly over.

10:30 am. Thirteen rock pigeons fly nearby, with a few landing on the Killer Shrimp restaurant roof, south of the project site. Four lesser scaup and four gadwall are in the west end of the Basin, to the north, even with the chipping operation going. Two Anna's hummingbirds and four ring-billed gulls fly over.

10:36 am. The large dump truck has returned to the east end. Chipping has stopped at the east end. Waterfowl counted in the Basin include 26 lesser scaup, 18 American wigeon, 13 American coot, and four gadwall.

10:50 am. Large dump truck loading activity resumes.

11:06 am. Chipping at the west end has resumed and one chain saw is working at the east gate. No monarch butterfly activity has been observed so far. Some coots and wigeon have acclimated to the chipper and are now feeding on the bank just east of the standing pine trees. Ring-billed gulls and Anna's hummingbirds fly over the work area. Rock pigeons are seen flying over the top of the high rise apartments on the south side of Admiralty Way.

11:40 am. Chipping continues. Waterfowl on the water in the Basin are staying north and east for the most part.

12:00 noon. Chipping at the west inlet has been completed. Chipping crew takes the chipped material to dump and then takes a break for lunch.

12:45 pm. Chipping crew has now moved to the east gate. Crew of three start to chip wood debris pile near the east gate. One of the crew uses a chain saw to cut stumps and large pieces to the west on the north bank. The other crew is working with the large dump truck and driver on the peninsula near the Washington Boulevard inlet to haul and load palm debris into the large dump truck. No monarch activity is observed near the east gate. Juncos are in the trees outside the fence, opposite the pump house.

1:15 pm. One black phoebe comes close to check out the loading of the large dump truck. Most waterfowl have now moved into the west portion of the Basin.

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1:30 pm. About 40 lesser scaup have formed one raft in the extreme west portion of the Basin. Other birds in the water nearby include wigeon (4), gadwall (4), and another pair of lesser scaup. Three crow flyovers are also seen.

1:40 pm. A small flock of dark-eyed juncos are active in the eucalyptus trees above and outside the fence near the pump house. No monarchs are observed possibly because of overcast and cool conditions. Two Anna's hummingbirds are also in the same eucalyptus tree as the juncos. Ring-billed gulls continue to fly high overhead, though not often.

1:50 pm. In the Basin just below the large dump truck loading area, a small raft of 16 lesser scaup are swimming. They appear undisturbed by the loading activities.

1:52 pm. The first monarch butterfly of the day is seen, flying between the two eucalyptus trees on the eastern side of the site and the pump house. Yellow-rumped warblers are also seen near the pump house, outside the fence. One black phoebe is also seen to the west of the pump house, calling and bobbing while on a perch.

2:15 pm. The large dump truck is leaving with a full load of palm tree debris. Two yellow-rumped warblers are observed foraging on the bank adjacent Admiralty Way. Four ring-billed gulls and one crow are observed flying overhead. A crew working with the Case Uniloader to stack the wood debris is observed on the west end of the site.

2:31 pm. Chipping activities have stopped as the smaller dump truck is now full. The tide in the Basin has fallen and a willet is now present. One Allen's hummingbird and one black phoebe dart around for a short time in the area of chipper pile. Two Anna's hummingbirds are observed just east of the Washington Boulevard inlet.

2:40 pm. A lot of feeding activity in the shallow water of the Basin by gadwall, wigeon, scaup, and coot is observed. Two bufflehead are now in the extreme west end of the Basin with two mallards. Mourning doves and rock pigeons are perched on the railing at the top of the high rise apartments. Crows, ring-billed gulls, and California gulls infrequently fly high overhead.

2:45 pm. One full truck of chipped material leaves the site. The chipper truck is re-hitched to the chipper. Chipping resumes at the east gate.

3:10 pm. All but one of the crew is now operating the chipper at the east gate. The temperature is noticeably cooler with a stiff breeze from the west. One lone crew member is operating a chain saw on the peninsula adjacent the Washington Boulevard inlet. Five ring-billed gulls are observed flying high overhead.

3:24 pm. John, LACDPW came out to check the east headwall etc.

3:30 pm. No bird activity is observed.

4:00 pm. All crew members are operating the chipper at the east gate. Western gull, ring-billed gull, crow, and mourning dove observed flying high overhead. One snowy egret visits the channel next to the east inlet briefly and then flies off to the west. No monarch butterflies are observed.

4:30 pm. With the filling of the chipper truck, work is completed for the day. More stump and debris hauling is planned for tomorrow.

## Additional Observations

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, only one monarch butterfly was observed on site. No other wildlife species were observed. No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary. Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 20, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 19, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	1 male foraging perching near the east gate
American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	Up to 13 foraging throughout Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on lamp poles, and flying over the Oxford Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas Americana</i>	Up to 25 individuals foraging in Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Up to 6 individuals observed around Basin
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging around Basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Flyovers during the day
Canada Geese	<i>Branta canadensis</i>	6 individuals flying over the Basin
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 10 observed foraging in eastern portion of the Basin
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual flying over the Basin
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 individual foraging throughout the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Up to 4 individuals foraging in Basin
Great Blue Heron	<i>Ardea herodias</i>	1 individual seen flying southwest over the western portion of the Basin
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Numerous heard in the northern and western portions of Basin
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Up to 42 foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying and perching high, particularly on top rail of the high rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Numerous flying over during the day, with one individual foraging in the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin

Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Numerous flyovers during the day
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual in the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronate</i>	Numerous observed outside the fence near the Pump House and seen foraging on the south bank of the channel

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 20, 2015, during tree removal activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed. As the Basin transitions from a closed canopy to an open system, a larger number of ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds are being observed and a smaller number of songbirds are being observed. The greatest songbird density is located near the bike path along the eastern fence of the site.
2. Only one monarch butterfly was observed at the site possibly due to the overcast and cool conditions that persisted throughout the day. There was no “take” of monarchs during tree cutting activities conducted at the site.
3. The lone monarch was seen flying between the two eucalyptus trees at the east end of the Basin and the pump house.
4. Wildlife, specifically the waterfowl of the Basin, tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach. They return to the area once the crews move on.
5. Despite the removal of most of the trees on-site, water quality and clarity in the Basin was relatively high. While the implementation of E&S controls like fiber rolls play a role, it appears that the slopes of the Basin are stable and do not erode easily. A very strong low tide exposed mudflats in the Basin.
6. New grasses are rapidly colonizing the exposed banks. Large numbers of wigeon and coot continue to forage on the young grass shoots. Crows have also been observed foraging in the disturbed soils.



## Memorandum

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

*From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 21, 2015*

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

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 21, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## Methods

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist (i.e., ornithologist) on January 21, 2015, beginning at 7:50 am and ending at 4:20 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed stump and tree cutting, debris and stump hauling, and dump truck loading activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several previously-felled trees into manageable sections, hauling the cut material, and then loading the cut material into a dump truck. Today's work included three loads of stumps etc. hauled off with a small dump truck. Two chain saws, a Case Uniloader, and a small dump truck were the large equipment used by the crew today.

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

7:50 am. Biologist arrived at Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for the day. Dark-eyed juncos and Anna's hummingbirds were active near the east pump house. Crew of four (including Marcy Diaz) workers were reminded of the wildlife protection measures and each of these crew members signed the sign-in sheet for the "Oxford Basin Restoration Project – Biological Awareness Training". A black phoebe was also active near the pump house. On the Basin were 30 lesser scaup, 11 gadwall, 1 eared grebe, and a number of crows flying overhead.

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8:22 am. Crew is setting up at the east gate to load stumps and debris into the small dump truck, to subsequently unload at the landfill. About a dozen crows are very active in the area just west of the pump house. The day is warmer than yesterday (i.e., Tuesday). Two ring-billed gulls and one western gull fly over. Two yellow-rumped warblers are seen outside the fence and above the pump house.

8:40 am. Crew of three with the Case Unloader are now loading the small dump truck at the east gate. No other work activity is going on at this time.

8:44 am. Two more work crew arrive and sign in on the "Oxford Basin Restoration Project – Biological Awareness Training" sheet. Rock pigeons are flying around the tops of the high rise apartments along Admiralty Way.

8:57 am. One monarch is seen outside the fence flying around the easternmost eucalyptus tree. Two workers are still loading at the east gate and another two are along the bank on Admiralty cutting eucalyptus into smaller pieces.

9:20 am. Four crew with a chain saw, sledge hammer, and wedges are working on eucalyptus cuttings along Admiralty Way.

9:30 am. A total of 42 scaup, 1 willet, 6 wigeon, 1 eared grebe, a few coots, and 2 mourning doves are observed. The scaup and the willet are in the Basin. Wigeon are upland on the west peninsula and a few coots are up on the south bank. Yellow-rumped warblers are flying back and forth between the two pines on the north bank to the eucalyptus trees outside the fence. Mourning doves are perched on the overhead power lines above the Washington Boulevard inlet. One additional chain saw worker is now working at the east end.

9:40 am. A loaded dump truck leaves for the landfill. Three crew are still working on the eucalyptus along Admiralty Way. An Anna's hummingbird flies over. Four gadwall now feeding along the north shore of the Basin.

9:53 am. One crew is added to make a total of four working along Admiralty Way. Two American wigeon just landed in the Basin.

10:03 am. One monarch flew along the north Basin shoreline, heading west. The chain saw crew member at the east has left with his car to go the west side of the Basin. Most waterfowl have now moved to the west portion of the Basin. Ring-billed gulls and rock pigeons are high flyovers near the pump house. Yellow-rumped warblers and one monarch are flying around the eucalyptus trees outside the fence near the pump house.

10:12 am. Two monarchs are now in the eucalyptus nearest the pump house. Three California gulls are high flyovers. The one chainsaw crew member is now cutting palm stumps at the extreme west

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end of the Basin. Waterfowl now are moving away from the west and toward the center of the Basin.

10:32 am. In and over the Basin now are American crows flying over, 34 scaup, 1 eared grebe, 2 gadwall, 1 willet, and 2 wigeon.

10:45 am. In the extreme west portion of the Basin are two mourning doves on power lines, 2 California gulls, 1 wigeon, 2 yellow-rumped warblers, and one snowy egret. One of California gulls was sitting in the flowing water as it was coming in through the tide gate. House finches heard from the neighborhood across Washington Boulevard. One snowy egret is on the fence of the Washington Boulevard inlet.

10:54 am. The small dump truck returns. Marcy is now loading it with the Case Uniloader. Three monarchs and one cloudless sulfur butterfly are seen flying east of the pump house.

11:12 am. One chainsaw crew member has moved to the peninsula adjacent the Washington Boulevard inlet. Other crew members are back at the east gate to help load the small dump truck. Yellow-rumped warblers and Anna's hummingbirds are active in the eucalyptus trees outside the fence near the pump house.

11:33 am. Two crew members are working on the peninsula adjacent the Washington Boulevard inlet, cutting palms into smaller pieces. The other crew of three are now taking a lunch break.

12:25 pm. The crew of three are back cutting up the eucalyptus along Admiralty Way. One monarch seen flying and then landing on the ground between the pump house and the east inlet. Two more monarchs have joined for a total of 3. No work is going on near this area. Crows, gulls, and pigeons fly over infrequently.

12:40 pm. The small dump truck has returned to the east gate. Things are now calm in the Basin with waterfowl feeding along the edges of the shoreline and a large group gathered in the extreme southwest corner near the west water inlet. Species observed include 30 scaup, 8 wigeon, 4 coots, 4 gadwalls, and 1 willet. One snowy egret is standing on the shore just west of the Washington Boulevard inlet.

1:06 pm. As was done on Monday, January 19, loading and hauling with a crew of 3 and the Case Uniloader along Admiralty Way has begun. Large eucalyptus tree pieces that have been broken up are being loaded into the Case Uniloader and then taken to and placed into the small dump truck at the east gate. Two other crew members are at the extreme west end, adjacent the hotel parking lot, cutting up palm tree pieces. Ring-billed gull and rock pigeons are flying over the Basin. Two American coots are in the channel below the load point on Admiralty Way. One car honked with a person yelling at the loading crew while it passed by. Coots have moved to the east end of the

channel. One monarch continues to fly around eucalyptus and plants on the ground to the east of the pump house. Hauling and loading activities are not near the monarch activity.

1:35 pm. One to three monarchs are flying in the eucalyptus near the pump house. Dark-eyed juncos are also in the eucalyptus, with another male & female pair foraging on the ground to the east of the pump house.

1:40 pm. Three more juncos and one black phoebe are flying and perching just west of the pump house. Chainsaw crew of one is back on the peninsula adjacent the Washington Boulevard inlet. One other crew member is in the extreme west, manually breaking up large palm tree pieces. One male Anna's hummingbird is seen perched on top of a willow tree outside the fence to the west of the pump house. The dark-eyed juncos identified in the area are of the "*oreganus*" subspecies.

1:50 pm. The loaded small dump truck is headed back to the landfill. One California gull is a high flyover. The snowy egret has now flown to the east end of the channel. Two monarchs continue to be active east of the pump house. Ring-billed gulls are seen flying over the Basin. Loading and hauling has stopped at the east end with all crew members moving to the extreme west end of the park.

2:25 pm. All work has shifted to the extreme west end with 1 Case Uniloader, 2 chainsaws, and 5 workers. Currently seen on the water are 17 scaup, 13 coots, 8 gadwall, and 2 wigeon. There are also four crow flyovers. It seems 4 of the 5 crew are taking a break.

2:36 pm. The Case Uniloader is being used to uproot a medium-sized stump. Wildlife do not seem to be disturbed by the workers. Waterfowl are naturally moving away from the north shore as the tide falls, leaving the majority of the water in the Basin to the south. Six more crows fly over.

2:45 pm. A male and female pair of lesser goldfinch are seen in the grape vines on the west boundary fence. One crew with a chain saw now works again on palm tree pieces located adjacent the west boundary fence. Noise of the chainsaw, the Case Uniloader, or the workers seems to be disrupting the birds. One California gull and rock pigeon flyovers. Thirteen gadwalls, 6 wigeon, and 42 scaup are now on the water of the Basin. The gadwall are feeding just below the workers. One eared grebe, 1 Anna's hummingbird, 1 snowy egret, and the raft of mixed scaup are present. It seems the mixed raft of scaup are made up of 16 greater scaup and 30 lesser scaup. Also seen are 1 bufflehead, 1 immature California gull flyover, 12 coots, 11 gadwall, the eared grebe, and 2 wigeon.

3:12 pm. The small dump truck is now being loaded off of Washington Boulevard with palm pieces using the Case Uniloader. Ring-billed gulls fly over. Now it seems the chainsaw restarting has scared off the gadwalls, however, this behavior is a typical response to temporary disturbance. No impacts to gadwalls or wildlife have occurred. The other waterfowl are moving east in the Basin.

3:15 pm. March informed me that more cutting, hauling, and loading is planned for tomorrow. No stump grinding is planned for this week. The crew tomorrow will be smaller, made up of 2 crew with Marcy. Two ring-billed gull fly over the Basin. Two snowy egrets fly over the Basin with one landing. Three California gulls fly over. Three wigeon fly into the Basin.

3:36 pm. Two rock pigeons fly around the top of the high rise apartments. A male and female mallard pair land on the Basin. Work has stopped temporarily. Coots, a grebe, a bufflehead, and a few gadwalls have moved back into the west Basin. Four ring-billed gulls fly over.

3:50 pm. Now the crew is tying rope on a very large palm tree stump to try to pull with the Case Uniloader toward the small dump truck. The entire mixed raft of greater and lesser scaup have flown into the deeper water in the west Basin. The tide continues to fall. One osprey made a couple of passes over the Basin but did not dive, but headed west.

4:08 pm. One belted kingfisher flew briefly to the west Basin area. Yellow-rumped warblers were seen in the pines near the west inlet house. There were also 2 ring-billed gull flyovers.

4:18 pm. After unsuccessfully dragging the large palm stump, the crew has finished work for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, a maximum number of three monarch butterflies were observed. No other wildlife species were observed. No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary. Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 21, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 21, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Birds heard at east end but not seen
American Coot	<i>Fulica americana</i>	Up to 13 foraging throughout Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on lamp poles, and flying over the Oxford Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas americana</i>	Up to 9 individuals foraging in Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Up to 6 individuals observed around Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual hunting near the west end inlet.
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging around Basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	Up to 2 individuals foraging in Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Flyovers during the day, with one sitting on the water near the west inlet
Dark-eyed Junco	<i>Junco hyemalis</i>	Up to 10 observed foraging in eastern portion of the Basin
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 individual foraging throughout the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Up to 13 individuals foraging in Basin
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Up to 16 individuals seen mixed in with lesser scaup
House Finch	<i>Haemorhous mexicanus</i>	Numerous heard in the northern portions of Basin
Lesser goldfinch	<i>Spinus psaltria</i>	A pair seen in the grape vines on the west fence row.
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Up to 30 foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying and perching high, particularly on top rail of the high rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 individual fly around the Basin twice and then headed west
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Numerous flying over during the day
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin with another occasionally flying over the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Numerous flyovers during the day
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual in the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Numerous observed outside the fence near the Pump House and seen foraging on the south bank of the channel

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 21, 2015, during tree removal activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed. As the Basin transitions from a closed canopy to an open system, a larger number of ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds are being observed and a smaller number of songbirds are being observed. The greatest songbird density is located near the bike path along the eastern fence of the site.
2. Three monarch butterflies were observed at the site. There was no "take" of monarchs during tree cutting activities conducted at the site.
3. The monarch activity was for the most part between the two eucalyptus trees left and the pump house. However individual monarchs were observed flying along the north bank shoreline during the day.
4. For the most part, tree cutting activities are not resulting in flee responses from nearby wildlife. Wildlife, specifically the waterfowl of the Basin, tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach. They return to the area once the crews move on.
5. Despite the removal of most of the trees on-site, water quality and clarity in the basin was relatively high. While the implementation of E&S controls like fiber rolls play a role, it appears that the slopes of the Basin are stable and do not erode easily. A very strong low tide late in the day again exposed a high percentage of mudflats in the Basin.
6. New grasses are rapidly colonizing the exposed banks. Wigeon and coot continue to forage in these areas.



## Memorandum

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

*From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 22, 2015*

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

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 22, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## Methods

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist (i.e., ornithologist) on January 22, 2015, beginning at 7:40 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed stump and tree cutting, debris and stump hauling, and dump truck loading activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of cutting several previously-felled trees into manageable sections, hauling the cut material, and then loading the cut material into a dump truck. Today's work included the hauling away of two large dump truck loads of palm tree pieces and one large dump truck load of eucalyptus pieces. One chain saw, a Case Uniloader, and a large dump truck were the large equipment used by the crew today.

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

7:40 am. The Biologist arrived at the east gate of the Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for the day. Twelve wigeon, one black phoebe, 8 coots, were seen in the channel with 30 scaup out in the Basin. The Biologist hiked up the north bank to the middle of the Basin and saw Marcy Diaz parking at the west gate adjacent the hotel parking lot. A crew of five arrived shortly. In addition, a large dump truck arrived at the same west gate area. Loading of palm tree pieces is the first task of the day. The crew of five (including Marcy Diaz) workers were reminded of the wildlife protection measures and each of these crew members signed the sign-in sheet for the "Oxford Basin Restoration Project – Biological Awareness Training".

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8:18 am. The noise and activity of the work crew has caused the waterfowl, including the scaup and a grebe to move east and north in the Basin. Two gadwall flew away from the Basin. This type of behavior is common in waterfowl, and due to its temporary nature, no impacts to waterfowl occurred. A number of flyovers were seen including rock pigeons, American crow, California gull, ring-billed gull, and western gull.

8:27 am. Gadwalls returned and joined some scaup feeding in the northwest corner of the Basin. Four white-crowned sparrows were seen foraging in the grape vines, evidently not disturbed by the loading activities. One Anna's hummingbird and one black phoebe have also come into the grape vines. One ring-billed gull flew over the Basin and then headed west. Some rock pigeons are perched on the railing of the high rise apartment balconies. Two more ring-billed gulls fly over, with one landing on the south edge of the north mudflats. A double-crested cormorant has landed in the west Basin. A great egret just landed on the railing of the tide gates.

8:48 am. The great egret on the tide gates rail is not disturbed by the loading activity at all. Most of the waterfowl have moved east in the middle of the Basin.

9:00 am. Pairs of gadwalls seem to fly in and out of the Basin quite frequently. Pigeons and gulls continue to fly over. Four wigeon have now landed in the Basin. One mourning dove on the power lines. One western gull and two European starling flyovers.

9:15 am. The large dump truck and loader crew have moved to the first gate on Western Boulevard to load more palm tree pieces. A yellow-rumped warbler has entered the grape vines. Five more European starling flyovers. One scaup remains below the loading operation. Chainsaw man started and stopped along the west fence line. Loading crew consists of Marcy, three others, and the large dump truck driver. Gulls and crows are flying over infrequently. The large dump truck is now fully loaded. A belted kingfisher has flown by near the tide gates.

9:40 am. Activities are now hauling stumps manually to the tidal gate area and using the Uniloder to move other palm tree pieces. All waterfowl and the great egret have moved east to the middle of the Basin. Three rock pigeons perch nearby. The Uniloder is now moving pieces to the gate on Washington Boulevard. A rope is also being used to drag some of the stumps. Twelve lesser scaup, two wigeon, and one coot are back in the west Basin. A willet is foraging on the north shore mudflats.

10:05 am. Crews have split up. One chainsaw man and helper are working along the west fence line. Marcy and two other crew are working to the east along Admiralty Way. Two workers at the east end are hauling large eucalyptus pieces to the east gate.

10:25 am. Two east end workers are now walking to the west end. A mourning dove and Anna's hummingbird are at the pump house. One monarch is seen near there. Work is occurring away from the area east of the pump house, on the north side of the channel.

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10:43 am. A comprehensive survey of the Basin area results in four yellow-rumped warblers, two Anna's hummingbirds, two cloudless sulphur butterflies, one monarch, 13 coots, 14 American wigeon, 40 scaup, four gadwalls, one eared grebe, one great egret, one willet, two black phoebes, four mourning doves, and four white-crowned sparrows. The large dump truck has returned to the west gate. Loading at the west gate with the Case Uniloader has started again. This load is of eucalyptus stumps and pieces. A western gull flies over. Two Anna's hummingbirds seen above the west fence grape vines.

11:15 am. One monarch was seen flying south above the west fence line.

11:30 am. Now the large dump truck has moved to the east gate. One black phoebe present. Two monarchs hovering around the two remaining eucalyptus trees east of the pump house. Also two cloudless sulphur butterflies flew to the east. One Allen's hummingbird is heard in the eucalyptus trees outside the fence. A total of six monarchs are now flying in the vicinity of the eucalyptus trees. Loading and hauling remains on the opposite side of the channel away from the eucalyptus trees. A mourning dove flies over.

11:56 am. The large dump truck is full and heading to the landfill. Crew goes on lunch break. After lunch the crew will load palm tree pieces along Washington Boulevard.

12:55 pm. The crew is back at the gate along Washington Boulevard. The Case Uniloader with Marcy and one crew member is working there. Two other crew are at the west fence line, cutting up palm tree pieces. Four scaup, one great egret, one gadwall, one wigeon, one ring-billed gull, one snowy egret, and a raft of 26 additional scaup are in the middle of the Basin. Now the large dump truck is being loaded with palm tree pieces. Yellow-rumped warblers are seen in and out of the palm tree debris, but not in the work area. One belted kingfisher and one Anna's hummingbird are now perched on a powerline above the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate. Waterfowl seem undisturbed by the work. A willet is still foraging in the mudflats. The tide appears to be at the high water mark.

1:34 pm. One bufflehead is now in the Basin. Crow and gull flyovers continue. A pair of greater scaup are foraging in the Basin near the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate. A pair of gadwalls have landed in the Basin. Three wigeon and a pair of mallards have also landed. One ring-billed gull flies over. Two rock pigeons are perched on a parking lot lamp post. One crow flies over. One chainsaw crewman is working at the westend but the waterfowl seem undisturbed.

1:56 pm. An osprey perches momentarily on a power line pole, then makes a hunting pass over the water, and then flies off to the southwest. The large dump truck is now full of palm tree pieces. Twelve European starling fly over.

2:20 pm. Chain sawing in the west Basin does not seem to be disturbing waterfowl. They seem to be acclimating by feeding very nearby in the Basin. Fourteen gadwalls are feeding along the north shore of the Basin. Thirty-four scaup are in the extreme west Basin.

2:30 pm. Work has resumed on the peninsula adjacent to the Washington Boulevard flood gate. Cutting, dragging, and chain sawing activities have caused the waterfowl to move to the western side of the Basin. Such movement in response to temporary disturbance is considered typical waterfowl behavior. The waterfowl are unharmed and not impacted. Four greater scaup and six gadwall are now feeding just west of the active work site. Large palm stumps and pieces are being dragged by rope and chain to the area where they can be accessed for eventual loading.

2:40 pm. The chainsaw crew is back in action along the west fence line.

2:42 pm. Two California gulls and two ring-billed gulls fly over.

2:50 pm. Loading crew and the Case Uniloder are moving to the western peninsula to work at stacking palm tree debris to be loaded into the large dump truck later. Stumps and large palm pieces are being dragged from the northwest corner to the peninsula. Waterfowl have slowly moved east in the Basin. Two ring-billed gulls, one California gull, and one western gull fly over.

3:07 pm. A crew of three plus Marcy in the Case Uniloder, drag, haul, and stack tree debris for future dump truck loading. Most waterfowl have moved to the middle or east Basin. One great egret is now perched on a rail above the Washington Boulevard flood gate. One California gull, two western gulls, and one ring-billed gull fly over. One mourning dove and one crow also fly over. One western gull and two rock pigeons are perched on parking lot lamp posts. One chainsaw crewman is now cutting stumps along the west fence line.

3:45 pm. Rock pigeon, ring-billed gull, California gull, and western gull fly over. An additional six ring-billed gulls fly over.

4:20 pm. All work has stopped for the day.

## **Additional Observations**

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Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, a maximum number of six monarch butterflies were observed. No other wildlife species were observed. No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary. Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 22, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 22, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Birds heard at east end but not seen
American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	Up to 13 foraging throughout Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in vegetation, on utility poles, on lamp poles, and flying over the Oxford Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas Americana</i>	Up to 14 individuals foraging in Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Up to 6 individuals observed around Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual hunting near the west end tidal gate
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging around Basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Flyovers during the day, with one sitting on the water near the west tidal gate
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual that stayed shortly in the Basin
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 individual foraging throughout the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual that stayed in the area the majority of the day
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Up to 12 individuals seen mixed in with lesser scaup
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Up to 40 foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying and perching high, particularly on top rail of the high rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 individual perched and then hunted briefly and then flew away
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Numerous flying over during the day, with one spending some time in the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin with another occasionally flying over the Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Numerous flyovers during the day
White-crowned Sparrow	<i>Zonotrichia leucophrys</i>	A small group seen in the west grape vines
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual in the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Numerous observed within palm debris and along the west fence line grape vines

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 22, 2015, during tree removal activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed. As the Basin transitions from a closed canopy to an open system, a larger number of ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds are being observed and a smaller number of songbirds are being observed. The greatest songbird density is located near the bike path along the eastern fence of the site.
2. Six monarch butterflies were observed at the site. There was no “take” of monarchs during tree cutting activities conducted at the site.
3. The monarch activity was for the most part between the two remaining eucalyptus trees on the eastern end of the site and the pump house. However one monarch was observed flying over the west fence line.
4. For the most part, tree cutting activities are not resulting in flee responses from nearby wildlife. Wildlife, specifically the waterfowl of the Basin, tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach. They return to the area once the crews move on.
5. Despite the removal of most of the trees on-site, water quality and clarity in the basin was relatively high. While the implementation of E&S controls like fiber rolls play a role, it appears that the slopes of the Basin are stable and do not erode easily.
6. New grasses are rapidly colonizing the exposed banks. Wigeon and coot continue to forage in these areas.



## Memorandum

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

*From: Murray Wade, CDM Smith*

*Date: January 23, 2015*

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

## Introduction

This memorandum summarizes the findings of biological monitoring on January 23, 2015. Monitoring is being conducted on a daily basis through completion of tree removal activities for the Oxford Retention Basin Multiuse Enhancement project. This monitoring is being conducted in compliance with the Streambed Alteration Agreement and Amendment issued by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the project.

## Methods

Biological monitoring was conducted by Murray Wade, CDM Smith biologist (i.e., ornithologist) on January 23, 2015, beginning at 7:50 am and ending at 4:30 p.m. During the monitoring, the biologist observed debris and stump hauling, and dump truck loading activities as they were conducted in the project area. Daily activities consisted of hauling the cut material, loading the cut material into a large dump truck, and cleanup activities. Today's work included the hauling away of three large dump truck loads of palm tree pieces. One chain saw, a Case Uniloader, and a large dump truck were the large equipment used by the crew today.

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

7:50 am. The Biologist arrived at the tide gate of the Oxford Basin (site) and prepared and organized field equipment for the day. Crew consists of two plus Marcy. The crew of three (including Marcy Diaz) workers were reminded of the wildlife protection measures and each of these crew members signed the sign-in sheet for the "Oxford Basin Restoration Project – Biological Awareness Training". Anna's hummingbird and house finches active near west fence line. Crow flyovers and gadwalls flying out of Basin. Gull flyovers continue. Waterfowl are in the middle and east Basin for the most part. Yellow-rumped warblers are now in the grape vines on the west fence line.

8:12 am. A large dump truck arrives at the Washington Boulevard gate and peninsula for the loading of palm tree pieces. Loading activities with the crew and the Case Uniloader commence. Waterfowl are unaffected by the loading activities. Rock pigeon flyover and one western gull lands in the Basin just east of the work area. The western gull got a drink and then flew off to the east. Three crow flyovers and one mourning dove landed on the power lines above. Seven gadwall and one willet feeding nearby in the Basin. A number of western and ring-billed gulls are now perched on top of the Killer Shrimp restaurant and other nearby roofs. One gull is on top of a parking lot lamp post. Gadwall have now moved east to join wigeon, scaup, and one bufflehead there. Eight scaup are now in the west Basin. Ring-billed and western gulls continue to fly over. Three mourning doves are perched on utility lines on the north side of Washington Boulevard.

8:52 am. Western gull, ring-billed gull, American crows, and one double-crested cormorant fly over, with the western gull landing in the Basin. Crows seem to be flying to the tops of numerous palm trees along Washington Boulevard. House finches are heard in these same palms. A pair of gadwalls flies out of the Basin, unrelated to any work activity disturbance.

9:00 am. A large dump truck is now full of palm tree pieces. Anna's hummingbird, four mourning doves, and one black phoebe are seen. All is quiet as the crew attempts to balance the load in the truck. One willet and one ring-billed gull are foraging on the north shore of the Basin. The dump large truck driver with driver and Marcy head to the landfill. The two other crew go to get a wheel barrel chain saw, and tools at the Tide Gate area.

9:20 am. Three gadwalls fly out of the Basin, unrelated to work. One worker takes tools to the Washington Boulevard gate while the other is gathering smaller palm pieces with a wheel barrel and bringing those to the loading points. Two mallards fly up out of the Basin. A California gull flies over. One crew is now cleaning the sidewalk along Washington Boulevard.

9:41 am. The chainsaw has started at the Washington Boulevard gate. The other crew member continues gathering smaller palm pieces in a wheel barrel, bringing them to the load points. Now the crew has moved near the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate. A group of 14 scaup are now in the middle of the Basin. One ring-billed gull has landed in the Basin near the workers.

10:06 am. Workers continue working in and around the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate area, working their way east.

10:12 am. A large dump truck has returned along Washington Boulevard. Twenty-two scaup are in the mid-Basin and one ring-billed gull flyover. Crew is gathering at loading point.

10:22 am. One Anna's hummingbird, 30 scaup, one coot, one willet, 1 yellow-rumped warbler, and four gadwall are in the west Basin area. One western gull flyover, heading west.

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10:31 am. An eared grebe has joined the waterfowl in the west Basin. Eight rock pigeons are on the Killer Shrimp restaurant roof. Two gull (ring-billed and California) flyovers. One snowy egret has landed in the Basin.

10:40 am. Loading crew has moved to the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate peninsula. No disturbance to wildlife is observed.

11:00 am. Load point has changed to the east gate, adjacent the pump house. Palm tree pieces from the north bank of the project area are being hauled via the Case Uniloader. No monarchs observed at this point. Today is the warmest day of the week. House finches are heard in the eucalyptus outside the fence. One monarch flies east along the south side of channel. One crow flyover. One cloudless sulphur butterfly on the north bank. Waterfowl have slowly moved to the west Basin. One monarch is seen near the remaining pines on the north bank. Yellow-rumped warbler seen in the same pines. One black phoebe near the Washington Boulevard Flood Gate.

11:22 am. Loading activities move to the east gate. One monarch and one cloudless sulfur butterfly are observed west of the pump house. One monarch is observed near the pump house. One black phoebe at the east Flood Gate. Three monarchs are observed just east of the pump house. Five crow flyovers.

11:30 am. Loaded large dump truck has left for the landfill. Belted kingfisher is active in the east Basin.

11:47 am. Three monarchs and one mourning cloak butterflies were present east of the pump house.

12:00 noon. Crew takes a lunch break.

12:57 pm. The large dump truck returned to the east gate. Crew is loading the truck with the aid of the Case Uniloader. One monarch is seen in the eucalyptus outside the fence. The only waterfowl in the east Basin right now are a pair of lesser scaup. Three monarchs are now seen above the work area, in the eucalyptus trees outside the east fence. A small white butterfly quickly passes by. Seven coots are now in the west end of the channel. One Anna's hummingbird is seen. One cloudless sulfur and four monarch butterflies are observed flying in and around the eucalyptus trees outside the fence. One crow flyover. One black phoebe is seen at the east Flood Gate. The crew is quickly chain sawing a large piece of a palm tree. Four more crow flyovers.

1:39 pm. Up to five monarchs are very active in and around the eucalyptus trees outside the fence near the east Flood Gate. The loading activities do not appear to be disrupting monarch behavior. A mourning cloak butterfly was also seen in the vicinity. A snowy egret has now entered the east channel.

1:45 pm. The loading activity at the east gate has been completed. Now the loading crew, including the Case Uniloader and large dump truck are at the west Tide Gate in order to load more palm tree pieces there. Five coots, six wigeon, eight gadwall, ten greater scaup, 20 lesser scaup, and one bufflehead are now in the west Basin. One ring-billed gull flyover and one rock pigeon flyover. One Anna's hummingbird is perching on the grape vines along the west fence.

2:00 pm. One osprey eating a large fish is perched on the power line pole above the middle of the Basin. One belted kingfisher perched on the power line, hunted, and then left. Now loading activities have shifted back along Washington Boulevard. A willet and gadwall pair are foraging below. Waterfowl seem to be undisturbed by the Washington Boulevard loading activity. Three gadwalls landed in the east Basin. Ring-billed gull flyovers continue. The belted kingfisher is now fishing in and around the Tide Gate. Two additional gadwalls land in the east Basin.

2:36 pm. The loading of the large dump truck along Washington Boulevard is now complete. The dump truck is leaving for the landfill. Osprey is still on top of a power line pole, eating his large fish. The kingfisher is also still hunting at the Tide Gate.

2:42 pm. The snowy egret flies out of the Basin. Now the workers seem to be moving to the east side of the Basin. A great egret flies to perch on the railing of the west Tide Gate. Yellow-rumped warblers persist in the grape vines. The osprey is still on his perch eating his fish. More ring-billed gull flyovers.

3:00 pm. It seems two crews members are now on clean up detail at the east end while Marcy is at the Uniloader now at the Washington Boulevard gate. The osprey has been perched on top of the power pole for over an hour.

3:30 pm. The Biologist traveled to the east gate area. One worker seems to be resting while the other is transporting tools to the west. There is now one monarch inside the fence and one outside the fence, unaffected by workers.

3:31 pm. The Biologist is back at the Tide Gate. The osprey is still on perch on top of the power pole and the great egret is still perched on the Tide Gate railing. Scaup, wigeon, and gadwall are now feeding in the east Basin.

3:59 pm. The Biologist travels to the east gate. Workers there have finished their cleanup work there and are now walking west to the vehicles near the west Tide Gate.

4:02 pm. The Biologist is back at the Tide Gate. The last filled large dump truck has left. No worker activities have disturbed any birds or wildlife. Most waterfowl have now moved to the middle and east basin.

4:16 pm. All work has stopped for the day.

## Additional Observations

Throughout the day, the biologist observed several birds, as listed in Table 1. As described previously, a maximum number of five monarch butterflies were observed. No other wildlife species were observed. No active bird nests were observed inside the project boundary. Table 1 provides a list of bird species observed during biological monitoring on January 23, 2015.

<b>Table 1. Bird Species Observed during Biological Monitoring on January 22, 2015</b>		
<b>Common Name</b>	<b>Scientific Name</b>	<b>Comments</b>
American Coot	<i>Fulica Americana</i>	Up to 13 foraging throughout Basin
American Crow	<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>	Several observed in palm trees, on utility poles, on lamp poles, and flying over the Oxford Basin
American Wigeon	<i>Anas Americana</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging in Basin
Anna's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte anna</i>	Up to 6 individuals observed around Basin
Belted Kingfisher	<i>Megaceryle alcyon</i>	1 individual hunting near the west end Tide Gate
Black Phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>	Up to 6 individuals foraging around Basin
Bufflehead	<i>Bucephala albeola</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
California Gull	<i>Larus californicus</i>	Flyovers during the day, with one sitting on the water in the Basin briefly
Double-crested Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax auritus</i>	1 individual flew over the Basin
Eared Grebe	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>	1 individual foraging throughout the Basin
Gadwall	<i>Anas strepera</i>	Up to 8 individuals foraging in Basin
Great Egret	<i>Ardea alba</i>	1 individual stayed in the middle and east Basin on and off during the day, and at the end of the day perched on the railing of the Tide Gate
Greater Scaup	<i>Aythya marila</i>	Up to 10 individuals seen mixed in with lesser scaup
Lesser Scaup	<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Up to 30 foraging throughout Basin
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	2 individuals foraging in Basin
Mourning Dove	<i>Zenaida macroura</i>	Several observed flying and perching high on power lines and on top of roofs
Osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	1 individual perched on top of power line pole with a large fish for over an hour and a half
Ring-billed Gull	<i>Larus delawarensis</i>	Numerous flying over during the day, with one spending some time in the Basin
Rock Pigeon	<i>Columba livia</i>	Several observed flying over Basin, particularly in western portion and around high-rise apartments south of Admiralty Way
Snowy Egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>	1 individual foraging in Basin
Western Gull	<i>Larus occidentalis</i>	Numerous flyovers during the day and some perching on top of lamp poles.
Willet	<i>Tringa semipalmata</i>	1 individual in the Basin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	<i>Setophaga coronata</i>	Numerous observed within palm debris and along the west fence line grape vines

## Conclusions

Biological monitoring was conducted on January 23, 2015, during tree removal activities at the site. Based on observations made during monitoring, the following conclusions were made:

1. Several bird species are present, foraging around the Basin. No active nests were observed. As the Basin transitions from a closed canopy to an open system, a larger number of ducks, wading birds, and shorebirds are being observed and a smaller number of songbirds are being observed. The greatest songbird density is located near the bike path along the eastern fence of the site.
2. Five monarch butterflies were observed at the site. There was no “take” of monarchs during tree cutting activities conducted at the site.
3. The monarch activity was for the most part between the two remaining eucalyptus trees to the east and the pump house. However one monarch was observed flying in and around the remaining pines on the north bank.
4. For the most part, tree cutting activities are not resulting in flee responses from nearby wildlife. Wildlife, specifically the waterfowl of the Basin, tend to slowly move away from an area when crews approach. They return to the area once the crews move on.
5. Despite the removal of most of the trees on-site, water quality and clarity in the basin was relatively high. While the implementation of E&S controls like fiber rolls play a role, it appears that the slopes of the Basin are stable and do not erode easily.
6. New grasses are rapidly colonizing the exposed banks. Wigeon and coot continue to forage to some extent in these areas.