

Date: March 31, 2022

To: Kathryn Laudeman  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

From: John R. Parent, Biologist  
AECOM

**Subject: Ivanhoe Aeration Project Pre-Construction Nesting Bird Survey Results  
Memorandum**

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This pre-construction nesting bird survey memorandum summarizes the biological resources investigations AECOM Technical Services, Inc. (AECOM) completed in support of the Ivanhoe Aeration Project (Project) on behalf of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). The project site is located at the north end of the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex in Silver Lake community within the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California.

On the morning of Tuesday, March 8, 2022, a nesting bird survey was conducted prior to initiation of construction activities within the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex in the vicinity of Ivanhoe Complex in the northern portion of the site. All potential habitats within the Project footprint and the general vicinity, where feasible, were visually inspected with binoculars for the presence of nesting birds, with a focus on the presence of great blue heron, where a known colony has been previously identified. If a nest was observed, additional time was spent at the location to establish if the nest was actively being utilized.

Weather at the time of the survey was clear with temperatures of 58°F to 68°F, with winds being light and variable. Bird activity was moderate with several species actively foraging, calling, singing, and gathering nesting material.

A total of eleven (11) active great blue heron (GBHE) nests were observed within 100 feet of the reservoir. Three (3) nests were observed in a cedar tree at the northwest corner of Tesla Avenue and Rokeby Street, which is north of the reservoir and across a residential street. This location has been previously documented by AECOM to have GBHE activity during the nesting season. Eight (8) additional nests were observed within the complex along the western edge of the northwest corner. All of the nests observed had GBHE activity, with 11 pairs actively building or on the nests. One (1) pair was observed to be showing behaviors that indicate incubating, though it was not consistent. This behavior likely indicates that an egg was recently laid or will be in the near future. Additional bird species were exhibiting signs of nesting behaviors, though nothing that would warrant any changes to the work schedule or buffer, as they were all outside of the projected work area. The survey of the area concluded at 8:50 a.m.

We understand that the reservoir would be drained, and that a crane would be placed along the southwestern edge of the Ivanhoe Complex in order to place equipment within the reservoir and install the recirculation system. Given this information and the results of the survey, the corresponding recommendations are the following:

- A biologist be present when the crane is in use at this location, or along the western edge of the reservoir in order to monitor the GBHE colony at this location.

- Weekly spot checks of the site, at least during the first few weeks, both during the draining of the reservoir and after, in order to monitor and document GBHE behavior. This can be reduced to bi-weekly after a few weeks if the GBHE do not show any adverse reactions to the work.

Based on past experience conducting biological resources monitoring at the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex, the GBHE nesting colony at this location would not be adversely affected by this work as the main body of water (Silver Lake Reservoir) will remain intact, and the work itself is not anticipated to be overly loud or disruptive. Please be aware that GBHE have a very long nesting period, with incubation being 27 to 29 days and fledgling being 49 to 81 days, for a total of 76 to 110 days. As only one (1) nest is showing signs of having an egg or being very close to it, these nests will be active through the month of June at the very least. There is a possibility that late nesting or re-nesting could occur. We have previously observed a second nesting attempt after a failed nest at the Silver Lake Reservoir Complex, and that nest was active into the first week of August.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

John R. Parent

Wildlife Biologist

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