

**Subj: Comments on Pilot Non-Motorized Boating Program within the Los Angeles River**  
**Date: 7/8/2011 10:21:37 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time**  
**From: NatureBase@aol.com**  
**To: [Lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil](mailto:Lisa.m.sandoval@usace.army.mil), [carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil](mailto:carvel.h.bass@usace.army.mil),  
[Phillip.G.Thompson@usace.army.mil](mailto:Phillip.G.Thompson@usace.army.mil), [lupe.m.vela@lacity.org](mailto:lupe.m.vela@lacity.org), [ilopez@lacorps.org](mailto:ilopez@lacorps.org)  
**CC: [cweichelt@yahoo.com](mailto:cweichelt@yahoo.com), [LisaR@LakeBalboaNC.org](mailto:LisaR@LakeBalboaNC.org), [Robert.D.Baker@lacity.org](mailto:Robert.D.Baker@lacity.org), [kbjwb@hotmail.com](mailto:kbjwb@hotmail.com),  
[sbacklar@folar.org](mailto:sbacklar@folar.org), [snowdy.dodson@csun.edu](mailto:snowdy.dodson@csun.edu), [glennbaileysfv@yahoo.com](mailto:glennbaileysfv@yahoo.com), [drrmwhite@aol.com](mailto:drrmwhite@aol.com),  
[akotin@earthlink.net](mailto:akotin@earthlink.net), [k6piu@instanet.com](mailto:k6piu@instanet.com), [kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kris.ohlenkamp@sbcglobal.net), [sharon\\_ford1@att.net](mailto:sharon_ford1@att.net)****

**To: Lisa Sandoval USACE**  
**Re: License for Pilot Non-Motorized Boating Program within the Los Angeles River, Sepulveda Basin**

Thank you for the extension of time to provide comments on this proposal. It allowed us to perform a preliminary survey of breeding birds along the affected stretch of the Los Angeles River. On July 6, 2011 Steve Hartman & Kris Ohlenkamp walked from the Orange Line Busway crossing of the river to the Burbank Boulevard crossing of the river. Between 6:30 and 9:30 AM we observed 45 species of birds and positive evidence of current breeding on 23 of those. All of the breeding birds were observed between the concrete banks of the river. One is an endangered species - Bell's Vireo. Two are restricted to the water itself - Black Necked Stilt and Pied Billed Grebe. And several others are species of special concern. A complete list is at the end of this email.

In addition to the presence of these protected sensitive birds it was noted that the Mallards in the river have recently molted and have very limited flight capabilities at the moment. Even a single boat down the river at this time would constitute harassment.

In light of these findings and the significant impacts that would undoubtedly occur during this sensitive period of time, we request a complete halt to this project until a more thorough breeding bird study can be performed that will determine when it would be safe to proceed. With the current state of breeding and territorial establishment there will be sensitive young birds within the project area at least until late August.

Regarding the locations where participants enter and exit the river, and any portages, we are concerned about disturbing nesting sites. During our tour on July 8 with LACC and MRCA, we were shown two portage locations where participants would have to walk over boulders and rocks in the river and carry their conveyances to open water. We suggest that each of these specific locations be surveyed for nesting birds that might be disturbed by such activities.

We are in agreement with the goals of the project to introduce and educate the public about the river: it would be good for the public to see the incredible amounts of trash hanging from the trees and strewn on the banks, to question why there is foam on the river, and to learn the difference between native and non-native plants and why native plants are important for wildlife. We understand that one of the goals of the proposed river trip is for the participants to have a memorable and unique experience, but - please - not at the expense of the habitat that they are going there to enjoy.

Thank you,

Kris Ohlenkamp  
 Conservation Chair  
 San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Steven Hartman  
 Chair  
 Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Areas Steering Committee

**Bird List July 6, 2011**

Mallard - breed in neighborhood  
 Pied Billed Grebe - recently fledged young in river  
 Double-crested Cormorant - breed in neighborhood  
 Great Blue Heron - rookery in eucalyptus with parents/young feeding in river

Snowy Egret - breed in neighborhood  
 Green Heron - breed in neighborhood  
 Black-crowned Night-Heron - rookery in Pines with parents/young feeding in river, bird with twigs in beak  
 Turkey Vulture  
 Coopers Hawk - immature seen adjacent to river  
 Red-shouldered Hawk - breed in neighborhood  
 Red-tailed Hawk - breed in neighborhood  
 American Coot - breed in river  
 Killdeer - breed in river  
 Black-necked Stilt - nest and young observed at river edge  
 Spotted Sandpiper  
 California Gull  
 Mourning Dove - fledglings observed in river channel  
 White-throated Swift  
 Black-chinned Hummingbird  
 Anna's Hummingbird - nest in neighborhood  
 Allen's Hummingbird - nest in neighborhood  
 Downy Woodpecker  
 Black Phoebe - young observed being fed in river channel  
 Western Kingbird - nest in neighborhood  
 Bell's Vireo - 2 nesting territories established in river channel  
 Northern Rough-winged Swallow  
 Cliff Swallow - nesting under busway bridge and Burbank Boulevard bridge  
 Barn Swallow  
 Bushtit - fledglings observed in river channel  
 Bewick's Wren - fledglings observed in river channel  
 Northern Mockingbird - fledglings observed in river channel  
 Orange-crowned Warbler  
 Yellow Warbler - at least 6 nesting pairs in river channel  
 Common Yellowthroat - at least 12 nesting pairs in river channel  
 Yellow-breasted Chat - 3 nesting territories in river channel  
 Spotted Towhee - nesting in river channel  
 California Towhee - nesting in river channel  
 Song Sparrow - nesting in river channel  
 Black-headed Grosbeak - 4 nesting territories in river channel  
 Red-winged Blackbird - nesting in neighborhood  
 Brown-headed Cowbird - lay eggs in river channel  
 Hooded Oriole - nest in river channel  
 Bullock's Oriole - nest in river channel  
 House Finch - nest in neighborhood  
 Lesser Goldfinch - nest in river channel  
 American Goldfinch - nest in river channel

This list may not be complete and is based solely upon our observations on this date. (The term "neighborhood" means within 1 mile of this section of river.)