

Field Activity Advisory

Mendota Pool Sediment Sampling Surveys

March 12, 2015

The Bureau of Reclamation, as part of efforts to inform design of alternatives proposed for the Mendota Pool Bypass and Reach 2B Channel Improvements Project, will conduct in-channel drilling of Mendota Pool to characterize sediments beneath the channel. The sampling will be conducted by a barge-mounted drill rig and begin the week of April 20 and run continuously until approximately May 16. Protocol-level surveys to detect the presence of the Least Bell's Vireo (LBV) will begin prior to the start of drilling, pursuant to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit requirements.

Who: Bureau of Reclamation, AECOM Inc.

What: Drilling will be conducted at four Mendota Pool locations (see Figure 1) by a barge-mounted drill rig. The geologic investigations assist Reclamation to determine the physical composition and properties of sediments beneath the channel. The data will inform design of the proposed Compact Bypass bifurcation structure. This survey is in addition to other land-based geologic investigations implemented for the project. A wildlife biologist will conduct daily protocol-level surveys near the boring locations to detect any presence of the LBV, a federally-listed endangered bird. Similar biological surveys were conducted for Reach 2B geologic investigations in 2014; no LBV were detected.



Example of drill rig mounted to a barge.

When: Drilling equipment and support equipment will arrive the week of April 20. Once in place, drilling will be conducted continuously and is estimated to end on May 16. Biological surveys will begin around April 10. The duration of drilling activities are subject to change and may be amended in the event of mechanical breakdowns or other delays.

Where: Mendota Pool, slightly below River Mile 206.

If you have questions, please contact the SJRRP Landowner Coordinator, Craig Moyle. Craig's contact information is provided below.

Craig Moyle, Landowner Coordinator
Office (operator): 916-924-8844
Office (direct line): 916-418-8248
Mobile: 916-642-6383
Fax: 916-924-9102
Email: craig.moyle@mwhglobal.com

For more information, please visit the SJRRP Web site at www.restoresjr.net.



Figure 1: Map of in-channel geologic investigations.