



 ENGINEERS, GEOLOGISTS & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTISTS

August 8, 2021
Project No. 2102-0251

MEMORANDUM

Attention: Mr. Eric Gillies
California State Lands Commission
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100 South
Sacramento, CA., 95825

Subject: Acoustical/Visual Bat Survey Results for California State Lands Commission (CSLC) PRC 421 Decommissioning of Caisson #1 and Caisson #2 Near Goleta, CA.

Dear Mr. Gillies:

Padre Associates, Inc. (Padre) is pleased to provide this Memorandum describing an acoustical/visual bat survey conducted on July 29, 2021, for the PRC 421 decommissioning Project in Santa Barbara County, California. The survey was completed in support of an EIR conducted on behalf of proposed decommissioning activities.

Survey methodologies were consistent with industry survey methods for the determination of presence or absence and identification of *Chiroptera* species. Results for the acoustical/visual survey can be found below.

Survey Area, Timing, Methods and Personnel

Acoustical and visual survey activities were conducted within the respective Site area by Padre Biologist, Mr. Andrew Krause, Mr. Simon Poulter, Mr. Angel Correa, and Ms. Haley Martin from just before dusk to 1.5 hours after sundown on the evening of July 29, 2021, during a low tide period. The survey was for visual exit counts and acoustical echolocation recordings of bats potentially emerging from Caisson 421-1 and/or Caisson 421-2. Two Binary Acoustical Technology (B.A.T.) FR125 bat detectors were setup approximately 45-feet from each caisson planned for removal. The microphones were approximately 6-feet off the ground and pointed in an upward trajectory towards each caisson. The FR125 was attached to a laptop and setup to record echolocations, in full-spectrum format, by bats using the SPECTR© software, version 2.3.0, by B.A.T. One biologist was stationed at the northwest and southwest corners of the caissons to observe visually and count bats that may have been exiting the caissons. Biologists were equipped with spotlights and binoculars to assist with the visual counts.

Survey Results

The only bats observed exiting the caissons were coming out of caisson 421-2. No bats were observed exiting anywhere in caisson 421-1. Thirty-nine (39) bats were counted exiting caisson 421-2 on the north side of the structure. The acoustical data collected was analyzed using Sonobat© version 3 software designed for the analysis of full-spectrum data. There was a total of 301 full-spectrum recordings. 84 were determined to be ambient noise and 217 were determined to be echolocations from bats. Of the 217 recordings, 210 calls were identified to be big brown bats (*Eptesicus fuscus*), 5 from Mexican free-tailed bats (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), and 2 from California myotis (*Myotis californicus*). The two latter species were likely flyovers from the nearby vicinity near the golf course and other habitat areas as they were the last calls recorded. It is more likely that the only species using the caisson as a roost is the big brown bat. Based on previous observations of the bats flying out of the caisson by biologist Simon Poulter in September of 2019, it is believed that this roosting site is used all year long by this relatively small colony of big brown bats and is not specifically being used as a maternity roost as the temperatures appeared to be much too cool for rearing young. Wildlife observed during the survey are listed in Table 1.

Table 1. Wildlife species observed during the acoustical/visual bat Survey (July 29, 2021)

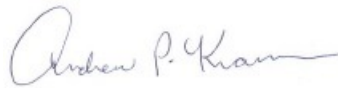
Common Name	Scientific Name
Birds	
California towhee	<i>Melospiza crissalis</i>
cliff swallows	<i>Petrochelidon pyrrhonota</i>
common tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>
double-crested cormorants	<i>Phalacrocorax auratus</i>
Great horned owl	<i>Bubo virginianus</i>
rock dove	<i>Columba livia</i>
seagull species	<i>Larus sp.</i>
snowy egret	<i>Egretta thula</i>
Mammals	
Undetermined dolphin species	<i>Delphinus sp.</i>
striped skunk	<i>Mephitis mephitis</i>

Conclusion

No special status bat species were observed or recorded within the Project site. Although not required as mitigation, Padre recommends that a second observation be performed in late fall early winter to determine if the bats are using the Caisson year-round. If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Mr. Andrew Krause at (661) 747-1573 or Simon Poulter at 805-701-1581.

Sincerely,

PADRE ASSOCIATES, INC.



Andrew Krause
Project Manager/Biologist