

APPENDIX B

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES MEMORANDUM



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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 11, 2016

To: Ashley Davis, Principal, LSA

FROM: Erin Martinelli, Senior Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Biological Resources Assessment for the Sorrento Trail Project

This memorandum provides a summary of the findings of a biological resources assessment for the proposed Sorrento Trail Project (project) located in the City of Long Beach (City), County of Los Angeles, California (Figure 1, Project Location and Vicinity; all figures attached). The City's proposed project involves improving public access to the area through the construction of a public access trail along the northwest shoreline of Naples Island (Figure 2, Limits of Disturbance).

SITE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The existing seawall along the northwest shoreline of Naples Island is failing. Although the City secured a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) to replace the seawall, the California Coastal Commission required the City to improve public access to the area through construction of a public access trail, referred to as the Sorrento Trail. Specifically, the California Coastal Commission is requiring construction of a public walkway within the 15-foot wide public right-of-way while limiting disturbance to existing habitats and providing a buffer to protect sensitive ecological and hydrologic systems.

SURROUNDING LAND USES

The proposed project site is on the northwest shore of Naples Island, surrounded by Alamitos Bay and residential housing.

METHODOLOGY

LSA conducted literature review to determine the potential occurrence of special-status plant and animal species on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site. The site is in both the *Long Beach* and *Los Alamitos, California* United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle (quad) map. Database records for the *Long Beach* and *Los Alamitos* quads and surrounding quads (*Seal Beach*, *Newport Beach*, and *Anaheim*) were reviewed on October 4, 2016, using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) *Rarefind 5* (Commercial Version, dated October 1, 2016; Biogeographic Data Branch), the



California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-02), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC; v3.0.9) online database.

LSA biologist Erin Martinelli conducted a site visit on October 5, 2016, to survey the existing biological conditions on the site.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The proposed project site consists of disturbed land adjacent to Alamitos Bay and surrounded by residential development. Figure 3 shows representative site photographs. A summary of the plants and wildlife observed follows.

Plants

The vegetation on site consists of mostly nonnative species, including ornamental trees and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*); ornamental ground cover consists mainly of hottentot-fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*). The only native plant observed on site was pickleweed (*Salicornia* sp.), found in small bunches.

LSA carefully evaluated the list of special-status plant species generated by the literature search. However, due to the disturbed nature of the vegetation and soil and to the site's isolation from native habitats, there is little potential for special-status plant species to occur on the proposed project site.

Wildlife

Given the site is heavily disturbed and located on an island which is almost entirely developed, it is expected that species diversity would be relatively low within the project boundaries. The site does not function as a wildlife movement corridor and does not offer much habitat for wildlife to reside. However, the site does contain foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Active nests of native bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code.

Wildlife detected during the survey include mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black-bellied plover (*Pluvialis squatarola*), willet (*Tringa semipalmata*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronate*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*). Additionally, a homeowner at one of the residences in the project area shared a photograph of a great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) perched on an ornamental pine tree on the project site.

Special-status bird species identified through the CDFW's CNDDDB as having been observed within 3 miles of the proposed project site include California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*) and Belding's savannah sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). These species may be found foraging near the site; however, habitat is not suitable for nesting.



Jurisdictional Features

Alamitos Bay is a water resource subject to federal Clean Water Act (CWA) regulation by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The City has informed LSA that impacts to jurisdictional waters in Alamitos Bay will be associated with and permitted under the sea wall project, which is separate from the subject trail project.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

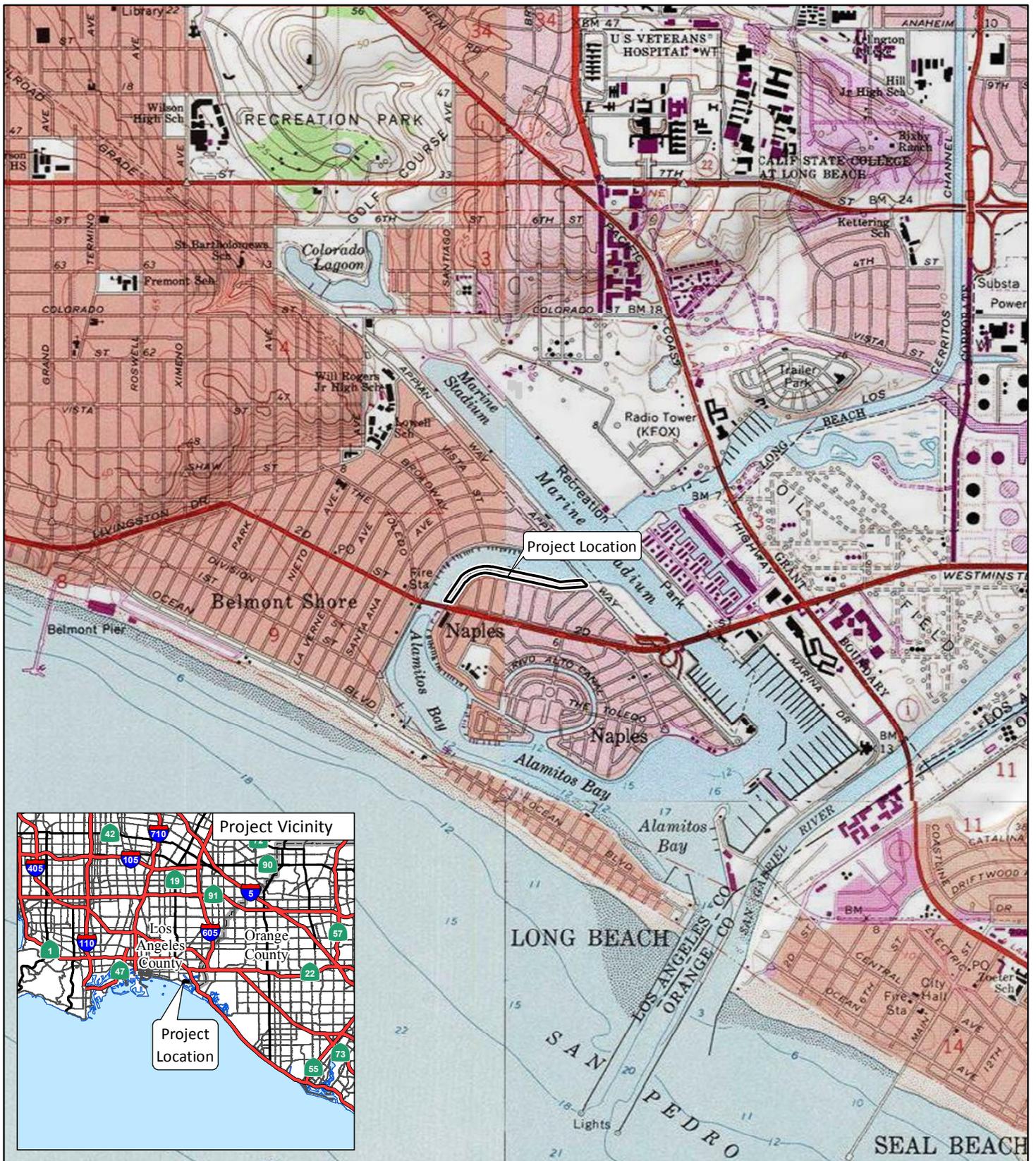
The proposed project is not expected to impact special-status biological resources provided the following measures are implemented:

- In order to avoid impacts to nesting birds that are protected under the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code, it is recommended that, to the maximum extent feasible, vegetation clearing or construction activities that impact existing vegetation be conducted outside the primary nesting season for birds. The nesting season accepted by the California Coastal Commission extends from January through September. If vegetation disturbance is scheduled to occur during the nesting season, LSA recommends that a preconstruction nesting bird survey be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to vegetation removal. If a nest is found with eggs or young of any species covered under the MBTA or California Fish and Game Code, work shall not be permitted within a buffer distance to be determined by the qualified biologist involved. Commencing project construction activities, including vegetation clearing, outside of the primary nesting season for birds reduces the chances of the biologist finding an active nest during the preconstruction nesting bird survey.
- LSA recommends that, if possible, any native plants present on site, such as any pickleweed, be preserved on the site and incorporated into the landscape design, if feasible.

Attachments: Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity

Figure 2: Project Site

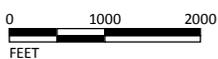
Figure 3: Representative Site Photographs



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LEGEND

 Project Location



SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Los Alamitos (1981) and Long Beach (1978)

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FIGURE 1

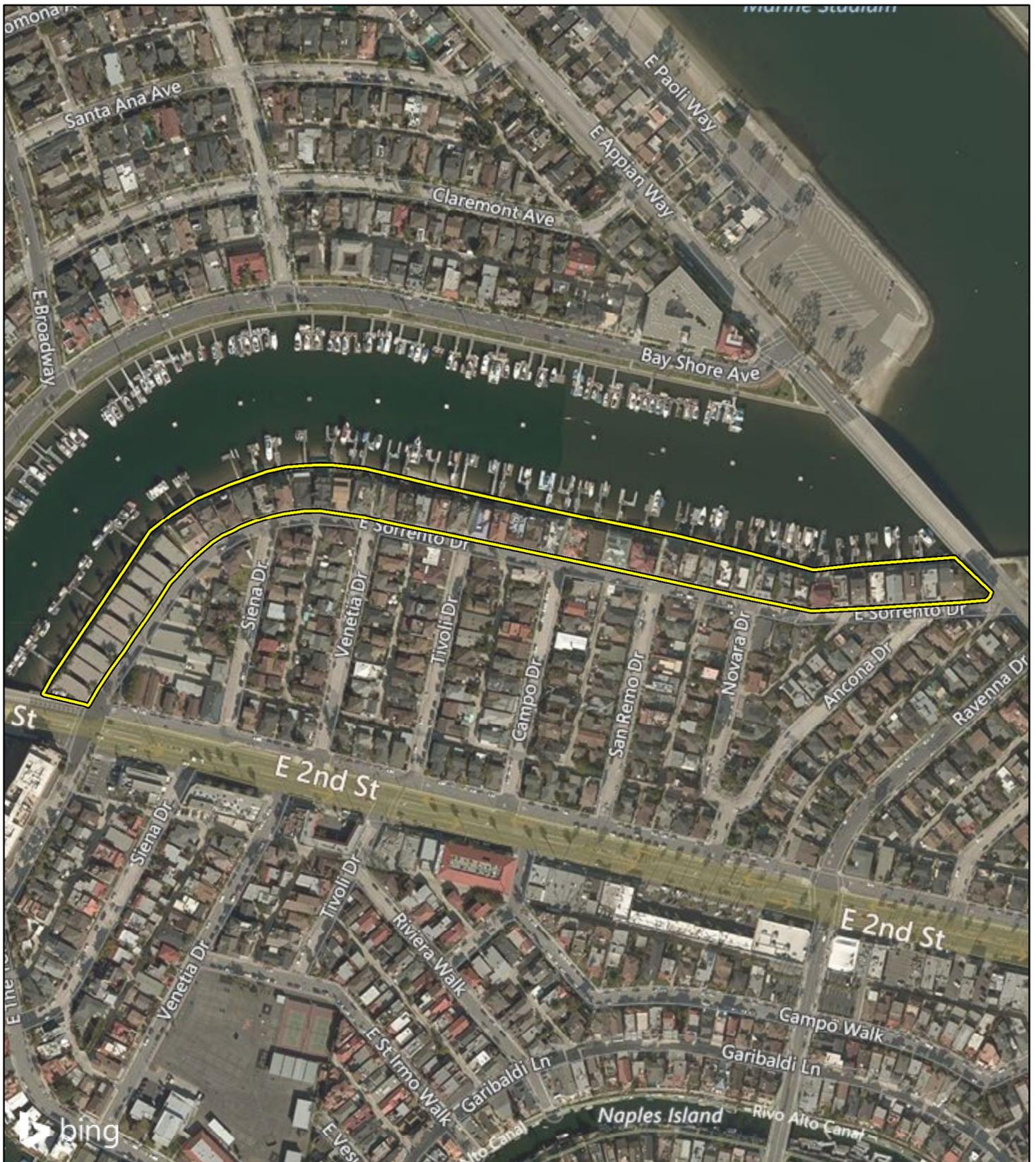


FIGURE 2

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 Project Location - Does not include residential properties



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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Sorrento Trail Project
Project Site



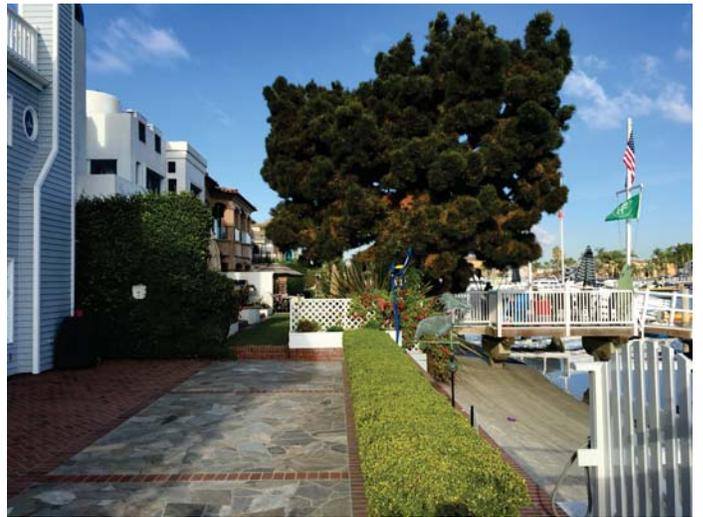
The project site is located between Alamitos Bay and residential housing. The site is heavily disturbed and vegetation consists almost entirely of nonnative, ornamental species. Photo taken on 10/5/2016, facing southwest.



The site is heavily disturbed and vegetation consists almost entirely of nonnative, ornamental species. Photo taken on 10/5/2016, facing east.



Vegetation on the site consists almost entirely of nonnative, ornamental species. Photo taken on 10/5/2016, facing west.



Although vegetation on site is almost entirely nonnative, it may provide nesting and foraging habitat for bird species. Great blue herons have been observed perching on the large pine tree shown in the photo. Photo taken on 10/5/2016, facing west.