

APPENDIX C

BELMONT PLAZA PROJECT BIOLOGICAL SURVEY MEMORANDUM, PRECONSTRUCTION NESTING BIRD AND BAT ROOST SURVEY, & FOLLOW-UP PRECONSTRUCTION NESTING BIRD AND BAT ROOST SURVEY MEMORANDUM

This page intentionally left blank

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: May 3, 2013

TO: City of Long Beach

FROM: Erin Martinelli, LSA Associates, Inc.

SUBJECT: Biological Survey for the Belmont Plaza Revitalization Project, City of Long Beach, California

On April 12, 2013, LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) biologist Erin Martinelli conducted a biological survey within the area for the proposed Belmont Plaza Revitalization Project (project), located at 4000 E. Olympic Plaza, City of Long Beach (City), California. The purpose of the survey was to identify any potential bird nesting or roosting (perching in order to rest or sleep) locations, or any other biological resources, within the project area.

The survey consisted of Ms. Martinelli inspecting each tree and structure for signs of nesting material or any other evidence of frequent bird use, such as whitewash (excretion) within, on, or around the tree or structure. Information regarding the locations and signs of nesting and/or roosting found during the survey is included in Table A (attached). A map of the nesting/roosting locations is provided as Figure 1 (attached), and photographs of the nesting/roosting locations are included in Figure 2 (attached). This survey was conducted during the typical bird-nesting season, which generally occurs between February 15 and August 31 of each year (with some exceptions; e.g., hummingbirds may nest outside of this period).

The results of the survey found nine locations (two structures and seven tree areas) with evidence of nesting and/or roosting. To the maximum extent feasible, construction activities that may impact existing vegetation or other potential nesting substrates should be conducted outside the primary nesting season for birds. Peak nesting months are typically March through June. Trees are especially useful for nesting birds, so it is recommended that any necessary tree removal be completed during the autumn months (i.e., September through December). If tree removal or trimming must be done outside this period, a qualified biologist should search for nesting birds during the 3 days prior to the work being done. If a nest with eggs or young of any species covered under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is found, work should not be permitted within a safe distance to be determined by the qualified biologist involved.

Species observed during the survey include black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*)*, mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), red-crowned parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*)*, black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)*, orange-crowned warbler (*Oreothlypis celata*)*, yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), chipping sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)*

* = Species not native to the survey area

Attachments: Table A: Belmont Plaza Project Biological Survey Results
Figure 1: Belmont Plaza Project Biological Survey Map of Nesting/Roosting Locations
Figure 2: Belmont Plaza Project Biological Survey Photographs

Table A: Belmont Plaza Project Biological Survey Results

Nesting/ Roosting Locations (Figure 1)	Photo No. (Figure 2)	Nesting or Roosting	Tree or Structure	Tree Type	Type of Sign	Observations
1	1	Nesting	Structure	N/A	Nests	Nests observed on Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier wooden structure. Species observed were nonnative European starlings and house sparrows, but native species could also utilize the structure for nesting.
2	2	Nesting	Structure	N/A	Nests	Two nests observed on top of pipes that run under Del Mar Room ramp.
3	3	Nesting	Tree	Paperbark ¹	Nest	A nest was observed in one of the three paperbark trees.
4	4	Roosting	Tree	Eucalyptus ¹	Whitewash	No nests were observed in these two adjacent eucalyptus trees, though whitewash in the trees suggests frequent roosting.
5	5	Nesting	Tree	Oak	Nest	A nest was observed in the southernmost (closer to the pool) oak tree.
6	6	Nesting	Tree	Ornamental ¹	Nests	A black-crowned night-heron was observed on a nest in this ornamental tree located in front of Yankee Doodles. Three nests were observed in this tree.
7	7	Nesting	Tree	Paperbark ¹	Nests	Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in these two paperbark trees located adjacent to the pool building.
8	8	Nesting	Tree	Oak	Nests	Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in this oak tree.
9	9	Nesting	Tree	Ficus ¹	Nests	Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in these three trees.

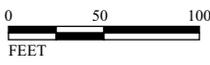
¹ = Nonnative

N/A = not applicable



FIGURE 1

LSA



LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Nesting/Roosting Location



1. Nests observed on Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier wooden structure. Species observed were nonnative European starlings and house sparrows, but native species could also utilize the structure for nesting.



2. Two nests observed on top of pipes that run under Del Mar Room ramp.



3. A nest was observed in one of the three paperbark trees.



4. No nests were observed in these two adjacent eucalyptus trees, though whitewash in the trees suggests frequent roosting.

L S A

FIGURE 2

Belmont Pool Revitalization Project
Biological Survey Photographs



5. A nest was observed in the southernmost (closer to the pool) oak tree.



6. A black-crowned night-heron was observed on a nest in this ornamental tree located in front of Yankee Doodles. Three nests were observed in this tree.



7. Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in these two paperbark trees located adjacent to the pool building.



8. Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in this oak tree.



9. Black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting and nesting in these three trees.

LSA

FIGURE 2

Belmont Pool Revitalization Project
Biological Survey Photographs

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 18, 2014

TO: Bill Zein, City of Long Beach

FROM: Erin Martinelli, LSA Associates, Inc.

SUBJECT: Preconstruction Nesting Bird and Bat Roost Surveys Prior to Belmont Pool Demolition, City of Long Beach, California

On August 11, 2014, LSA Associates, Inc. (LSA) biologists Jill Carpenter and Erin Martinelli conducted preconstruction nesting bird and bat roost surveys within and around the Belmont Pool building, located at 4000 E. Olympic Plaza, in the City of Long Beach (City), California. The purpose of the survey was to identify any active bird nesting or roosting (perching in order to rest or sleep) locations, or any bat roosts, within the project area that could be impacted by demolition of the building. In the evening, two additional LSA biologists assisted in the bat emergence survey and acoustic monitoring.

Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey

As a follow-up to the initial biological survey conducted by Ms. Martinelli on April 12, 2013, the preconstruction nesting bird survey consisted of Ms. Martinelli inspecting each tree and structure for signs of current bird nesting or roosting activity, such as any occupied nests or recent whitewash (excretion) within, on, or around the tree or structure. Information regarding the locations and signs of nesting and/or roosting found during the survey is included in Table A (attached). A map of the nesting/roosting locations is provided as Figure 1 (attached), and photographs of the nesting/roosting locations are included in Figures 2A and 2B (attached). This survey was conducted during the bird-nesting season designated in California Coastal Commission guidance as January through September (black-crowned night-herons [*Nycticorax nycticorax*] and a few other birds may begin nesting as early as January, but the majority of birds nest between February 15 and August 31).

All nine previously identified (during the April 12, 2013, survey) nesting/roosting locations (two structures and seven tree areas) were thoroughly inspected, and a new location (one pine tree) with evidence of recent roosting was added to Table A and Figure 1. The results of the survey found no active bird nests, evidence of recent roosting in two of the locations, and one roosting black-crowned night-heron in one of the locations during the time of the survey.

Species observed during the survey include black-crowned night-heron, western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*),¹ mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), red-crowned parrot (*Amazona viridigenalis*),¹ and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

Since no active bird nests were observed, demolition of the Belmont Pool building before October 2014 should not result in impacts to nesting birds. Roosting birds are expected to be deterred from the project area during construction activities and to relocate to nearby roosting areas outside of the project area. However, should demolition be delayed, construction activities that may impact nesting birds should be conducted between October and December, outside the primary nesting season for birds. If construction activities, tree removal, or

¹ Species not native to the survey area.

tree trimming must be done outside this period, a qualified biologist should search for nesting birds within 3 days prior to the work being done. If a nest with eggs or young of any species covered under the California Fish and Game Code or the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is found, work should not be permitted within a safe distance to be determined by the qualified biologist involved.

Preconstruction Bat Roost Survey

Both the interiors and exteriors of the Belmont Pool building and its associated structures were investigated during the daytime for the presence of suitable day-roosting habitat for bats. Day roosts are used by bats during the day for shelter from the elements and from predators. Species that commonly utilize anthropogenic structures such as buildings for day and/or night roosting and that may occur in the vicinity of the Belmont Pool building complex include the Mexican free-tailed bat (*Tadarida brasiliensis*), big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), and Yuma myotis (*Myotis yumanensis*); other species that may use these types of roosts for roosting include western mastiff bat (*Eumops perotis*), California myotis (*Myotis californicus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and western canyon bat (*Parastrellus hesperus*).

Each room and partitioned space throughout the Belmont Pool building complex, including the banquet hall and the attached former La Palapa Del-Mar restaurant, was entered in order to examine the walls, ceilings, closets, corners, and crawl spaces for bats or sign of bats (e.g., guano, urine staining, and vocalizations). A small spotlight was used to better examine dark corners, high ceilings, and spaces behind equipment or furniture. Special attention was given to any crevices or spaces along the walls and ceilings, enclosed storage areas, spaces behind curtains or furniture, and any other potentially suitable roosting location. The entire exterior of the Belmont Pool building complex, including the rooftop, was also visited and inspected for areas that might contain potential bat roosting habitat. In addition, the quality of any potential foraging habitat in the vicinity of the building complex was also assessed during the daytime survey, since the presence of quality foraging habitat can increase the likelihood that an adjacent structure is used for roosting.

No bats or recent bat sign¹ were observed within or outside the Belmont Pool building or associated structures during the daytime survey. The only potential bat roosting habitat observed on the exterior of the Belmont Pool building consisted of several square openings present on all four sides of the pool building just beneath the roof, and the thatched roof of the former La Palapa Del-Mar restaurant. The aboveground height of these areas on the exterior of the Belmont Pool complex precluded close examination for bats or bat sign. Some potentially suitable roosting habitat was also observed throughout portions of the building interior; however, lack of observed bats or bat sign in these locations indicates that these areas are not used by bats for roosting. In addition, most of the possible entries into the building complex have been well sealed using various methods, making access to the interior of the structures difficult. A notable exception to this was the former restaurant, which at the time of the survey had open windows along its southern face that could allow bats to freely enter or exit that structure. Furthermore, the ceiling and other parts of the restaurant interior were lined with straw or straw-style thatching, and the crevice-like spaces and gaps within this material could provide roosting habitat for a variety of bat species. Although no bats or bat sign were observed during the inspection of the former restaurant, the thatch lining of the ceiling was difficult to thoroughly examine and the absence of bats could not be confirmed simply by visual daytime inspection.

Potential bat foraging habitat in the vicinity of the Belmont Pool building complex is limited to only a grassy lawn containing scattered ornamental trees on the northern side of the complex, with extensive developed commercial and residential land use on the other two sides and a sandy beach on the southern side of the complex. The foraging habitat adjacent to the building complex is, therefore, of marginal quality.

¹ The only bat sign observed consisted of two small guano pellets that were observed in a corner of a storage room below the pool deck; however, these guano pellets were very old and likely came from a bat that had entered the building when the facility was still in operation. Since the amount of guano was relatively small, and no carcass was observed, this bat likely found its way out of the building shortly after roosting there.

Table A: Belmont Pool Demolition Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey Results

Nesting/ Roosting Locations (Figure 1)	Photo No. (Figure 2)	Nesting or Roosting	Tree or Structure	Tree Type	Type of Sign	Observations
1	1	Previous Nesting	Structure	N/A	Inactive Nests	Nesting material observed on Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier wooden structure, but no birds observed occupying or visiting nests.
2	2	Previous Nesting	Structure	N/A	Inactive Nest	One nest observed on top of pipes that run under Del Mar Room ramp, but no birds observed occupying or visiting the nest.
3	3	Previous Nesting	Tree	Paperbark ¹	Previously Observed Nest	No current nesting activity was observed.
4	4	Previous Roosting	Tree	Eucalyptus ¹	Previously Observed Whitewash	No evidence of recent roosting (whitewash) was observed.
5	5	Previous Nesting	Tree	Oak	Inactive Nest	A nest was observed in the southernmost (closer to the pool) oak tree, but no birds observed occupying or visiting the nest.
6	6	Previous Nesting	Tree	Ornamental ¹	Inactive Nests	Nesting material observed in ornamental tree located near Yankee Doodles, but no birds observed occupying or visiting nests.
7	7	Previous Nesting	Tree	Paperbark ¹	Previously Observed Nests	No current nesting or roosting activity was observed.
8	8	Roosting and Previous Nesting	Tree	Oak	Roosting Bird and Inactive Nests	Black-crowned night-heron observed roosting in tree. Nesting material observed, but no birds occupying or visiting nests during survey.
9	9	Roosting and Previous Nesting	Tree	Ficus ¹	Inactive Nests and Whitewash	Evidence of recent roosting (whitewash), but no birds observed roosting during survey. Nesting material observed, but no birds occupying or visiting nests during survey.
10	N/A	Roosting	Tree	Pine ¹	Whitewash	Evidence of recent roosting (whitewash), but no birds observed roosting during survey.

¹ = Nonnative

N/A = not applicable

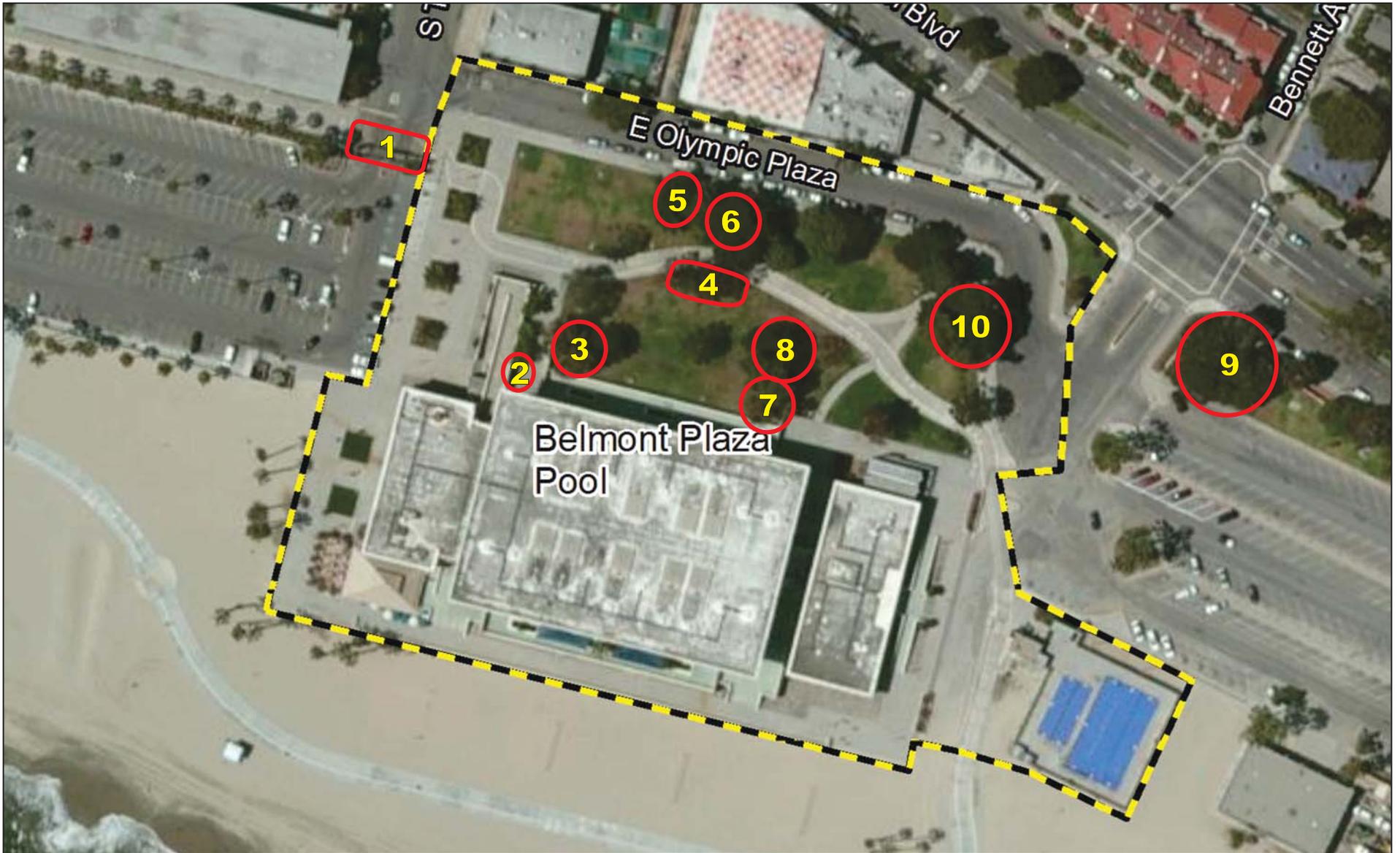
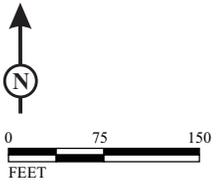


FIGURE 1

L S A



LEGEND

-  Project Site
-  Nesting/Roosting Location

*Belmont Pool Demolition
Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys
Map of Nesting/Roosting Locations*



1. Nesting material observed on Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier wooden structure, but no birds observed occupying or visiting nests.



2. One nest observed on top of pipes that run under Del Mar Room ramp, but no birds observed occupying or visiting the nest.



3. No current nesting activity was observed.



4. No evidence of recent roosting (whitewash) was observed.

LSA

FIGURE 2A

*Belmont Pool Demolition
Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys
Biological Survey Photographs*



5. A nest was observed in the southernmost (closer to the pool) oak tree, but no birds observed occupying or visiting the nest.



6. Nesting material observed in ornamental tree located near Yankee Doodles, but no birds observed occupying or visiting nests.



7. No current nesting or roosting activity was observed.



8. Black-crowned night-heron observed roosting in tree. Nesting material observed, but no birds occupying or visiting nests during survey.



9. Evidence of recent roosting (whitewash), but no birds observed roosting during survey. Nesting material observed, but no birds occupying or visiting nests during survey.

LSA

FIGURE 2B

*Belmont Pool Demolition
Preconstruction Nesting Bird Surveys
Biological Survey Photographs*

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: April 20, 2015

TO: Bill Zein, City of Long Beach Development Services

FROM: Richard Erickson and Leo Simone, LSA Associates, Inc.

SUBJECT: Follow-up Preconstruction Nesting Bird Survey for the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier Parking Lot Project, City of Long Beach, California

This memorandum documents a follow-up preconstruction nesting bird survey on the site of the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier Parking Lot Project in the City of Long Beach, California. A previous nesting bird survey was conducted on April 16, 2015.

LSA ornithologist Richard Erickson conducted the survey on April 19, 2015, from 6:25 a.m. to 8:05 a.m. It was clear, cool, and calm during the survey; conditions were conducive for observing potential nesting bird behavior. The survey was focused on the Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*) scheduled for relocation within the parking lot but also included trees, shrubs, and other potential nesting substrates within 300 feet of the project boundary. This included trees along 39th Place, at the base of the pier, along South Termino Avenue, along East Olympic Plaza, and in the western portion of the adjacent park.

Black-crowned night-herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and snowy egrets (*Egretta thula*) were nesting conspicuously in trees near the intersection of East Ocean Boulevard and Bennett Avenue, some distance away from the parking lot, but otherwise little evidence of nesting birds was observed. A cluster of sticks in the top of one of the palms next to the parking lot entrance at the intersection of South Termino Avenue and East Allin Street had clearly been placed there by large birds (probably American crows [*Corvus brachyrhynchos*]), but no bird activity was evident there during the survey. Indeed, it appeared as if the nest construction process was terminated before completion. A male mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*) sang (cooed) from several exposed perches around the parking lot, but it also moved far to the east as well, so no potential nesting location was identified.

Old fronds had been trimmed from the palm trees in the parking lot so that nesting opportunities were greatly reduced. Two species most often found nesting in palms—the house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*) and hooded oriole (*Icterus cucullatus*)—were not even seen in the parking lot trees. Finches were seen nearby but no hooded orioles were observed. The nonnative European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) also commonly nests in palms and was present foraging in the parking lot. Perhaps not coincidentally, potential nest predators such as crows, gulls (*Larus* sp.), and even herons were prevalent in the area. Crows and gulls are attracted to public locations such as this, where human trash provides ample foraging opportunities.

Species observed within the study area but not already mentioned included ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), the nonnative rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), Allen's hummingbird

(*Selasphorus sasin*), black-headed grosbeak (*Pheucticus melanocephalus*), and Bullock's oriole (*Icterus bullockii*).

Please call Art Homrighausen or Leo Simone at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of the preconstruction nesting bird surveys.