LSA

BERKELEY
CARLSBAD
FRESNO
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 22, 2017

TO: Joe Ambrose, Beach Maintenance Supervisor, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Basin 1 per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On November 20, 2017, LSA Biologist Lonnie Rodriguez conducted a survey consistent with the terms of Coastal Development Permit (CDP) 5-08-187 (Tree Trimming and Removal Policy), Section A: During Non-Breeding and Non-Nesting Season (October through December), which states:

1. Prior to tree trimming or removal, a qualified biologist or ornithologist shall survey the trees to be trimmed or removed to detect nests and submit a survey report to the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, a representative of the Audubon Society, and the Executive Director of the Coastal Commission. The survey report shall include identification of all trees with nests. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine shall maintain a database of survey reports that includes a record of nesting trees that is available as public information and to be used for future tree trimming and removal decisions.

2. Any trimming of trees with nests shall be supervised by a qualified biologist or ornithologist and a qualified arborist to ensure that adequate nest support and foliage coverage is maintained in the tree, to the maximum extent feasible, in order to preserve the nesting habitat. Trimming of any nesting trees shall occur in such a way that the support structure of existing nests will not be trimmed and existing nests will be preserved, unless the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine in consultation with a qualified arborist, determines that such trimming is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public. The amount of trimming at any one time shall be limited to preserve the suitability of the nesting tree for breeding and/or nesting habitat.

   Trees or branches with a nest that has been active anytime within the last five years shall not be removed or disturbed unless a health and safety danger exists.

3. Trimming may not proceed if a nest is found and evidence of a courtship or nesting behavior is observed at the site. In the event that any birds continue to occupy the trees during the non-nesting season, trimming shall not take place until a qualified biologist or ornithologist has assessed the site, determined that courtship behavior has ceased, and given approval to proceed within 300 feet of any occupied tree.

The City of Long Beach has communicated that palm and ficus trees within Basin 1 along North Marina Drive and a ficus and the coral trees located at the intersection of East Ocean Boulevard and Junipero Avenue need to be trimmed (Figure 1, all figures attached). All palm, ficus, and coral trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification, see Figure 2.

The survey was conducted between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (65 degrees Fahrenheit, mild, and partly cloudy). Mr. Rodriguez surveyed 149 trees within Basin 1 as well as 6 trees at the intersection of East Ocean Boulevard and Junipero Avenue; see Figure 2. The palms are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*); the other tree species include Chinese banyon (*Ficus microcarpa*), rubber tree (*Ficus* sp.), and coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.). One palm (No. 121) and a ficus (No. 79) were each identified with a nest. The nest in palm No. 121 is a small nest is constructed of sticks, built atop of palm fronds, and it looks to have been constructed by either an egret or heron species. A great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) was roosting next to the stick nest in the ficus (No. 79) tree at the time of survey. Additionally, not apparently associated with a nest, a black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) was roosting within the tree canopy. No other nests were identified at the time of survey in Basin 1; nor were there nests or extensive amounts of white wash (a sign of roosting) seen in the trees at the intersection of East Ocean Boulevard and Junipero Avenue.

Palm No. 121 and ficus No. 79, per CDP 5-08-187, cannot be trimmed unless it is determined that they contain a nest that has been inactive for the past 5 years or if the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine, in consultation with a qualified arborist, determines that such trimming is necessary to protect the health and safety of the public.

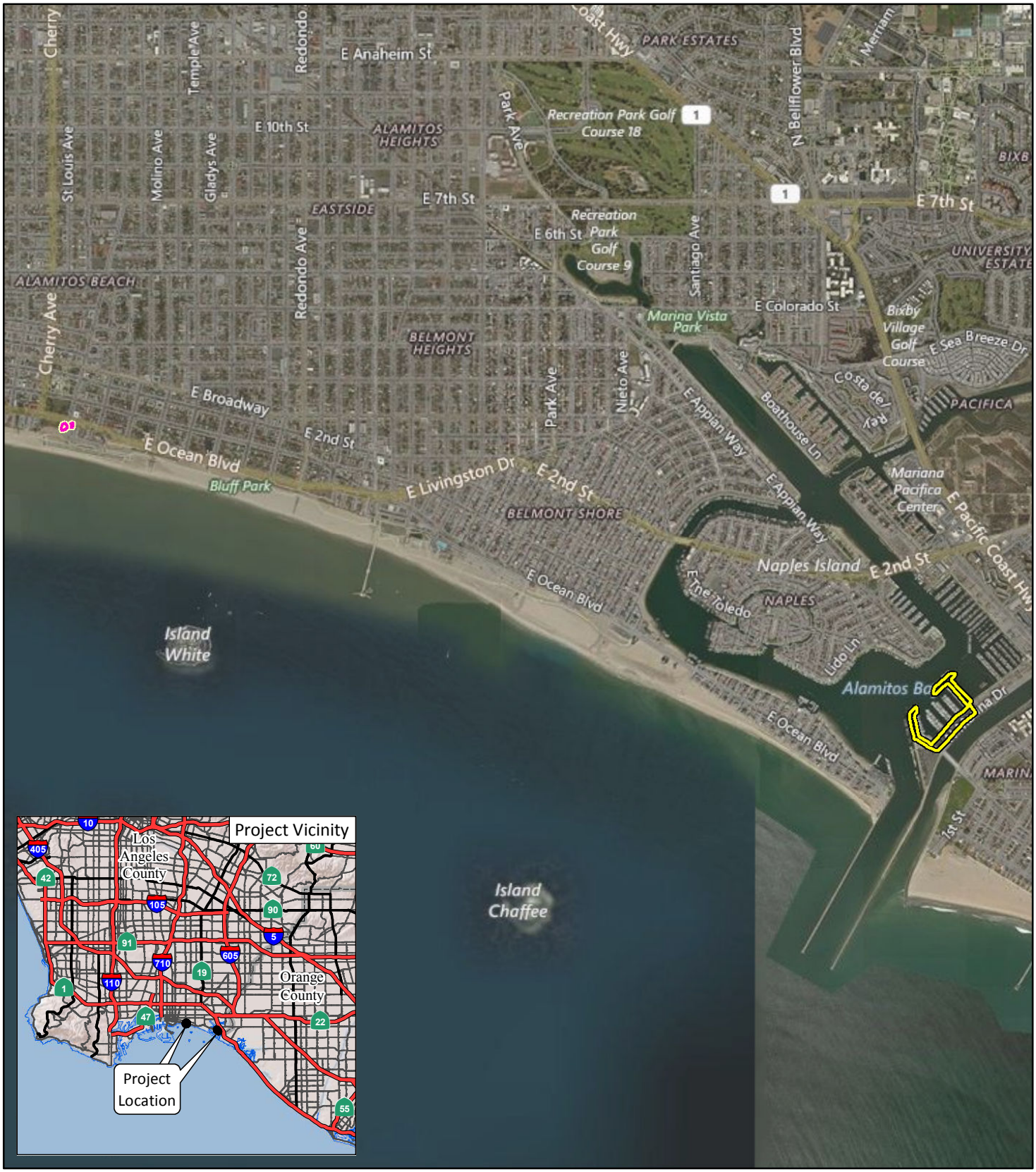
Trees noted in the figure next to palms were surveyed for nests to avoid accidental damage to the branches supporting any nests or to the nests themselves. Caution should be taken when maintenance activities are occurring at palm Nos. 60, 61, 62, 63, 70, and 71.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), great blue heron, western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)[1], rock pigeon (*Columba livia*)[1], and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)[1].

Please contact Lonnie Rodriguez or Blake Selna at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2

[1] These are nonnative species.



LSA

LEGEND

Project Location - Basin 1

Project Location - Bluff Park

FIGURE 1

N

0 1250 2500

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 and Bluff Park Project Location

LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

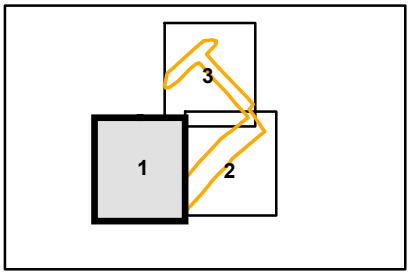

FIGURE 2

Sheet 1 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey

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LSA

LEGEND

Palm Tree

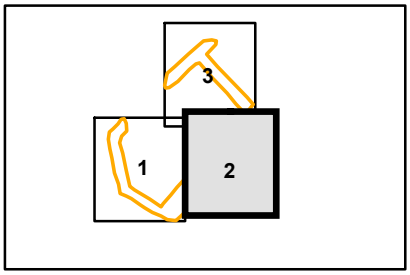

FIGURE 2

Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm Tree (with Nest)
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

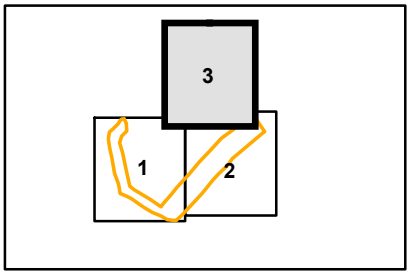

FIGURE 2

Sheet 3 od 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey

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LSA

LEGEND

- Coral Tree
- Rubber Tree

FIGURE 2

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Bluff Park Tree Survey