LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 30, 2018

TO: Jeffrey King, Park Maintenance Supervisor Marine Bureau – Beach/QWB, City of Long Beach

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Basin 4 per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 23, 2018, LSA Biologists Lonnie Rodriguez and Leeann McDougall 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 California 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 trees within Basin 4 along East Appian Way need to be trimmed (see Figure 1; all figures attached). All palm trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (see Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 9:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (66 degrees Fahrenheit [°F], calm, and overcast). The biologists surveyed 166 palm trees within Basin 4 (see Figure 2). These palms are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), Canary Island palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirts) or had newly formed skirts. Herons and egrets are not known to construct nests under dead palm frond skirts; therefore, they would not have been obstructed from view. No nests were identified, at the time of survey, in the palms throughout Basin 4. However, seen amongst the palms were two *Ficus* sp. trees with nests (Nos. 167 and 168). *Ficus* No. 167, located in an "island" between East Appian Way and the docks, had a nest presumably used by birds (e.g., herons, egrets, etc.) with special biological or economic significance (see Figure 2, sheet 3). However, there were no birds associated with the nest at the time of the survey and the nest was deemed inactive. *Ficus* No. 168, located in an "island" between East Appian Way and the docks, had a small inactive nest, likely constructed by a passerine species. Additionally, not associated with the small passerine nest, two black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) were roosting within the tree canopy of *Ficus* No. 168. No other nests were identified at the time of the survey in Basin 4. Caution should be taken when maintenance activities are occurring to the palms adjacent to the *Ficus* Nos. 167 and 168.

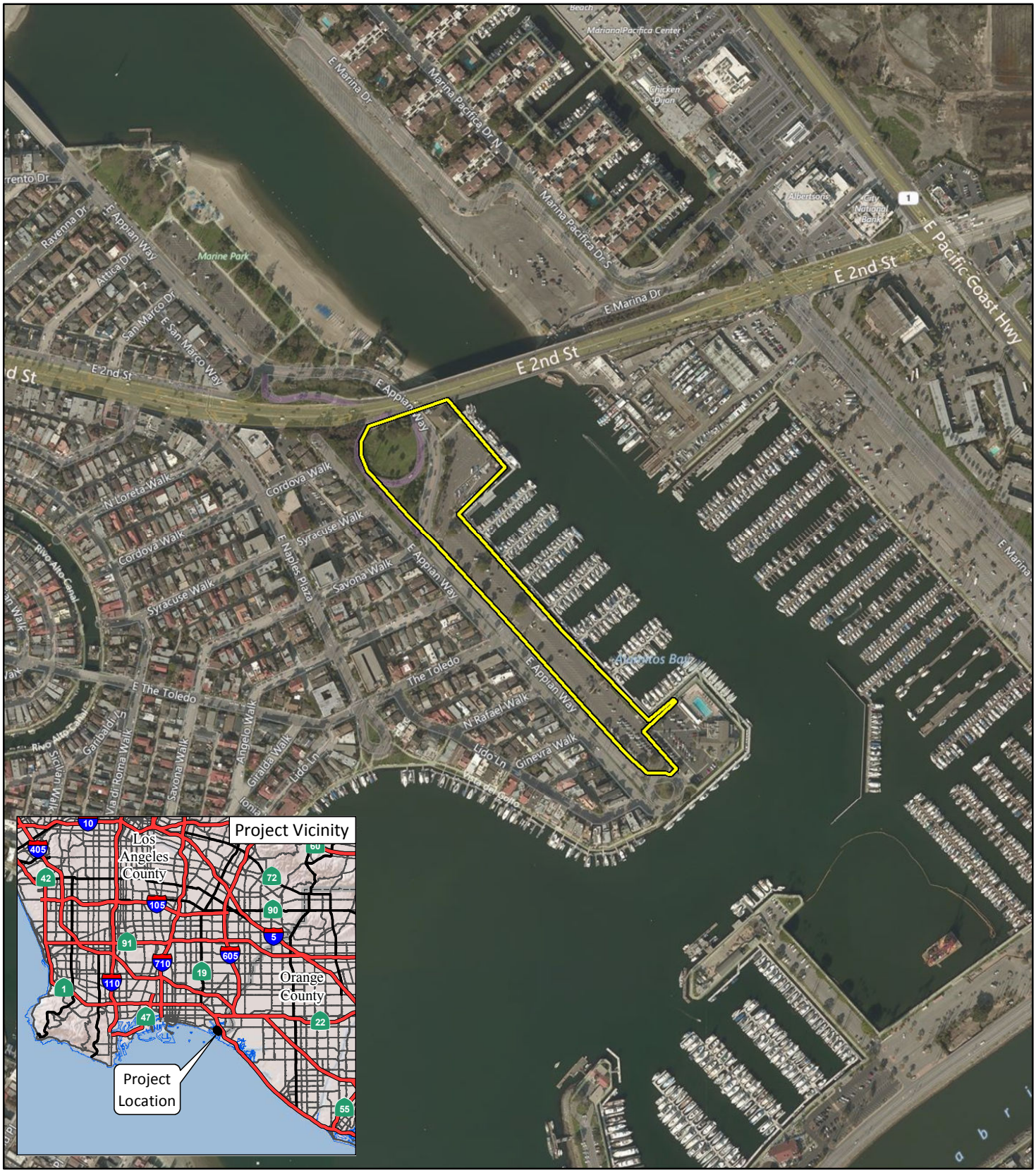
CDP 5-08-187 would not prevent any of the palms from being trimmed. Per the CDP permit, a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist would not need to supervise the trimming of the surveyed palms since none of the palms were identified with nests. However, maintenance activities occurring adjacent to the *Ficus* Nos. 167 and 168 should be conducted so that nests and/or the branches supporting the nests are avoided and not damaged during trimming activities.

Bird species observed during the survey included osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), Coopers' hawk (*Accipiter cooperii*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), 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 either Lonnie Rodriguez or Art Homrighausen at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figure 1: Basin 4 Project Location
Figure 2: Basin 4 Tree Survey

[1] Non-native Species



LSA

LEGEND

Project Location - Basin 4

FIGURE 1

N

0 250 500

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 4 Project Location

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

N

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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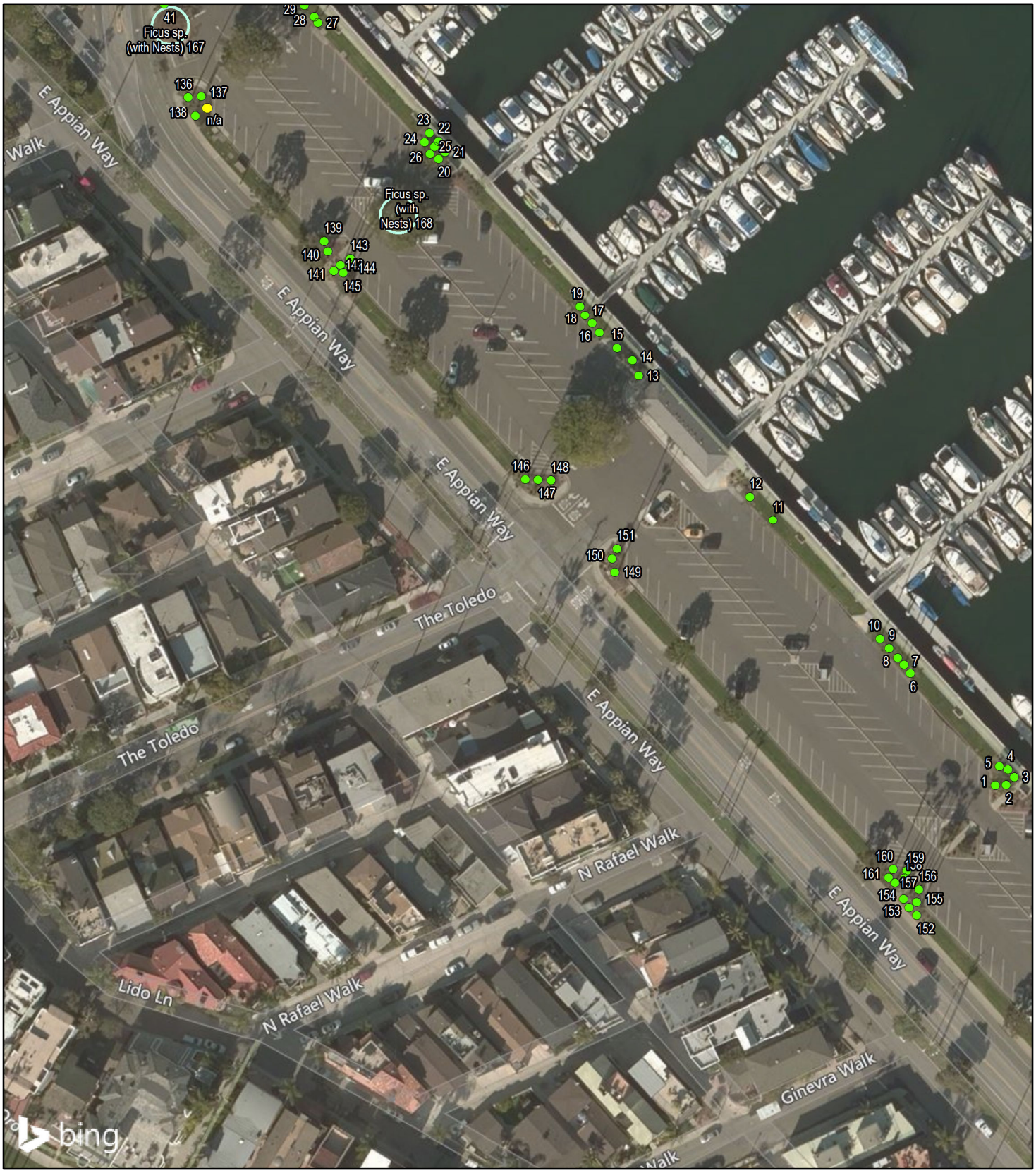
FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 4 Tree Survey



LSA

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- Palm Tree
- Beehive
- Ficus sp. (with Nests)

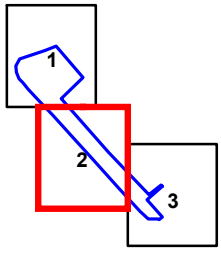

FIGURE 2
Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 4 Tree Survey

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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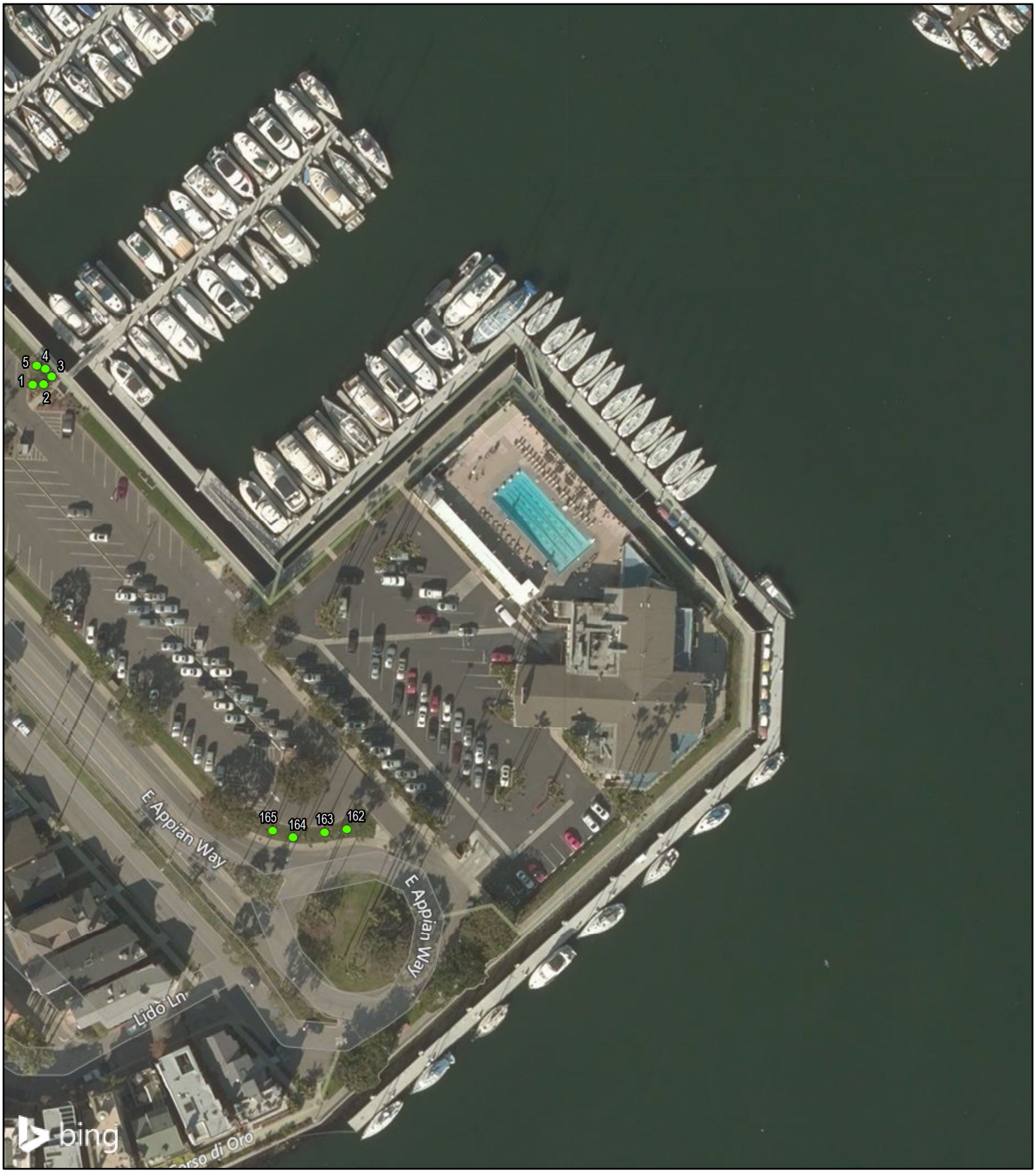

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LEGEND

Palm Tree

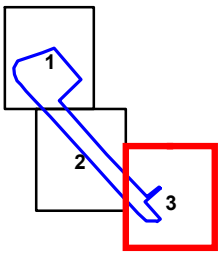

FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 3

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 4 Tree Survey

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