LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 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 Bluff Park per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 23, 2018, LSA Biologists Lonnie Rodriguez and Leeann McDougal conducted a nesting bird 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 trees within Bluff Park along East Ocean Boulevard need to be trimmed (Figure 1; all figures attached). All palm trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 10:45 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (67 degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and mild). Lonnie Rodriguez and Leeann McDougal surveyed 105 palm trees within Bluff Park (Figure 2). These palms are ornamental species and include blue hesper palms (*Brahea armata*), Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirt) 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 palms with nests were seen.

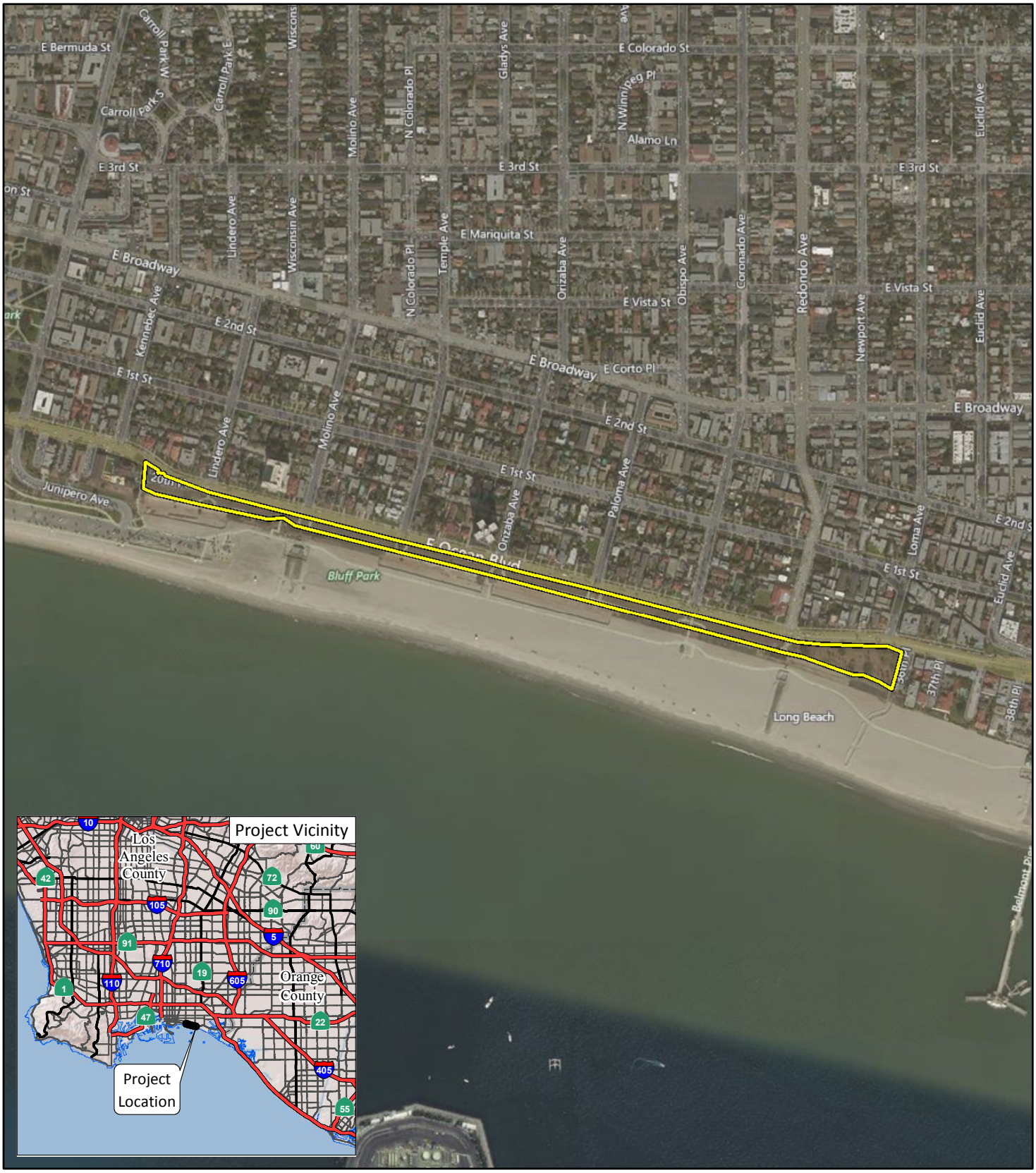
Per the CDP, a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist would not need to supervise the trimming of the surveyed palms because none was identified with nests.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), black skimmer (*Rhynchops niger*), western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), royal tern (*Thalasseus maximus*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), merlin (*Falco columbarius*), 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 Lonnie Rodriguez, Art Homrighausen, 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.



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Bluff Park

FIGURE 1

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Bluff Park Project Location

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Palm Tree

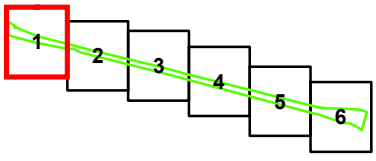

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FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Bluff Park Tree Survey

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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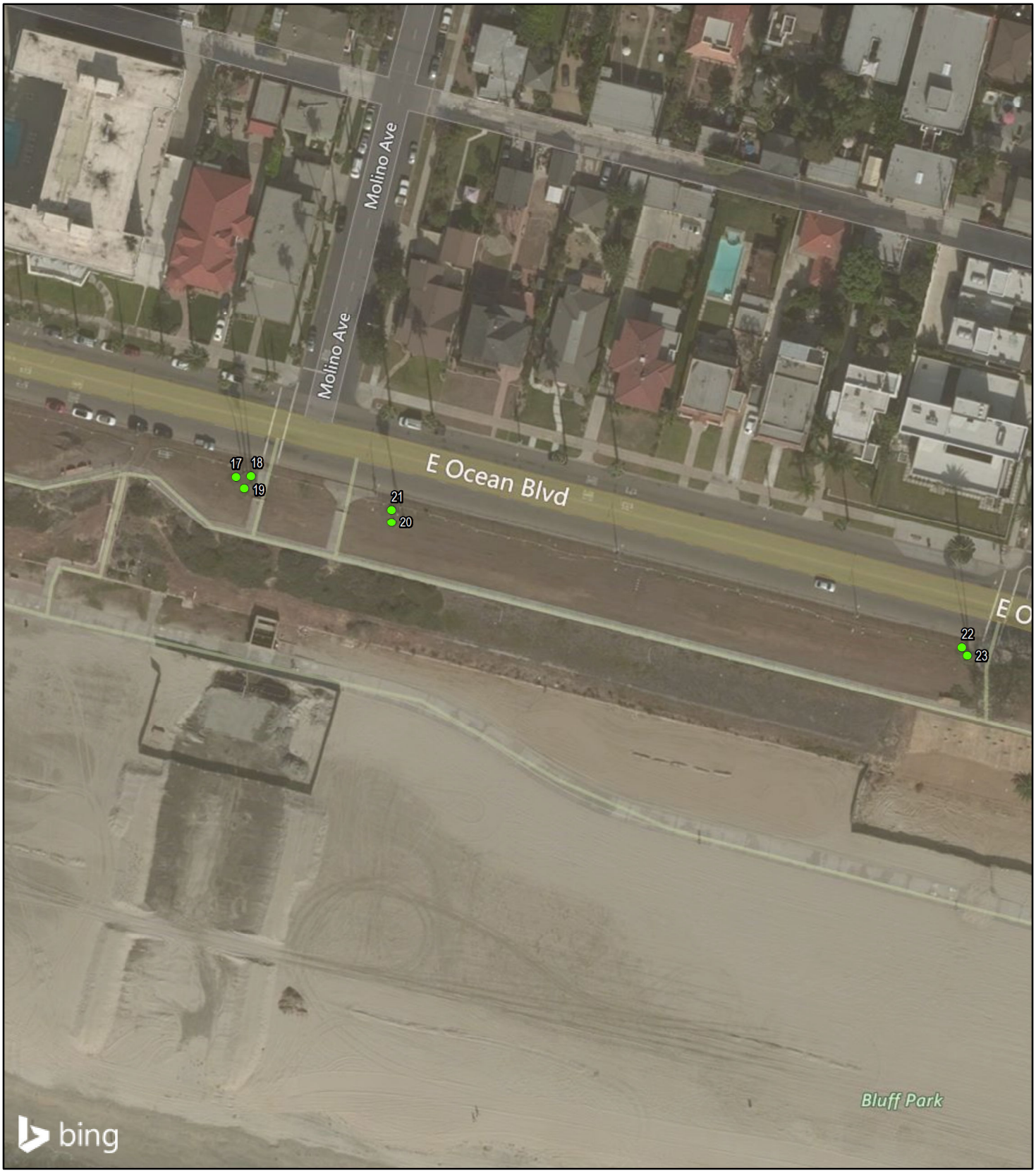

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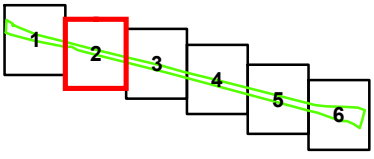
Palm Tree



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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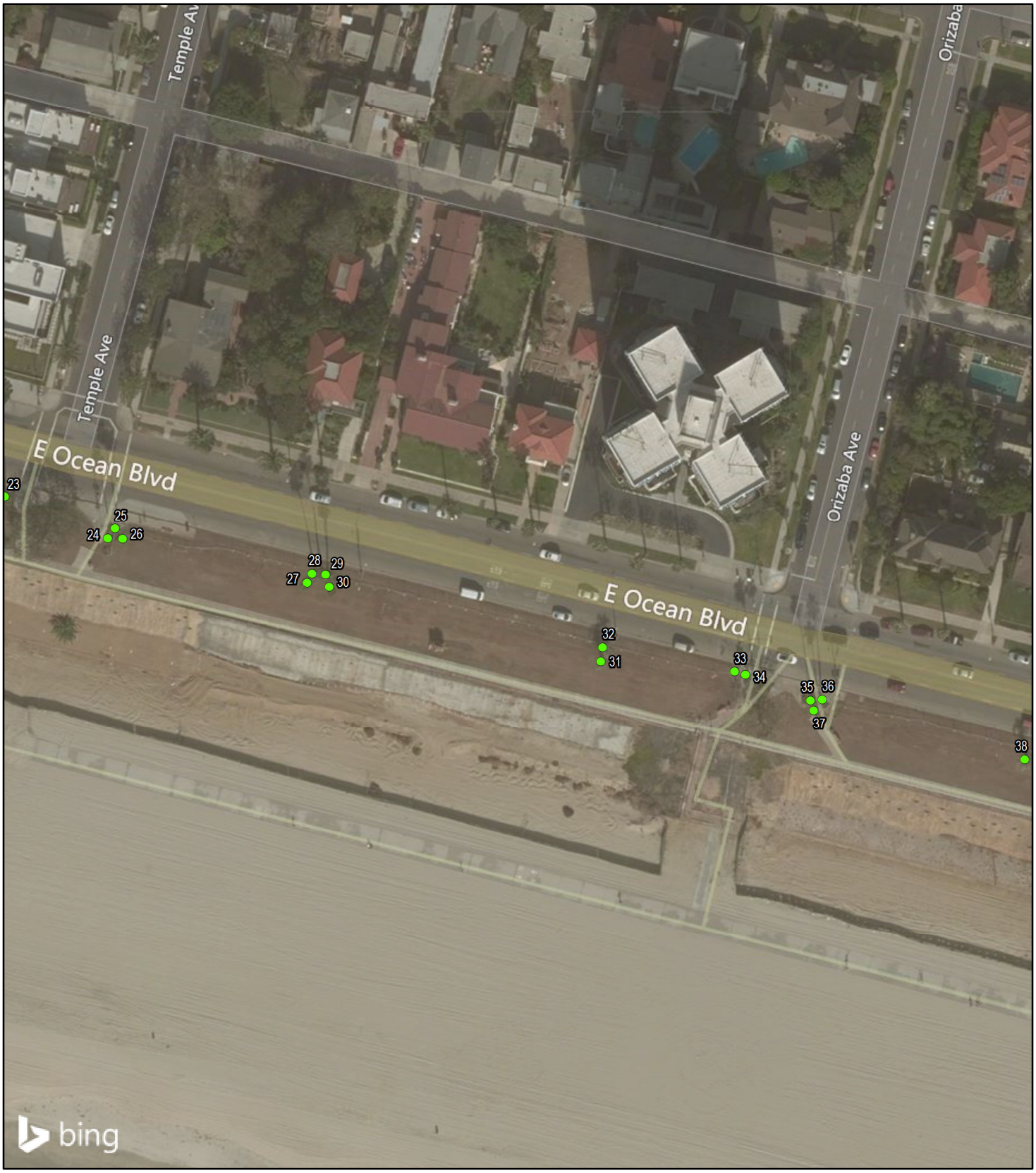
FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Bluff Park Tree Survey



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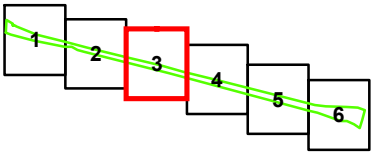
Palm Tree



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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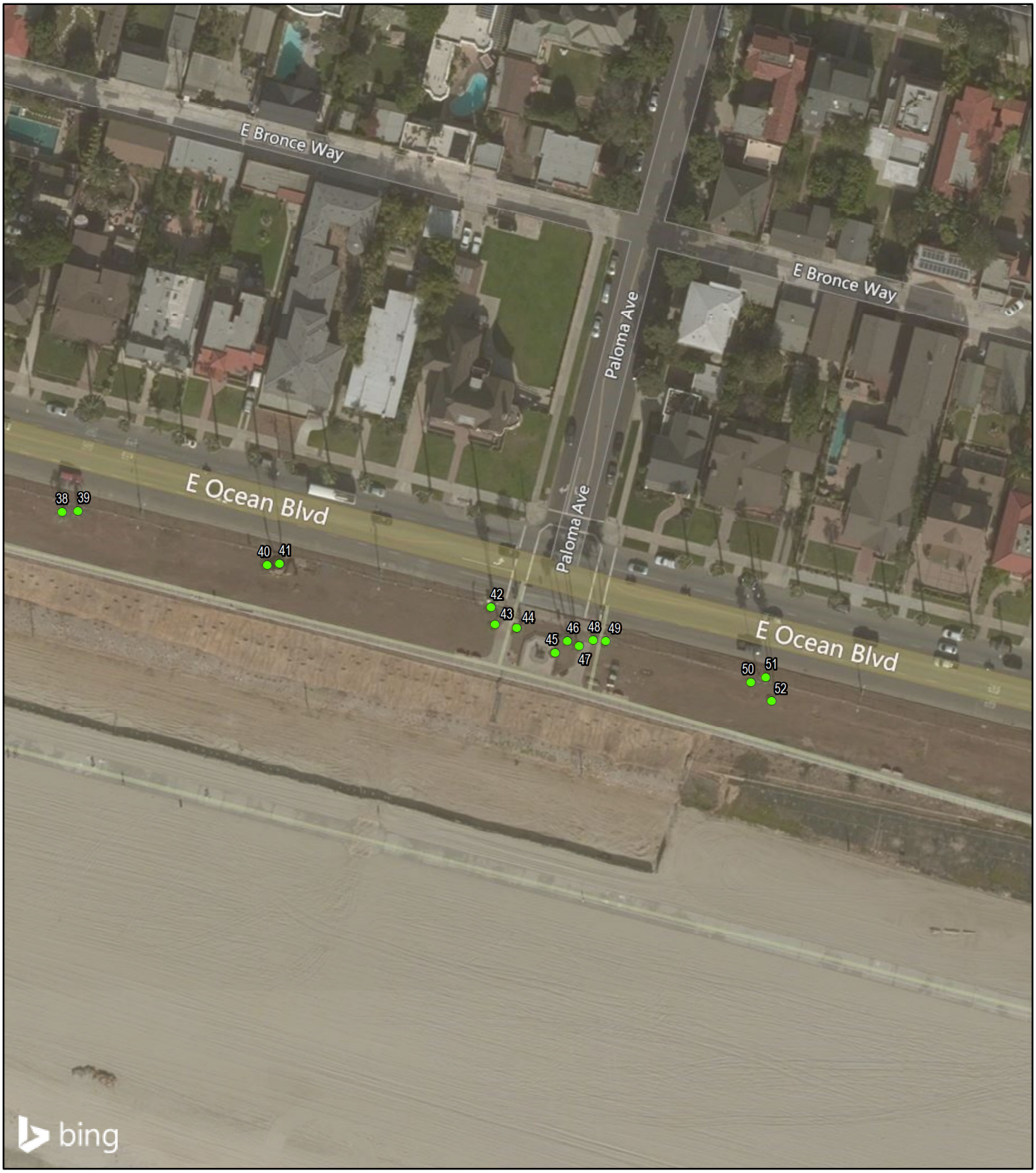
FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Bluff Park Tree Survey



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Palm Tree

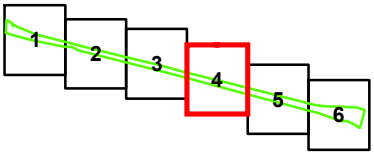

FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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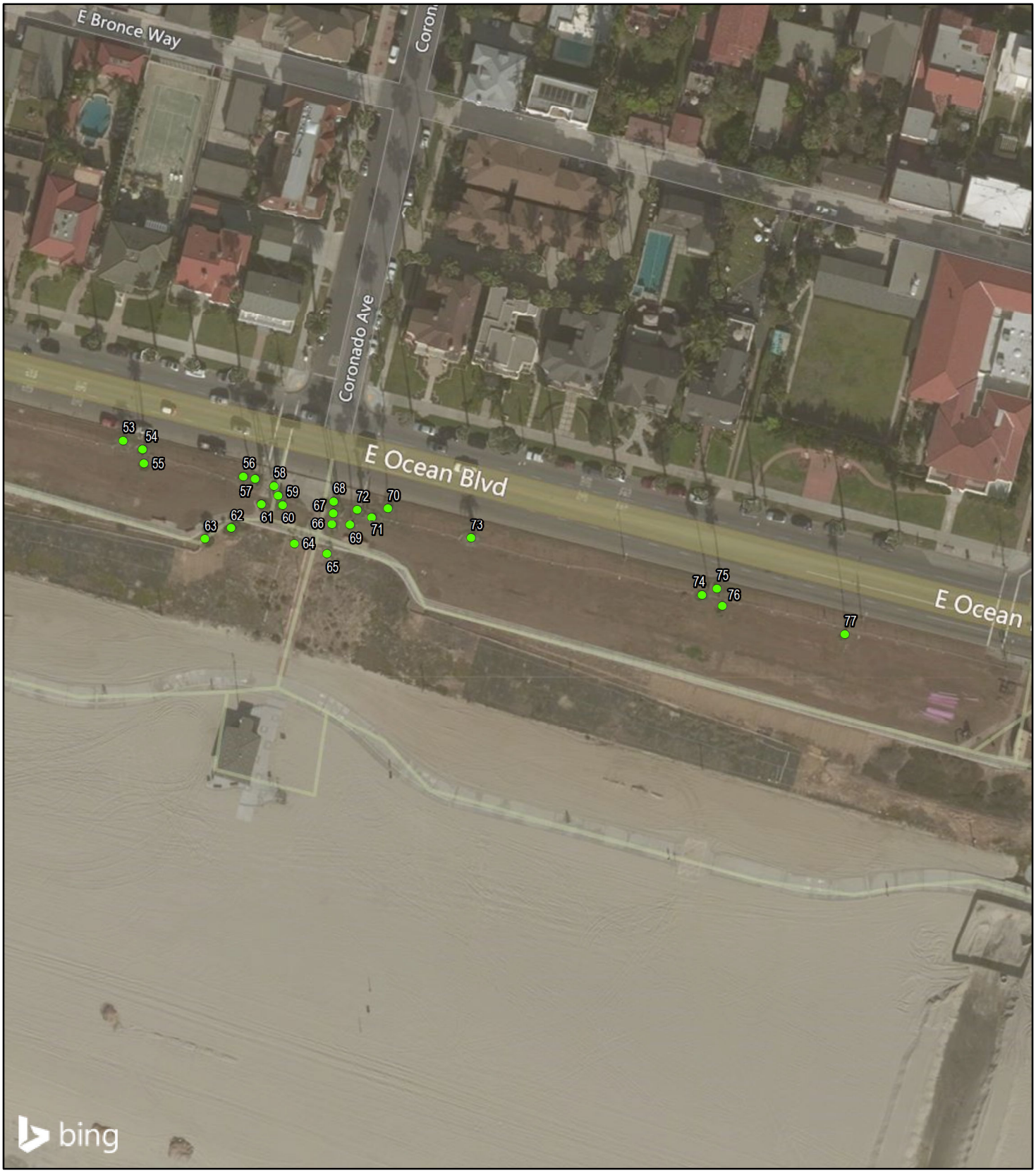

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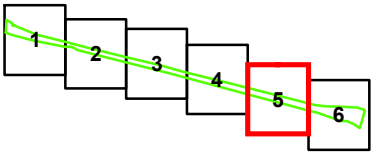
Palm Tree



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey

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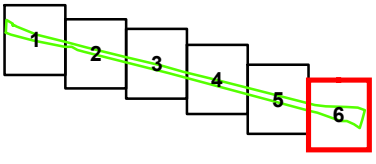
Palm Tree



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City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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