LSA

BERKELEY
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 Rainbow Harbor Grounds per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 25, 2018, 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 Parks, Recreation and Marine Department has communicated that palms and coral trees within the Rainbow Harbor Grounds maintenance area need to be trimmed (Figure 1; all figures attached). All palms and coral trees that were surveyed are referenced by number for identification (Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 8:00 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (67 degrees Fahrenheit, cloudy, and calm). Mr. Rodriguez surveyed 129 trees within the Rainbow Harbor Grounds (Figure 2). The palms surveyed are ornamental species, the Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) and date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*); the other trees surveyed were coral trees (*Erythrina* sp.). 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. The palms and coral trees within the survey area to be maintained were free of nests at the time of the survey.

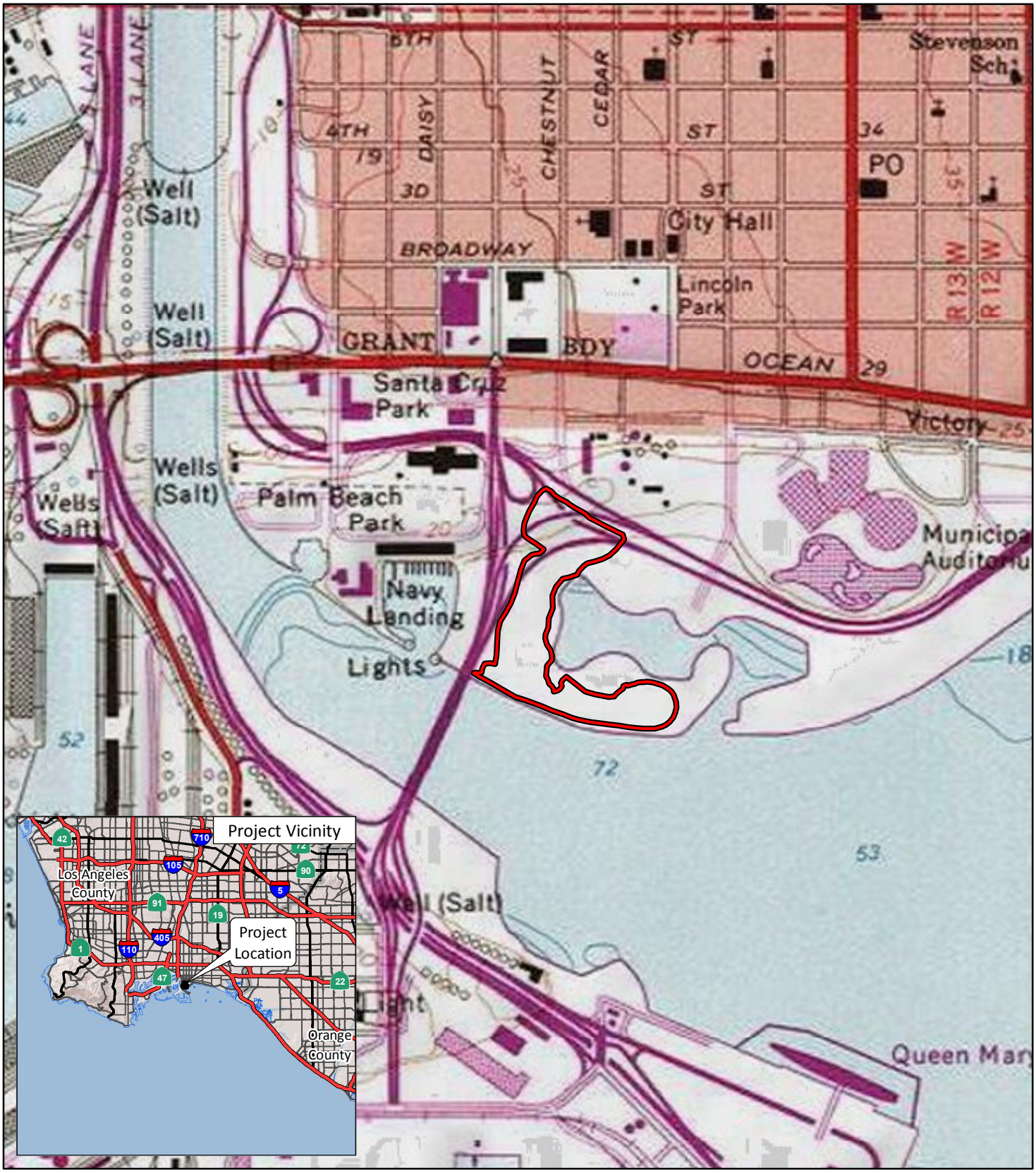
CDP 5-08-187 would not require a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist to be present when the palm and or coral trees are being trimmed within the survey area during the non-nesting period.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), American kestrel (*Falco Sparverius*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), 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, 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] Nonnative species



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Rainbow Harbor Grounds Project Location

FIGURE 1

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0 500 1000

FEET

SOURCE: USGS (2017)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey Location

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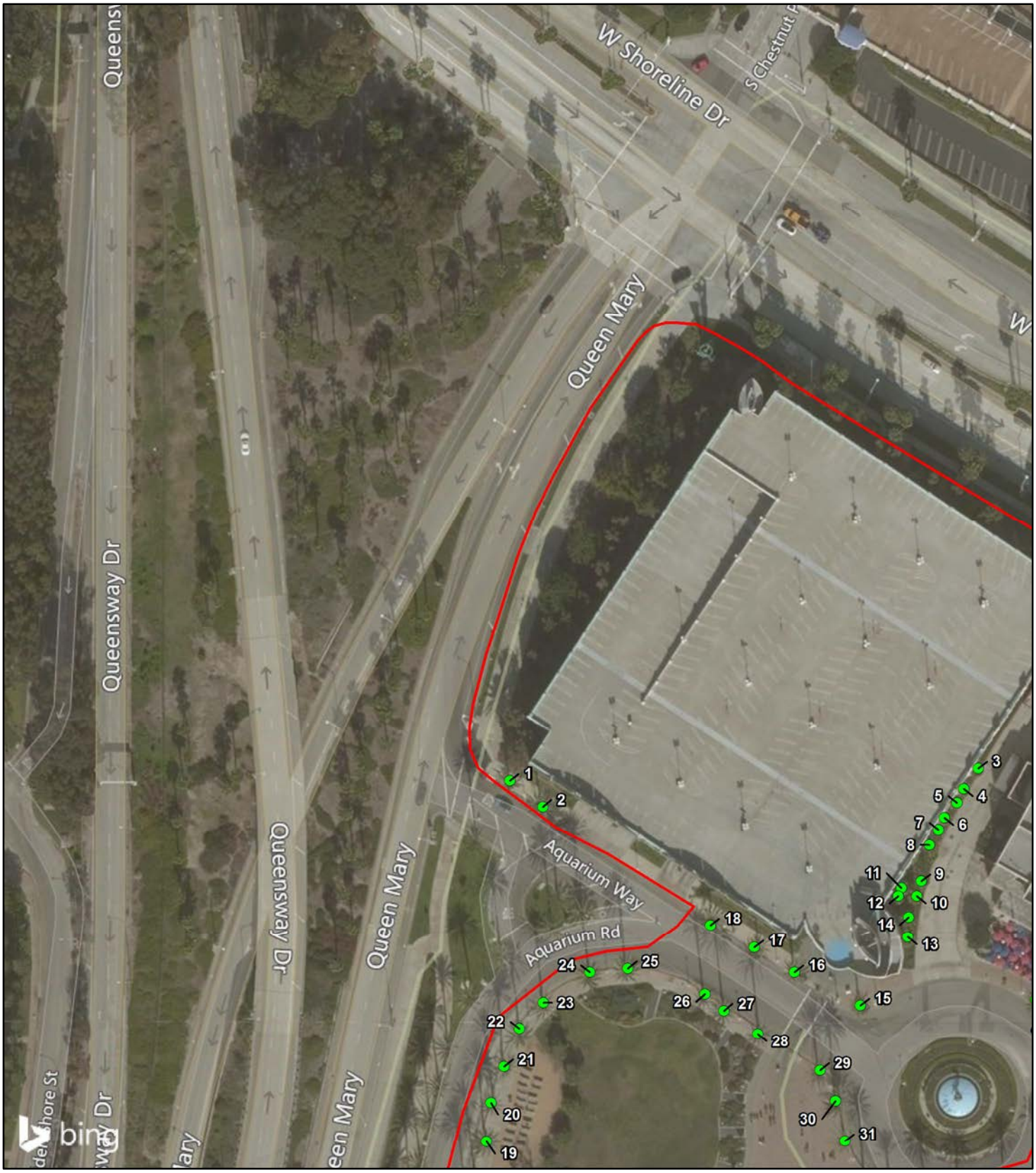

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Rainbow Harbor Grounds Survey Area

Palm Tree

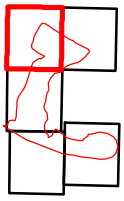

FIGURE 2
Page 1 of 5

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey

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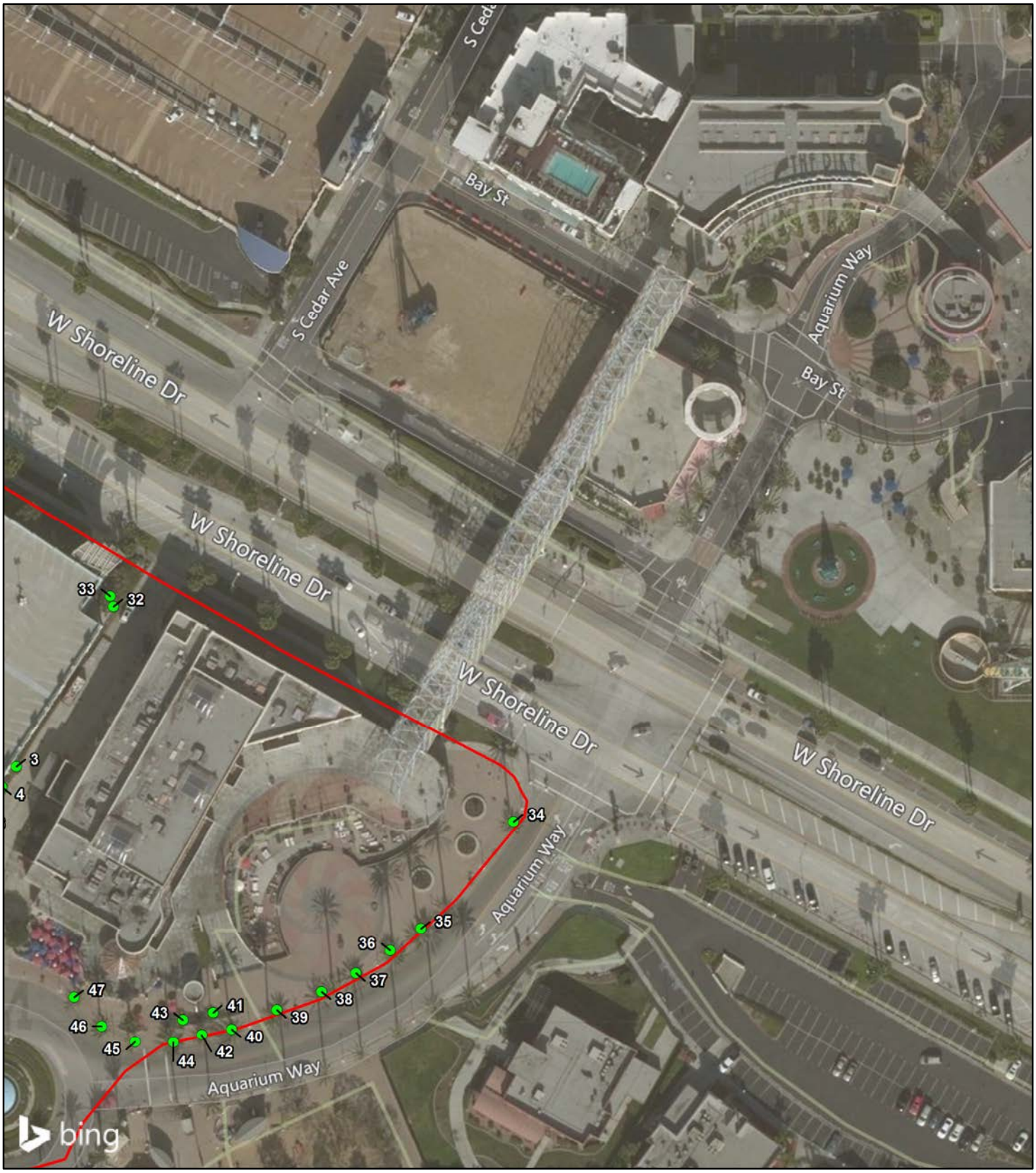

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Rainbow Harbor Grounds Survey Area

Palm Tree

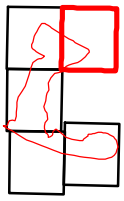

FIGURE 2
Page 2 of 5

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey

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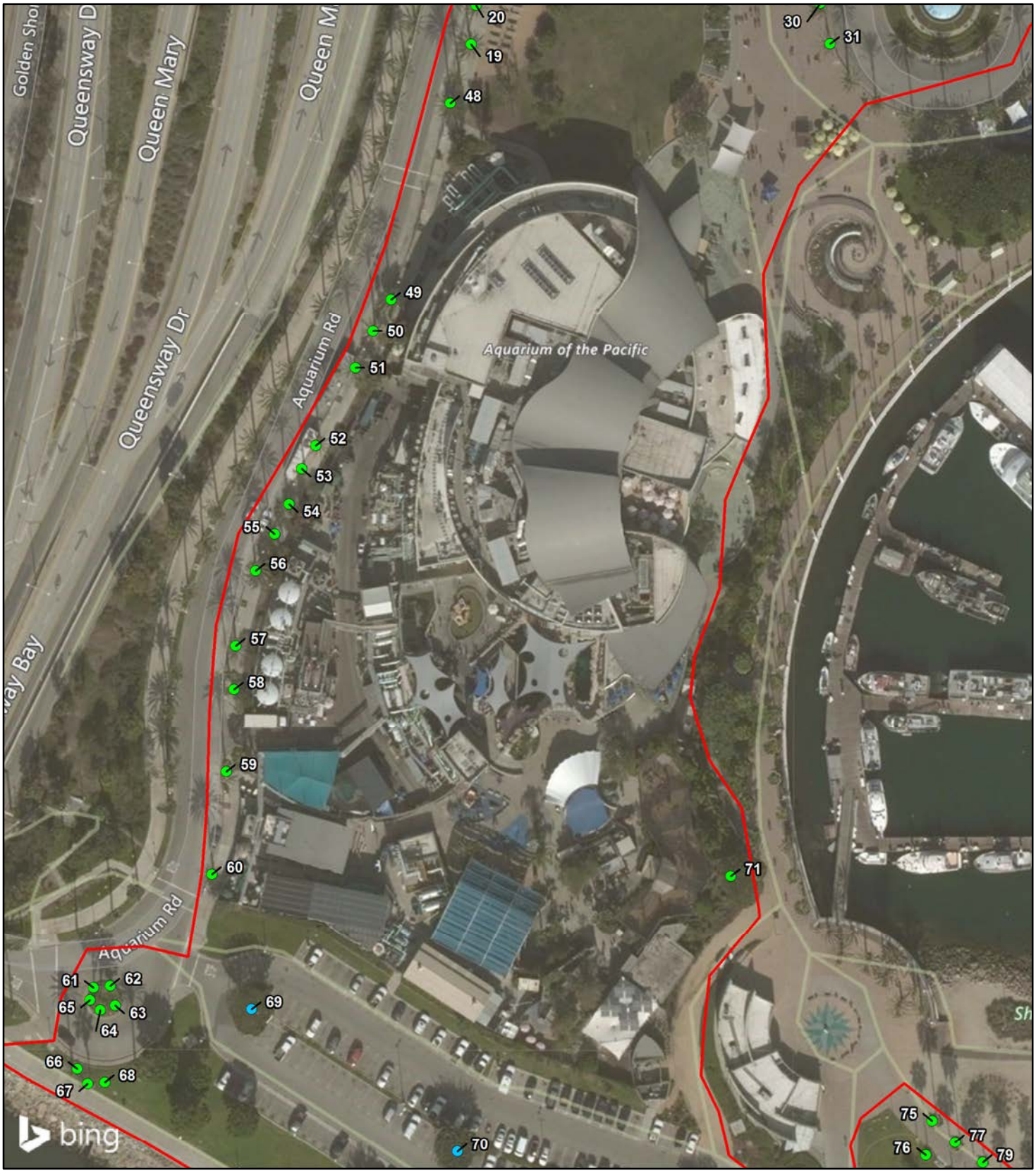

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- Rainbow Harbor Grounds Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree

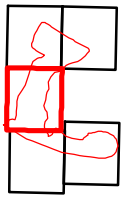

FIGURE 2
Page 3 of 5

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey

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LEGEND

- Rainbow Harbor Grounds Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree

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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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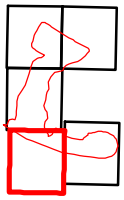

FIGURE 2
Page 4 of 5

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey

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Rainbow Harbor Grounds Survey Area

Palm Tree

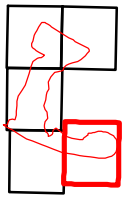

FIGURE 2
Page 5 of 5

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Grounds Nesting Bird Survey

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FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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