LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 24, 2018

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

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

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

On October 23, 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 has communicated that palm (*Washingtonia* sp.) and coral (*Erythrina* sp.) trees within Basin 1 along North Marina Drive 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 8:30 a.m. during conditions that were clear (66 degrees Fahrenheit [°F], calm, and overcast). Lonnie Rodriguez used binoculars to survey 151 trees within Basin 1 (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.). 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. Three ficus trees (Nos. 79, 150, and 151) had nests presumably used by birds (e.g., herons, egrets) with special biological or economic significance (see Figure 2, Sheet 3). Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) were perched next to stick nests in ficus (Nos. 79 and 151) at the time of the survey. Neither great blue heron displayed courtship or nesting behavior during observation. Additionally, but apparently not associated with a nest, five black-crowned night-heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) were roosting within the tree canopy of ficus tree No. 151. No other nests were identified at the time of the survey in Basin 1.

Per the CDP, a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist would not need to supervise the trimming of the surveyed palms since none were identified with nests. However, if the trimming of ficus tree Nos. 79, 150, and 151 is warranted, a qualified biologist or ornithologist and arborist would need to supervise the maintenance of these trees.

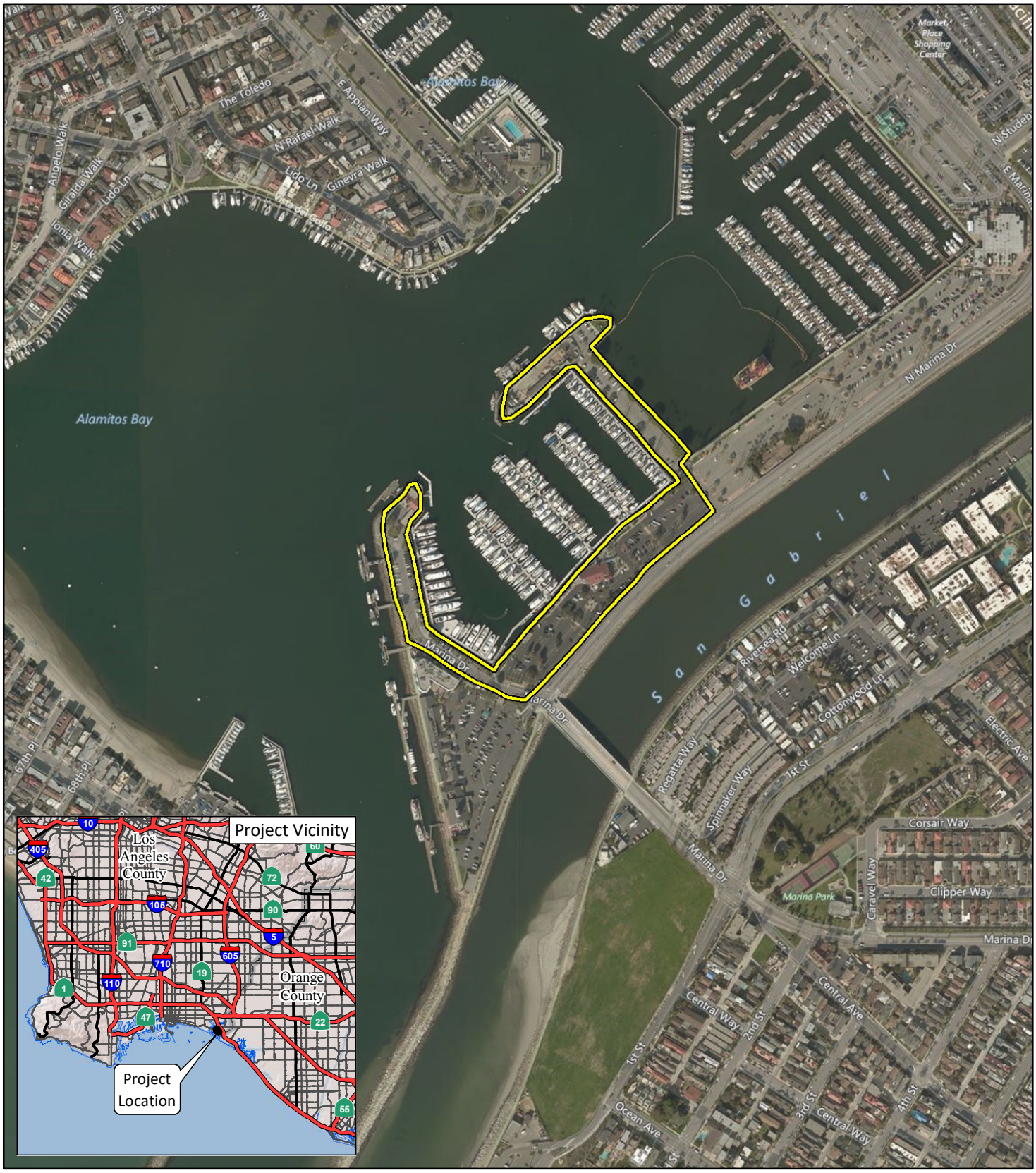
Caution should be taken when maintenance activities are occurring at palm Nos. 60, 61, 62, 63, 70, 71, 78, and 80 to avoid accidental damage to the branches supporting any nests or to the nests themselves in ficus tree Nos. 79, 150, and 151 adjacent to the palms mentioned above.

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 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

FIGURE 1

N

0 250 500

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\ProjectLocation_Basin1.mxd (11/16/2017)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Project Location

LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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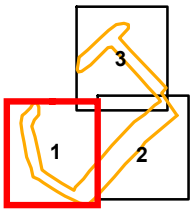

FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 1 Tree Survey

LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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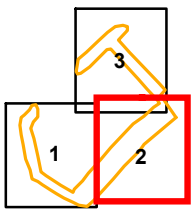
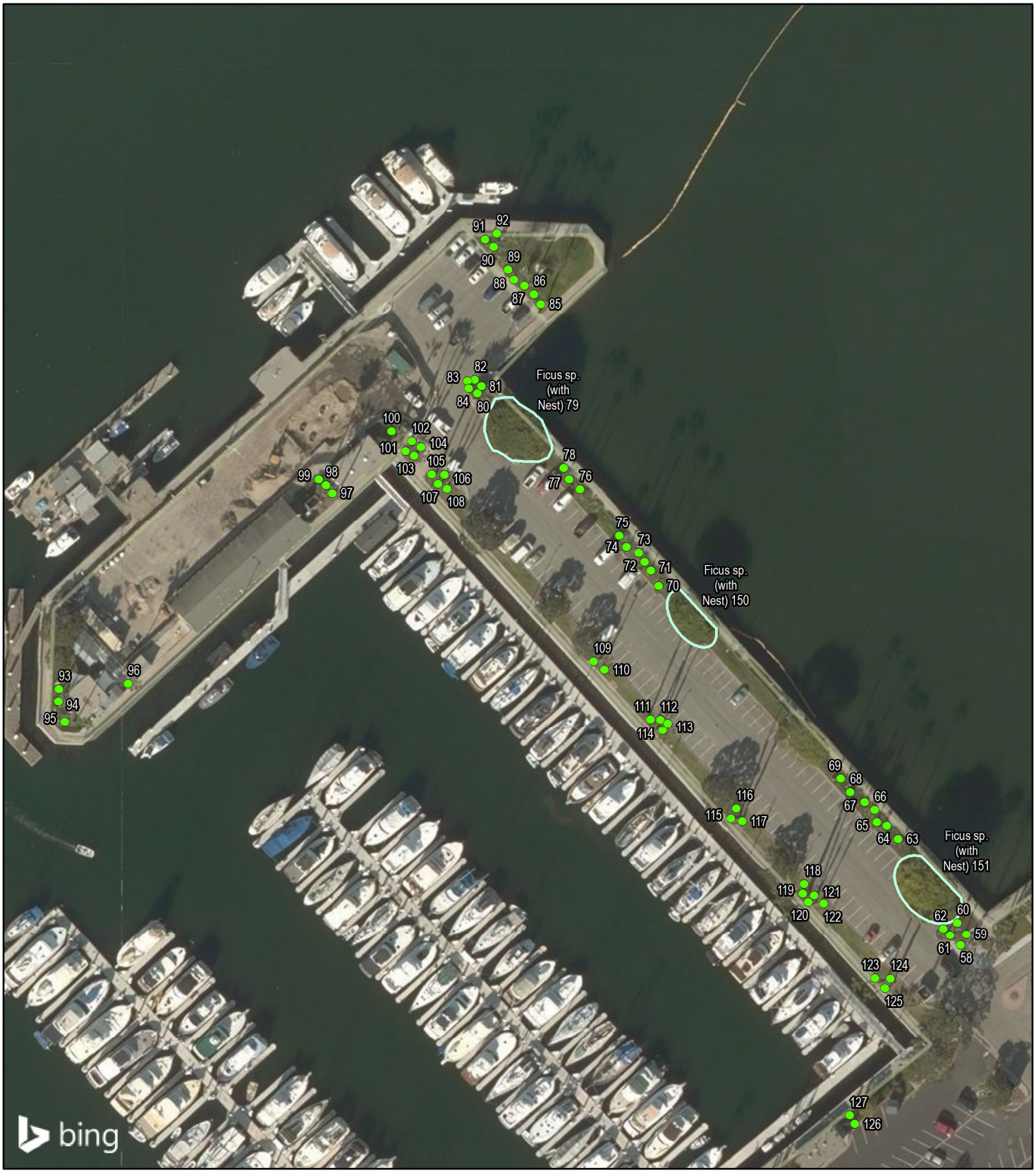


FIGURE 2

Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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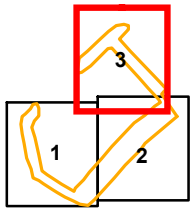

FIGURE 2

Sheet 3 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey