LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2019

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

FROM: Heather Monteleone, Assistant Biologist

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Golden Shore per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 31, 2019, LSA Assistant Biologist Heather Monteleone 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 the following:

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.
3. 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.
4. 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 is continuing its annual tree maintenance activity and has requested that all trees to be trimmed within Golden Shore be surveyed prior to maintenance (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 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 a.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (68 degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and mild). Aided with the use of binoculars, Ms. Monteleone surveyed 107 palms within the Golden Shore maintenance area (Figure 2). The palms surveyed are an ornamental species, the Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*). Other trees surveyed were the coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.) and Chinese banyan (*Ficus microcarpa*). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirts) or had small skirts from slumped dead and dying palm fronds. Great blue herons (*Ardea herodias*) and black-crowned night-herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) are not known to construct stick nests under dead palm frond skirts; therefore, their nests would likely be visible during a survey. Three ficus trees (Nos. 40, 48, and 49) were each identified as having inactive nests. A larger nest in ficus tree No. 49 could have been from either an American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) or a black-crowned night-heron. Ficus trees Nos. 40 and 48 also had smaller passerine nests. Since 2017, trees Nos. 40, 48, and 49 have had nests identified within the canopy. There were no birds associated with the nest at the time of the survey, and the nests identified were inactive. No other nests were identified at the time of survey in the survey area. Caution should be taken during maintenance activities at the palms adjacent to ficus trees Nos. 40, 48, and 49.

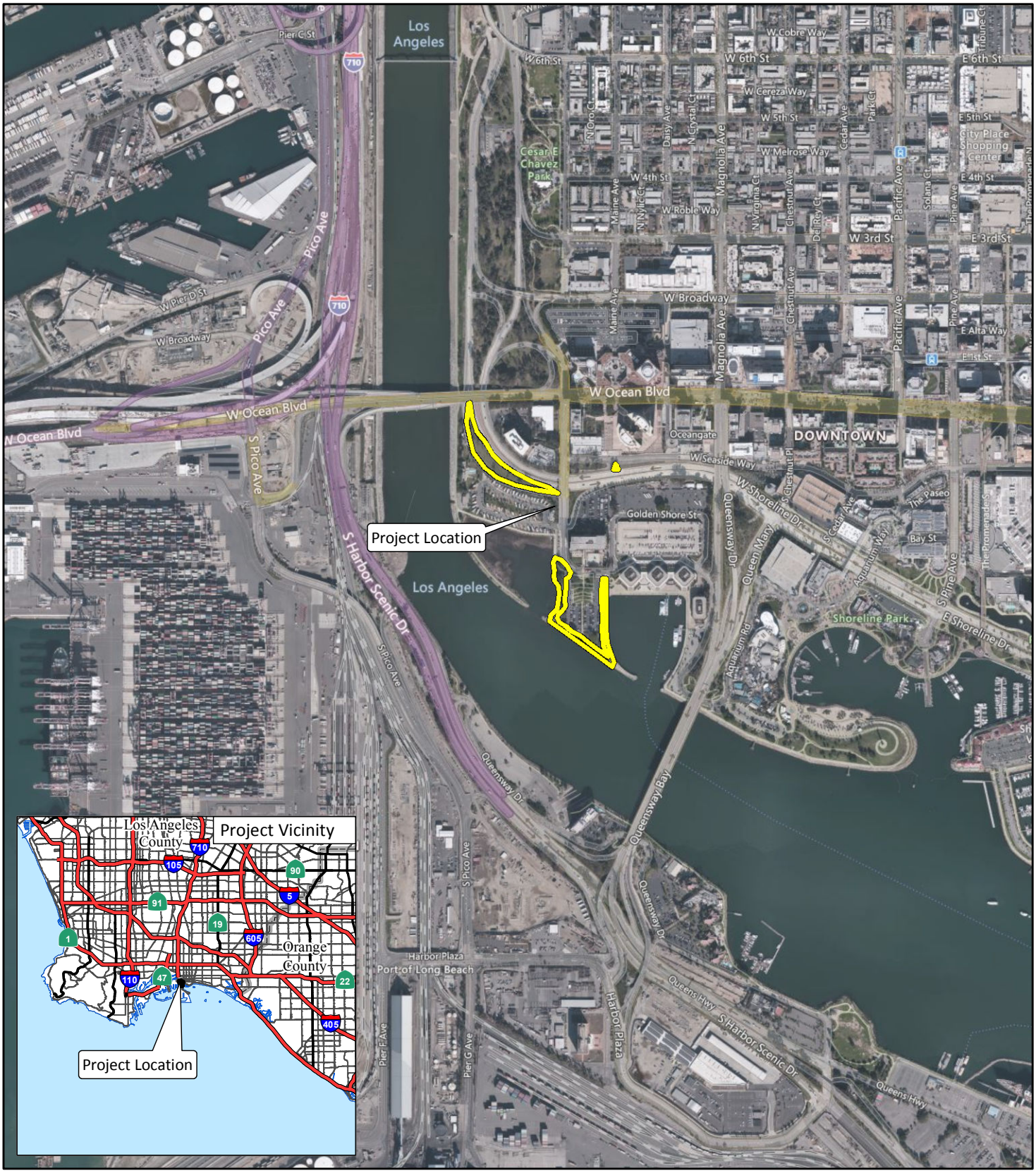
Additionally, at the time of the survey, it was observed that palm trees Nos. 36 through 39 have been removed as part of a construction project unrelated to tree-trimming activities. During the 2018 survey, palm No. 36 was identified with an inactive potential great blue heron nest.

Per CDP 5-08-187, ficus trees Nos. 40, 48, and 49, which were identified with remnants of a nest or nests, can be trimmed only under the supervision of a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist to ensure that adequate nest support and foliage coverage are maintained in the tree to the maximum extent possible in order to preserve nesting habitat during the nonbreeding and nonnesting season (October through December). All trees with one or more nests have been marked with red-and-white-striped flagging.

Bird species observed during the survey included the western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), great blue heron, snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*), western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), and American crow. Nonnative species included the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

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

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2



LSA

LEGEND

Golden Shore Project Location

FIGURE 1

N

0 500 1000

FEET

SOURCE: Bing (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Golden Shore Project Location

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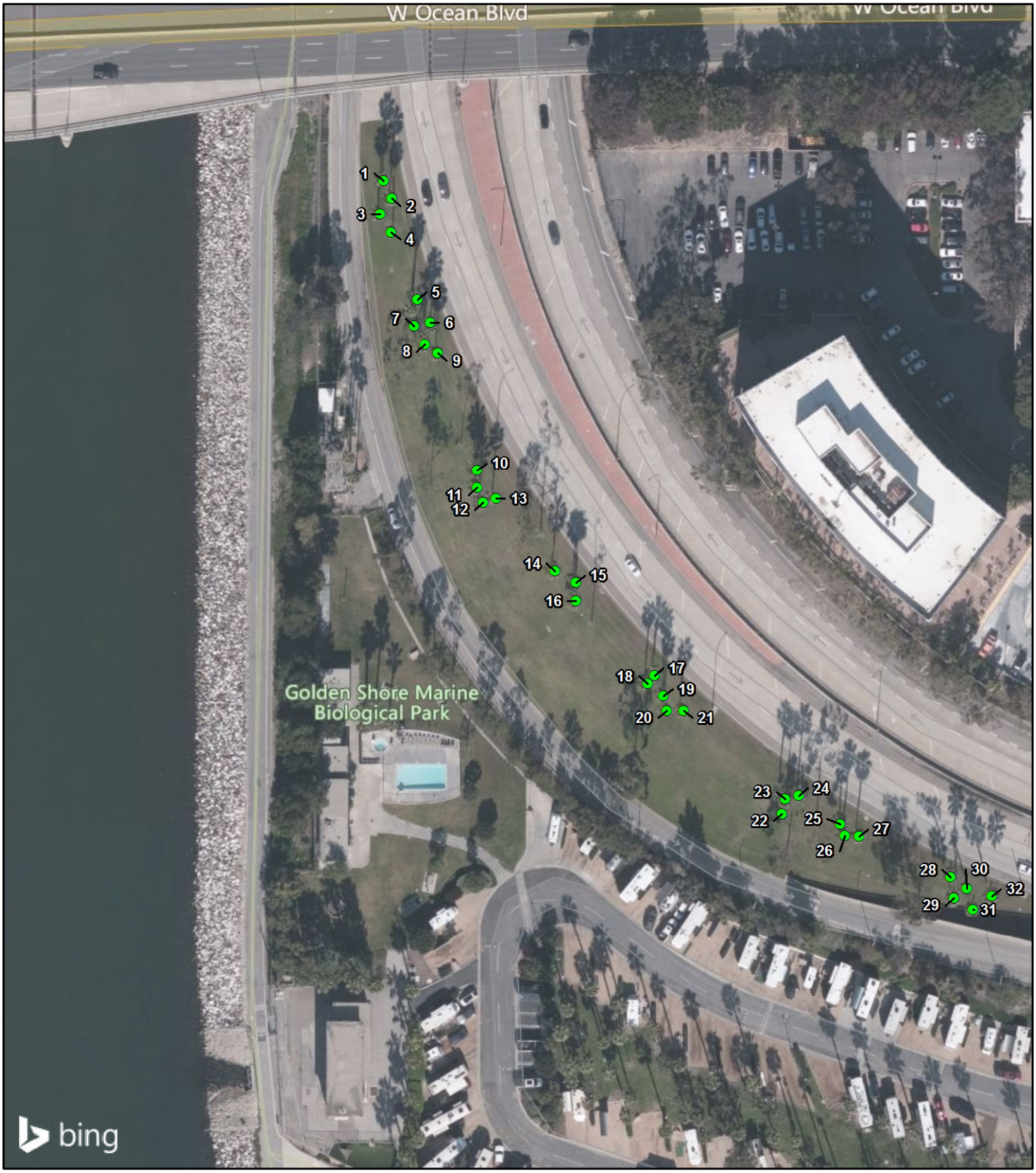

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LEGEND

- Palm Tree

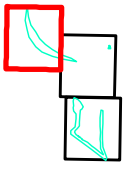

FIGURE 2
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N

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

* Ficus #40 and #50, and Palm #49 identified in 2017, 2018, and 2019

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Golden Shore Tree Survey

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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm Tree (removed)

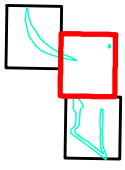

FIGURE 2
Page 2 of 3

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

* Ficus #40 and #50, and Palm #49 identified in 2017, 2018, and 2019

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Golden Shore Tree Survey

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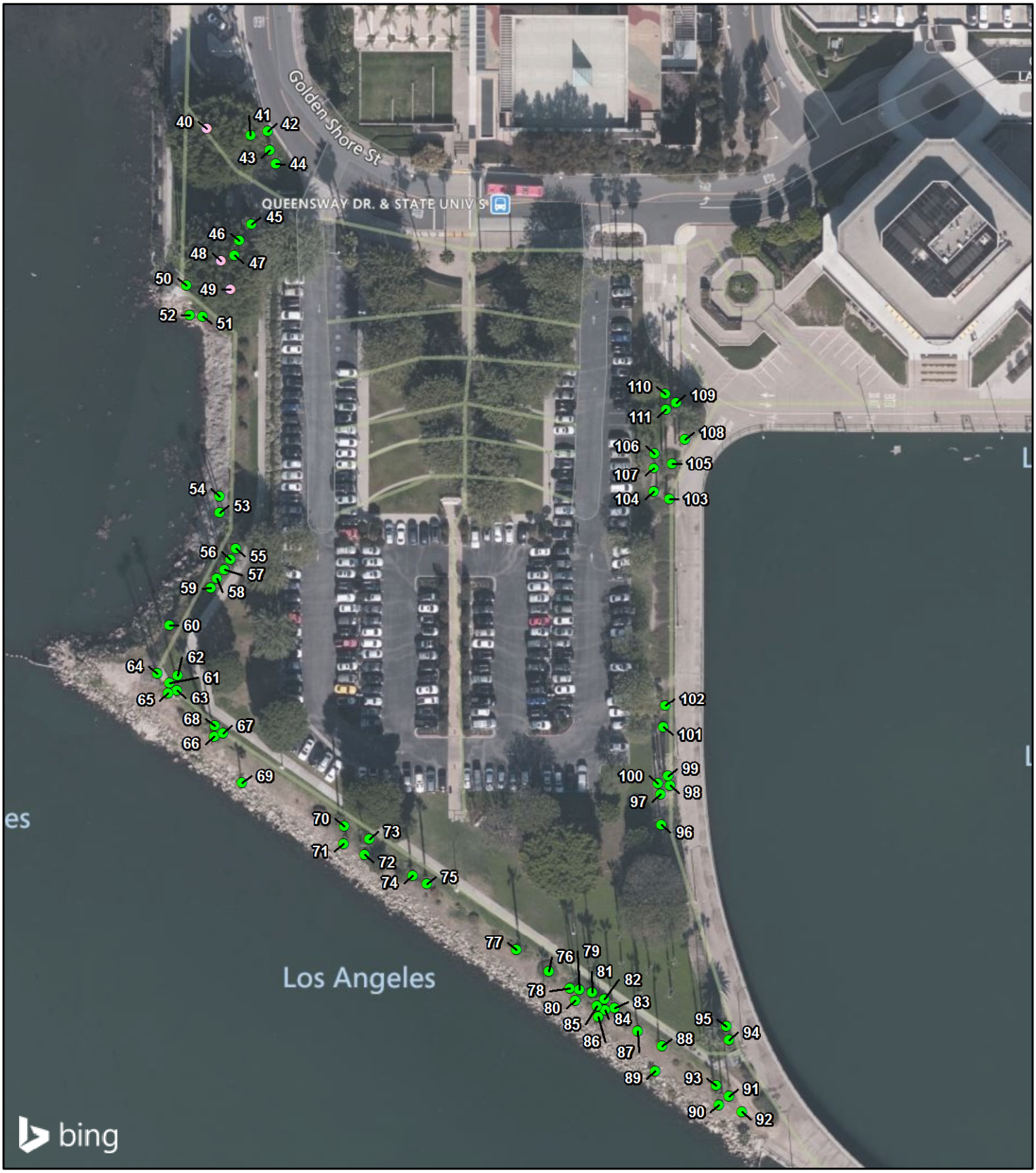

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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Ficus Tree (with Nest)*

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

* Ficus #40 and #50, and Palm #49 identified in 2017, 2018, and 2019

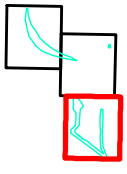

FIGURE 2
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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Golden Shore Tree Survey

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