LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2019

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

FROM: Heather Monteleone, Assistant Biologist

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Rainbow Harbor Esplanade per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 31 and November 4, 2019, LSA 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.

   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 is continuing its annual tree maintenance activity and has requested that all trees to be trimmed within the Rainbow Harbor Esplanade project area be surveyed prior to maintenance (Figure 1; all figures attached). All trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (see Figure 2).

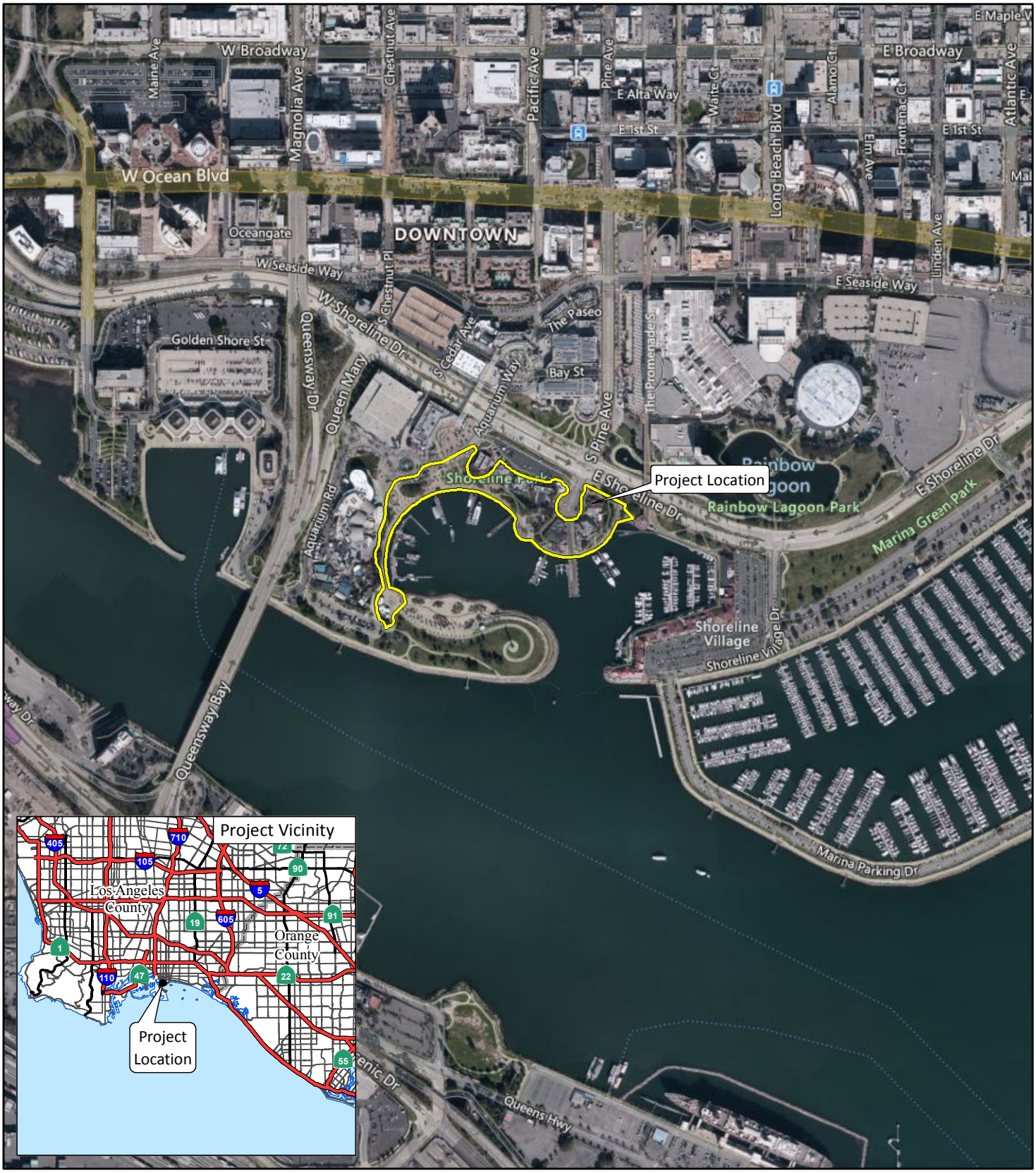
The survey was conducted between 7:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. on October 31 and between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on November 5, 2019, during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior. Weather conditions were cool (65–75 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]), clear, and calm. Ms. Monteleone surveyed 233 trees within the Rainbow Harbor Esplanades Maintenance Area (Figure 2). The trees surveyed are ornamental species: the Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.), Chinese flame tree (*Koelreuteria bipinnata*), tipu tree (*Tipuana tipu*), monkey puzzle tree (*Araucaria araucana*), lemon-scented gum (*Corymbia citriodora*), red ironbark eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus sideroxylon*), silver dollar eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus cinerea*), and rainbow eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus deglupta*). The palm trees surveyed either were 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. The palms and coral trees within the survey area to be maintained were absent of nests at the time of the survey. One coral tree (No. 228) and three tipu trees (Nos. 204, 230, and 231) were observed with large nests, likely to be black-crowned night-heron nests. Three lemon-scented eucalyptus trees (Nos. 210, 211, and 215) were noted with smaller nests, likely constructed by a passerine species. No nests were identified during the 2018 and 2017 surveys. No active nests were identified at the time of the survey in the Rainbow Harbor Esplanade.

Black-crowned night herons were observed roosting in two tipu trees (Nos. 205 and 233), a Chinese flame tree (No. 229), and a coral tree (No. 232). Caution should be taken during maintenance activities to palms adjacent to trees Nos. 204, 205, 210, 211, 215, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, and 233, so that falling palm fronds do not damage nests in adjacent trees. Per CDP 5-08-187, one coral tree (No. 228), three tipu trees (Nos. 204, 230, and 231), and three eucalyptus trees (Nos. 210, 211, and 215), 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*), Forster's tern (*Sterna forsteri*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, American coot (*Fulica americana*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative species observed included the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Please contact Lonnie Rodriguez at (949) 553-0666 or lonnie.rodriguez@lsa.net if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2



LSA

LEGEND

Project Location - Rainbow Harbor Esplanade

FIGURE 1

N

0 375 750

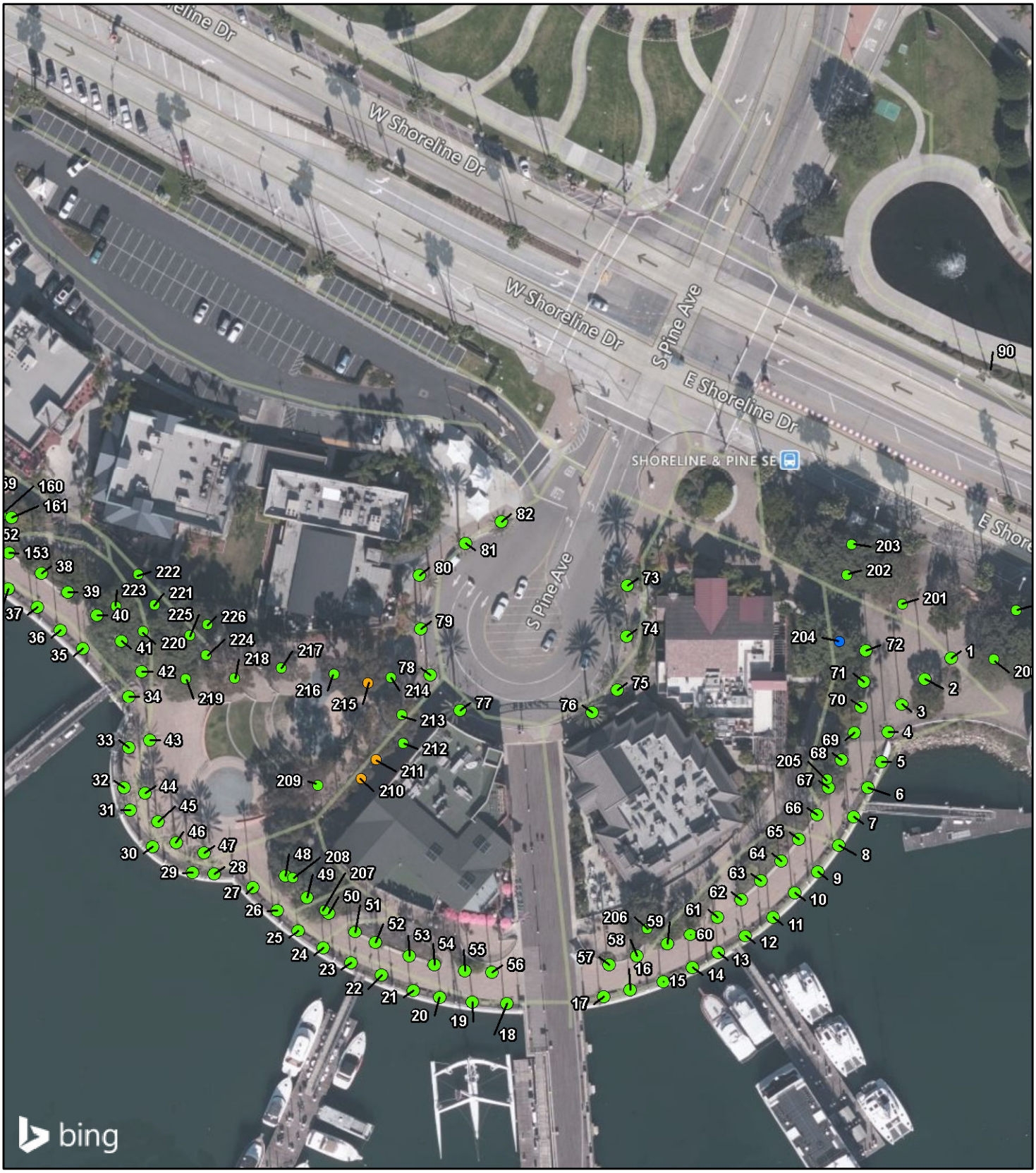
FEET

SOURCE: Bing (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Esplanade Project Location

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\ProjectLocation_WestRHE_2019.mxd (11/7/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Coral (with Nest)*
- Eucalyptus (with Nest)*
- Tipu (with Nest)*

*All nests identified in 2019

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (1/2019)

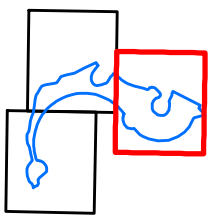
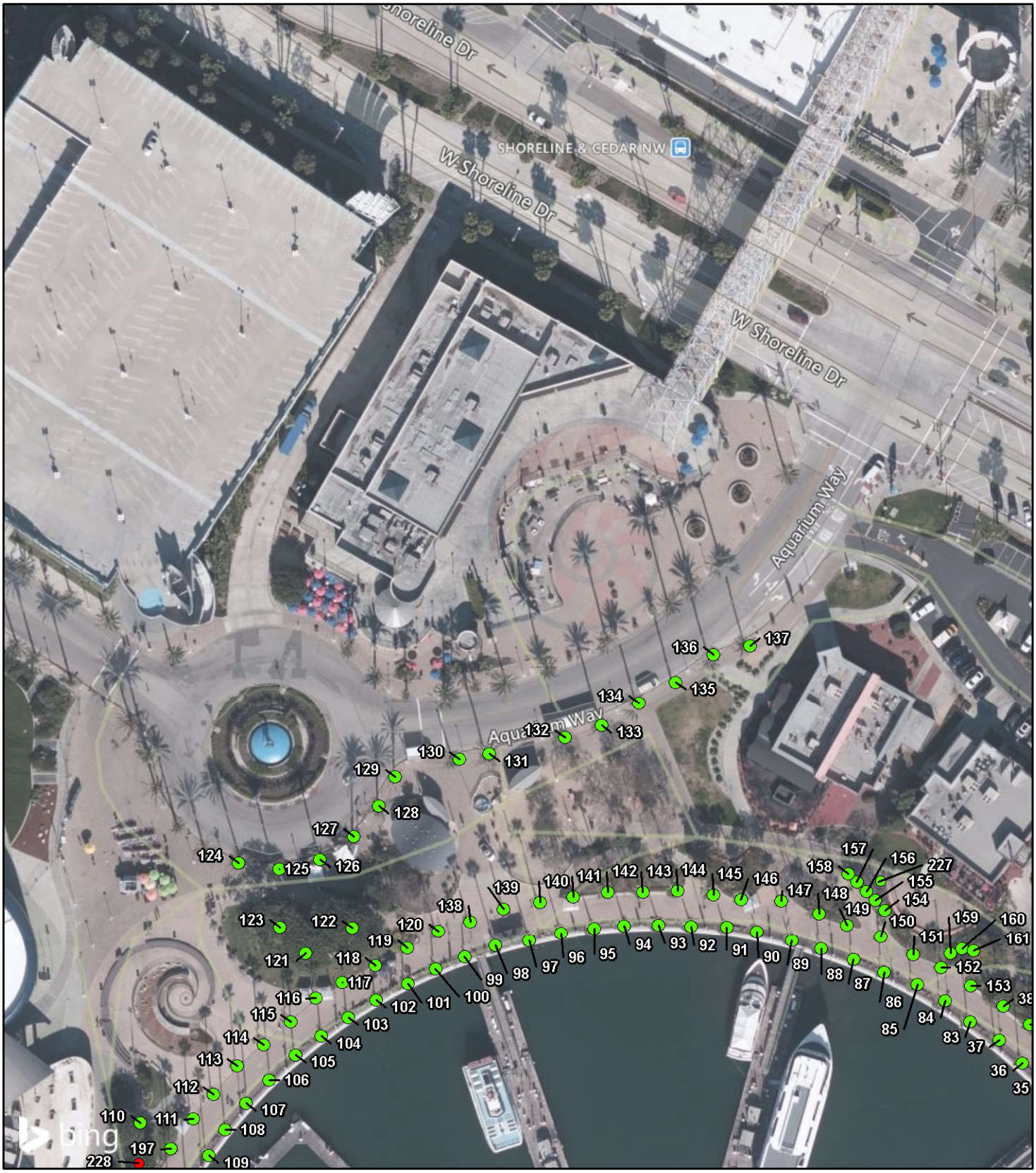


FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Harbor Esplanade Tree Survey

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_WestRHE_2019.mxd (11/11/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Coral (with Nest)*
- Eucalyptus (with Nest)*
- Tipu (with Nest)*

*All nests identified in 2019

N

0 50 100
FEET

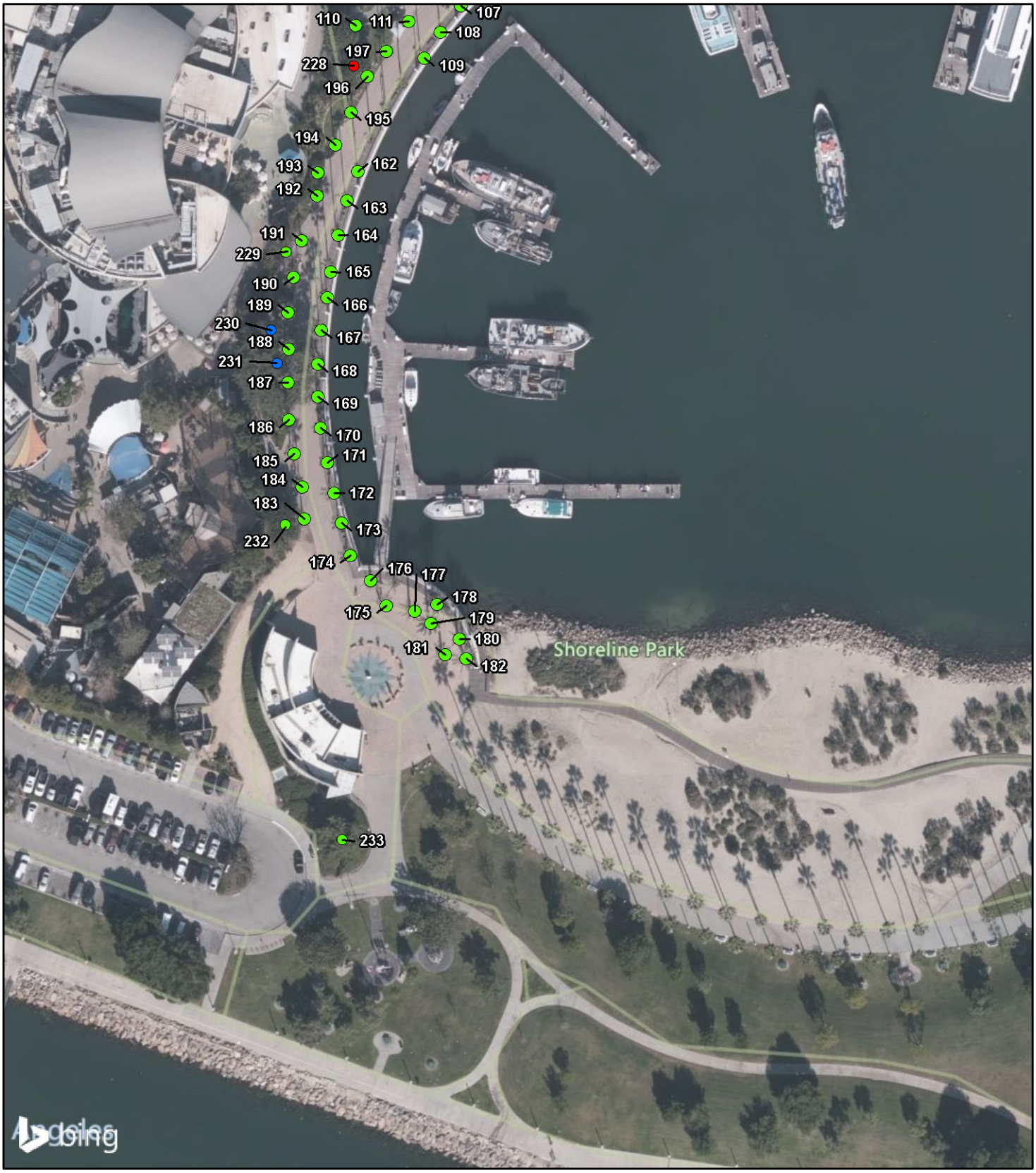
SOURCE: Bing Maps (1/2019)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_WestRHE_2019.mxd (11/11/2019)

FIGURE 2
Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Harbor Esplanade Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Coral (with Nest)*
- Eucalyptus (with Nest)*
- Tipu (with Nest)*

*All nests identified in 2019

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (1/2019)

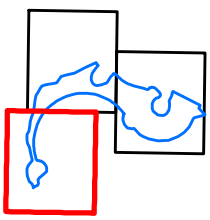


FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Harbor Esplanade Tree Survey

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_WestRHE_2019.mxd (11/11/2019)