LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 11, 2019

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

FROM: Jeremy Rosenthal, Biologist

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

On October 31, 2019, LSA Biologist Jeremy Rosenthal 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 is continuing their annual tree maintenance activity and has requested that all trees to be trimmed within Rainbow Lagoon 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 9:50 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. during weather conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior. Weather conditions were 75 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), clear, warm, and calm. Aided with the use of binoculars, Mr. Rosenthal surveyed 138 trees within the Rainbow Lagoon Maintenance Area (Figure 2). The trees surveyed are ornamental species: Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), Eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus* sp.), and Coral trees (*Erythrina* sp.). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirt) 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 eucalyptus trees within the survey area to be maintained were absent of nests at the time of the survey. Five coral trees (Nos. 27, 28, 29, 32, and 54) were identified with a nest. Four coral trees (Nos. 30, 31, 55, and 59) had signs of whitewash and are potentially used for roosting by black-crowned night-herons; however, no nests were identified in the coral trees. All nests identified were medium-sized, constructed with sticks, and were believed to be constructed by black-crowned night-heron or great blue heron. No. 31 had an excessive amount of whitewash (bird excrement) at the base of the tree. No new nests were identified during the 2018 survey. The 2017 survey identified inactive house sparrow nests in one palm tree (No. 46) and two coral trees (Nos. 54 and 58). The house sparrow nests identified in tree Nos. 46 and 58 should not prevent these trees from being trimmed during the non-nesting season. There were no birds associated with the nests at the time of the survey and the nests were inactive.

Per CDP 5-08-187, coral tree Nos. 27, 28, 29, 32, and 54, 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 non-breeding and non-nesting season (October through December). All trees with nest(s) have been marked with red-and-white-striped flagging.

Bird species observed during the survey included stingray (*Myliobatoidei sp.*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), and Canada goose (*Branta* canadensis). Nonnative species included 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

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Project Location - Rainbow Lagoon

FIGURE 1

N

0 375 750

FEET

SOURCE: Bing (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Rainbow Lagoon Project Location

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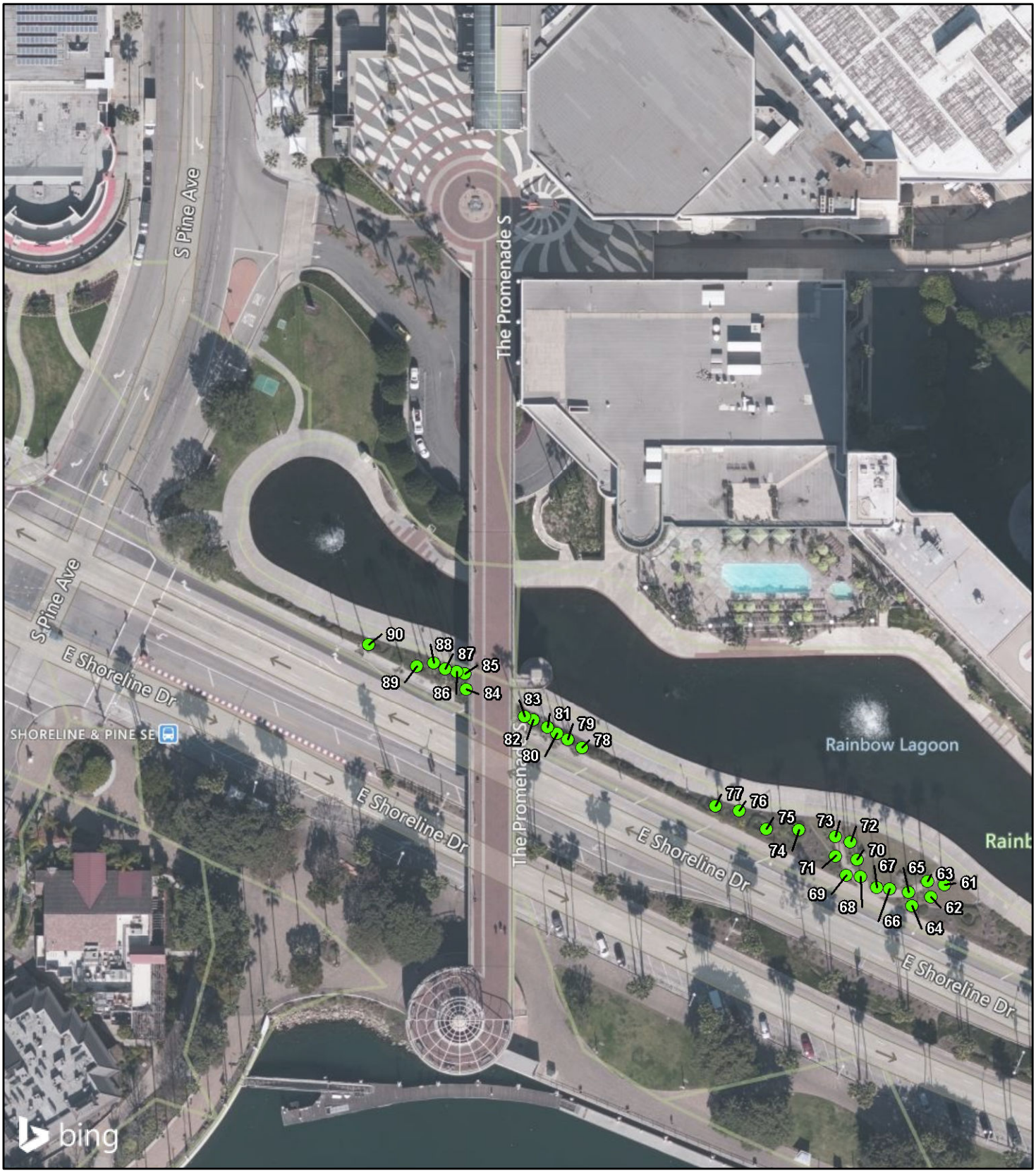

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- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Coral Tree (with Nest)*

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* Coral trees #27, #28, #29, #32, and #54 identified in 2019

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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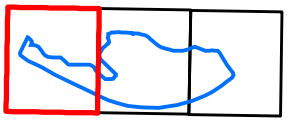
FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3



City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Lagoon Tree Survey

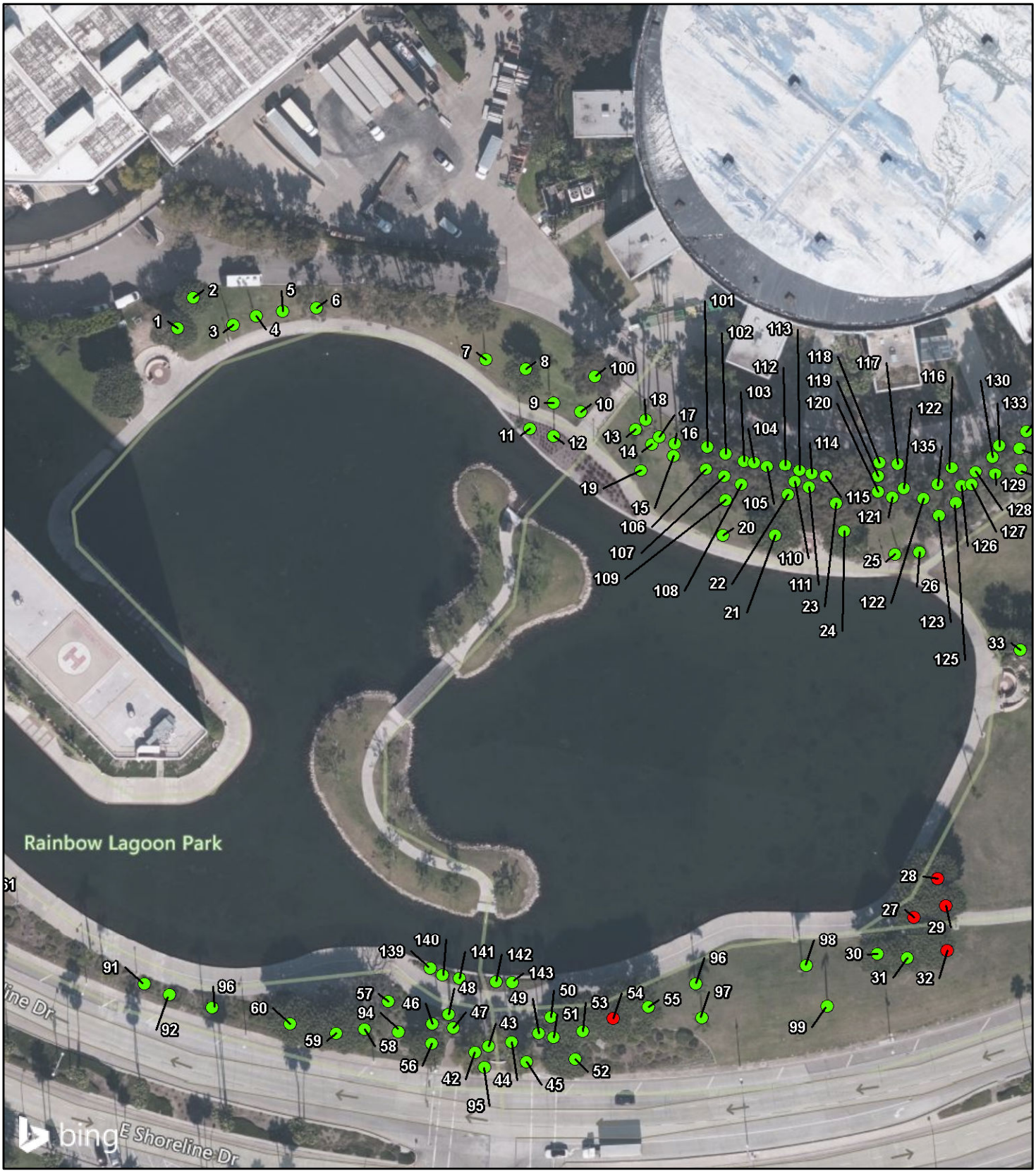


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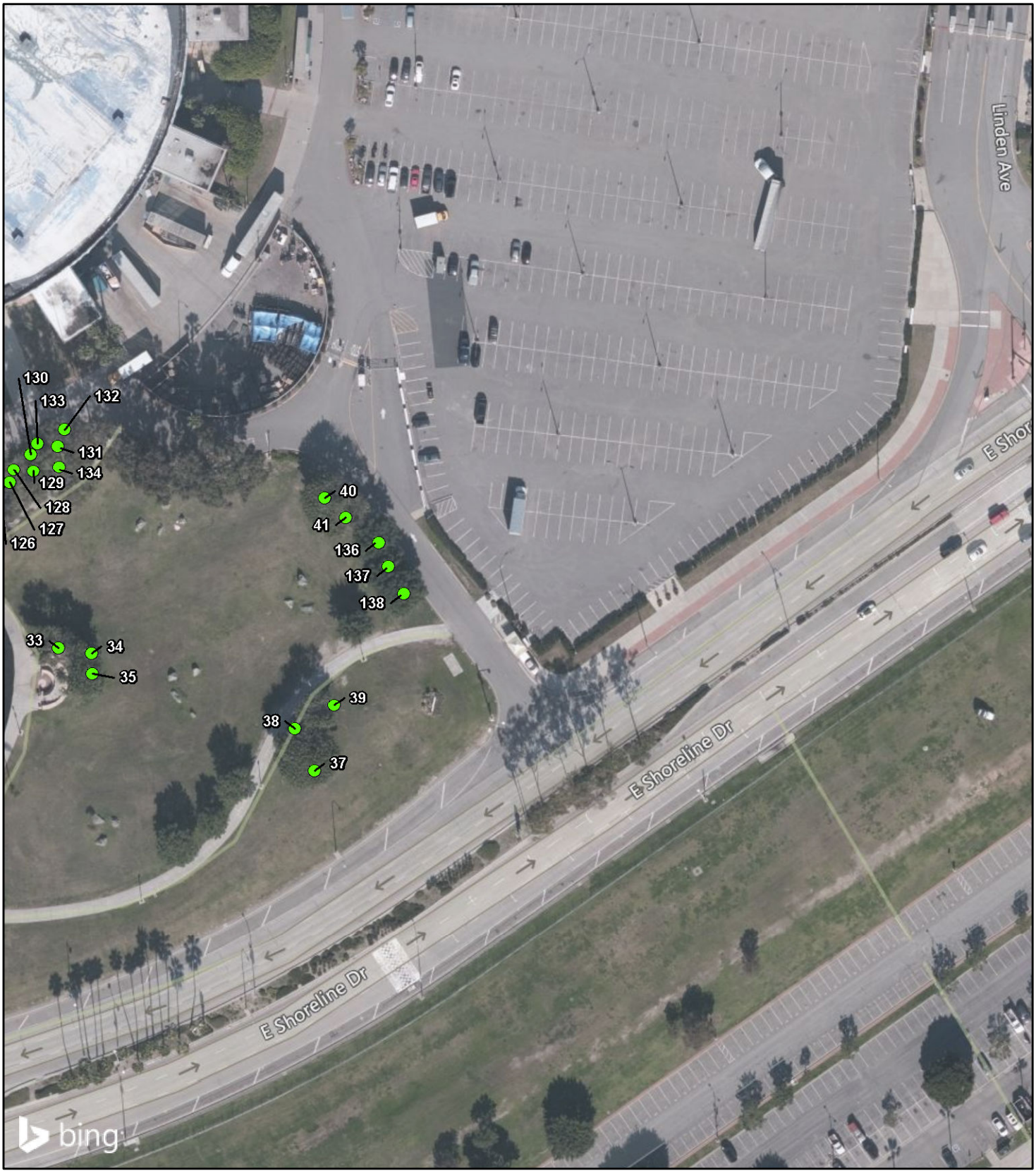
FIGURE 2
Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Lagoon Tree Survey



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Rainbow Lagoon Tree Survey