LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 2019

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

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Senior Biologist, LSA

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

On October 30, 2019, LSA Biologists Lonnie Rodriguez and 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:

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 the 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 5 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 Basin 1 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 10:45 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Weather conditions were clear (60 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]), windy, and cool. Aided with the use of binoculars, Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. Monteleone surveyed 169 trees within Basin 1 (see Figure 2). The palms are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), and the Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). 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 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. Mexican fan palm tree Nos. 73 and 126 were identified during the survey with stick material remnant of a nest potentially constructed by great blue heron. These two palms are the first identified with having nesting material since the nest surveys began in 2017. No other palms with nests or nesting material were seen. Five ficus trees (Nos. 79, 150, 151, 152, and 155) have nests presumably used by birds (e.g., great blue herons, black-crowned night-herons) with special biological or economic significance (see Figure 2, Sheets 1 and 3). One great blue heron was observed near ficus tree No. 159 on the rock slope of the peninsula at the time of the survey. Black-crowned night-herons and one yellow-crowned night-heron (*Nyctanassa violacea*) were seen roosting within the tree canopy of ficus tree Nos. 79, 150, and 159. Other trees noted within the survey area that had excessive whitewash (i.e., bird excrement below tree branches) from bird roosting are tree Nos. 153, 156, and 158. No active nests were identified at the time of the survey in Basin 1.

Per CDP 5-08-187, palm tree Nos. 73 and 126, and ficus tree Nos. 79, 150, 151, 152, and 155, which were identified with sticks, 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 ficus and palm trees with nest(s) have been marked with red-and-white-striped flagging.

All palm and ficus trees surveyed within Basin 1 that were identified without a nest can be trimmed without the supervision of a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist during the non-breeding and non-nesting season (October through December) (see Figure 2).

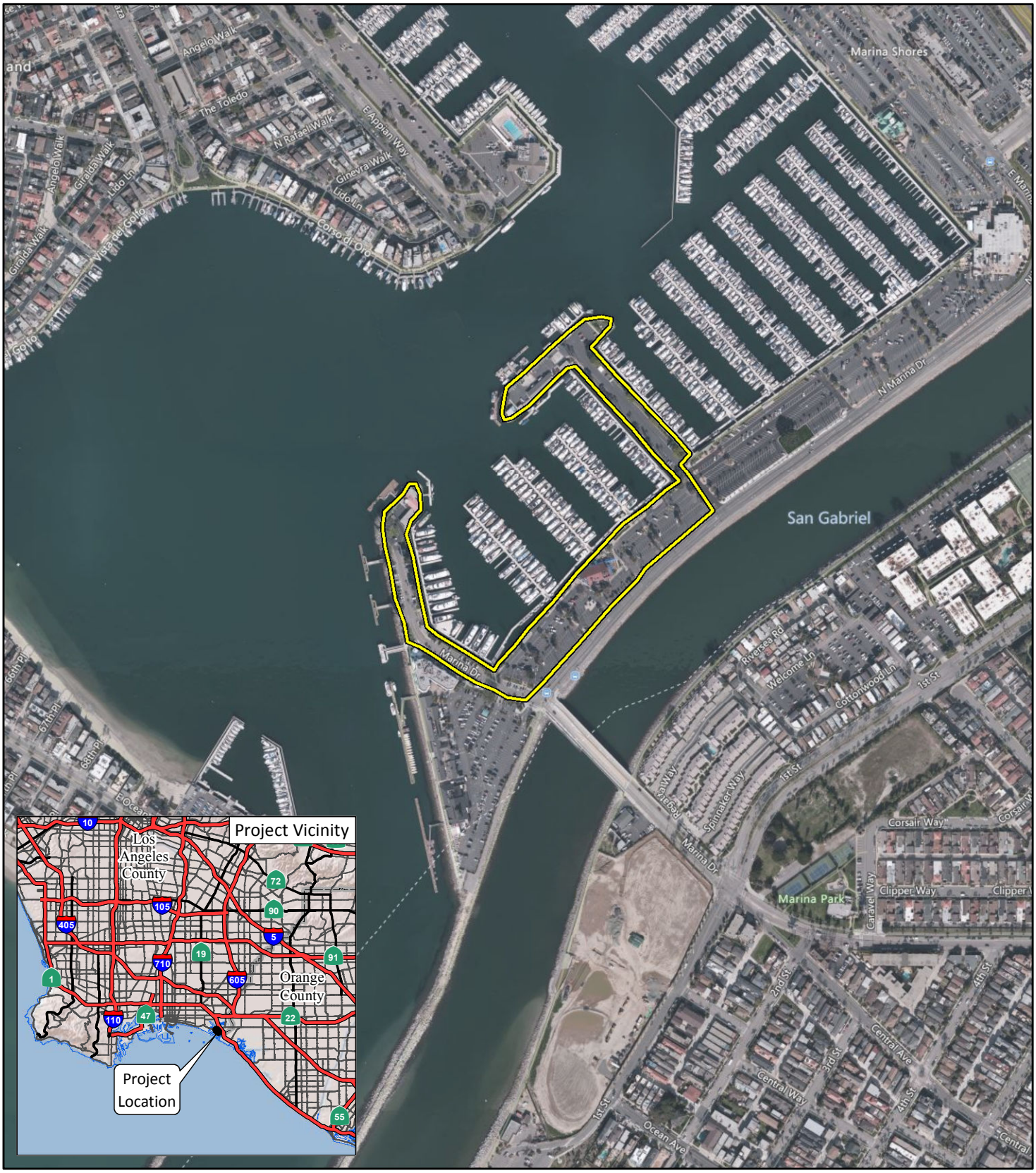
Caution should be taken when maintenance activities are occurring at the palm trees adjacent to ficus tree Nos. 79, 150, 152, and 151 to avoid accidental damage to the branches supporting any nests or to the nests themselves from the cut falling palm fronds.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), great blue heron, black-crowned night-heron, yellow-crowned night-heron, 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*), Japanese white-eye (*Zosterops japonicas),* black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative species observed during the survey included European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), Eurasian collared dove (*Streptopelia decaocto*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

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



LSA

LEGEND

Project Location - Basin 1

FIGURE 1

N

0 250 500

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Project Location

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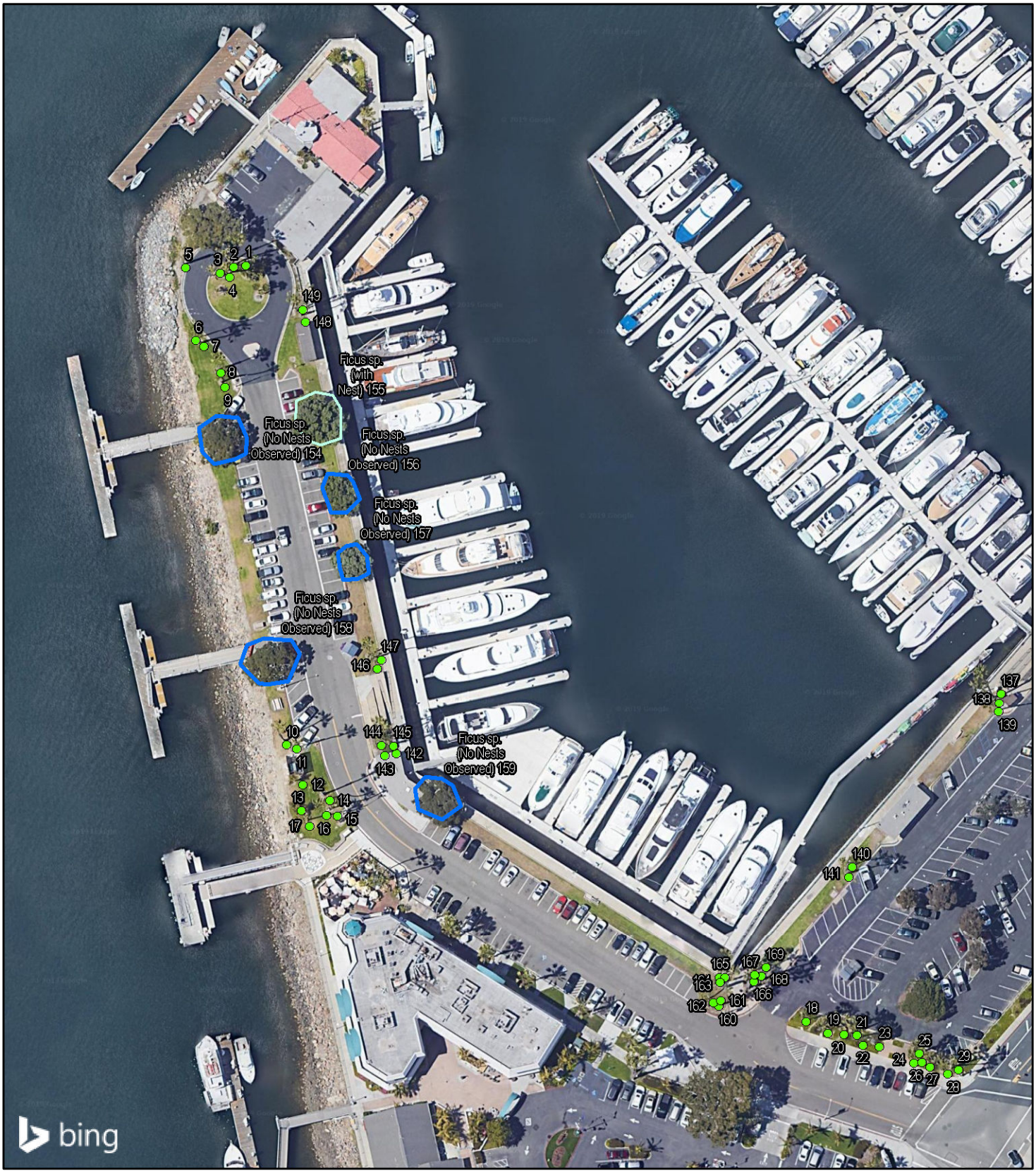

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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)
- Ficus sp., (No Nests Observed)

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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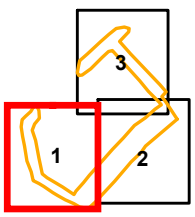
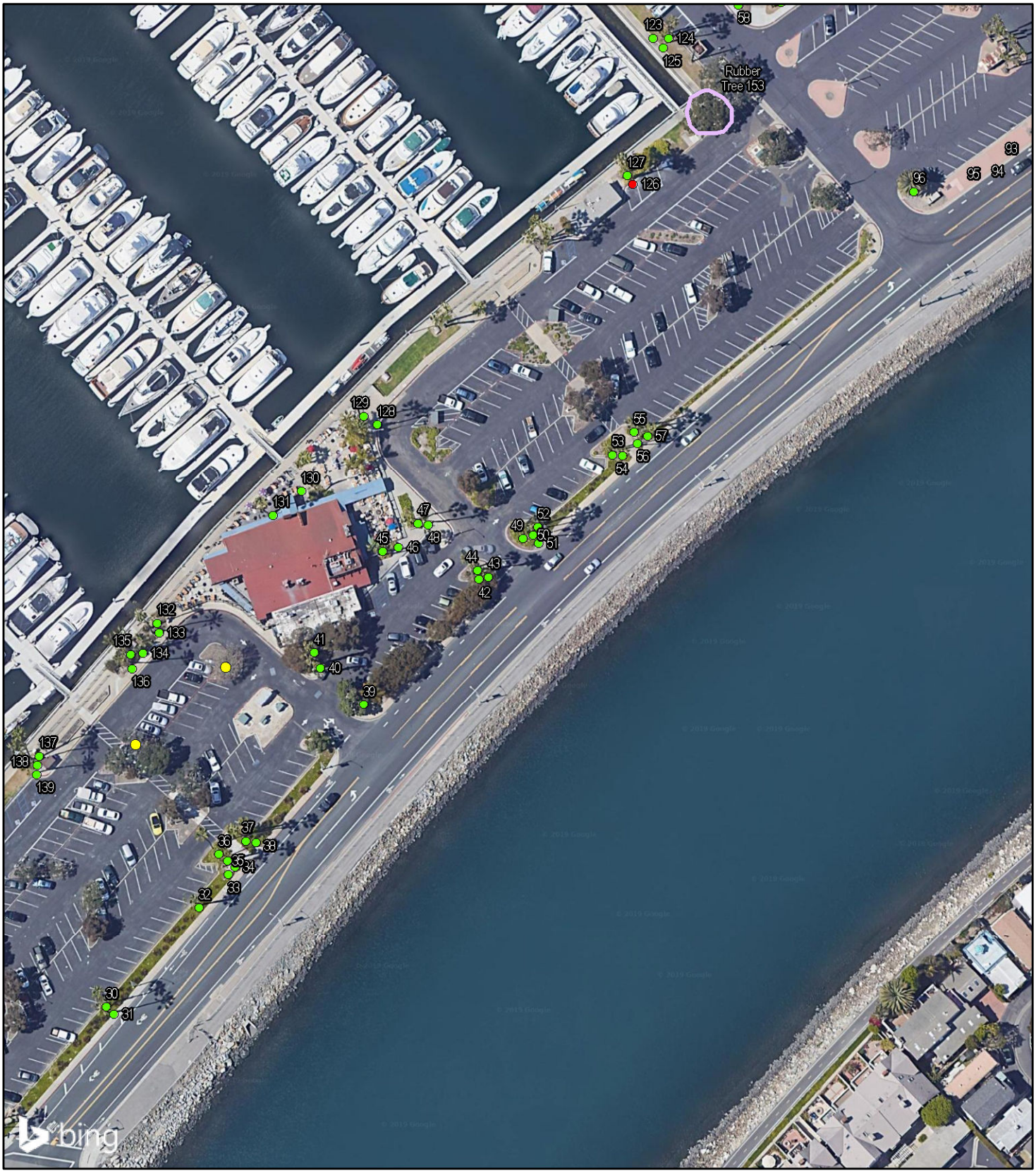


FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 1 Tree Survey



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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm Tree (with Nest)
- Dead Olive Tree
- Rubber Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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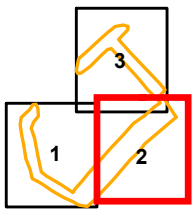
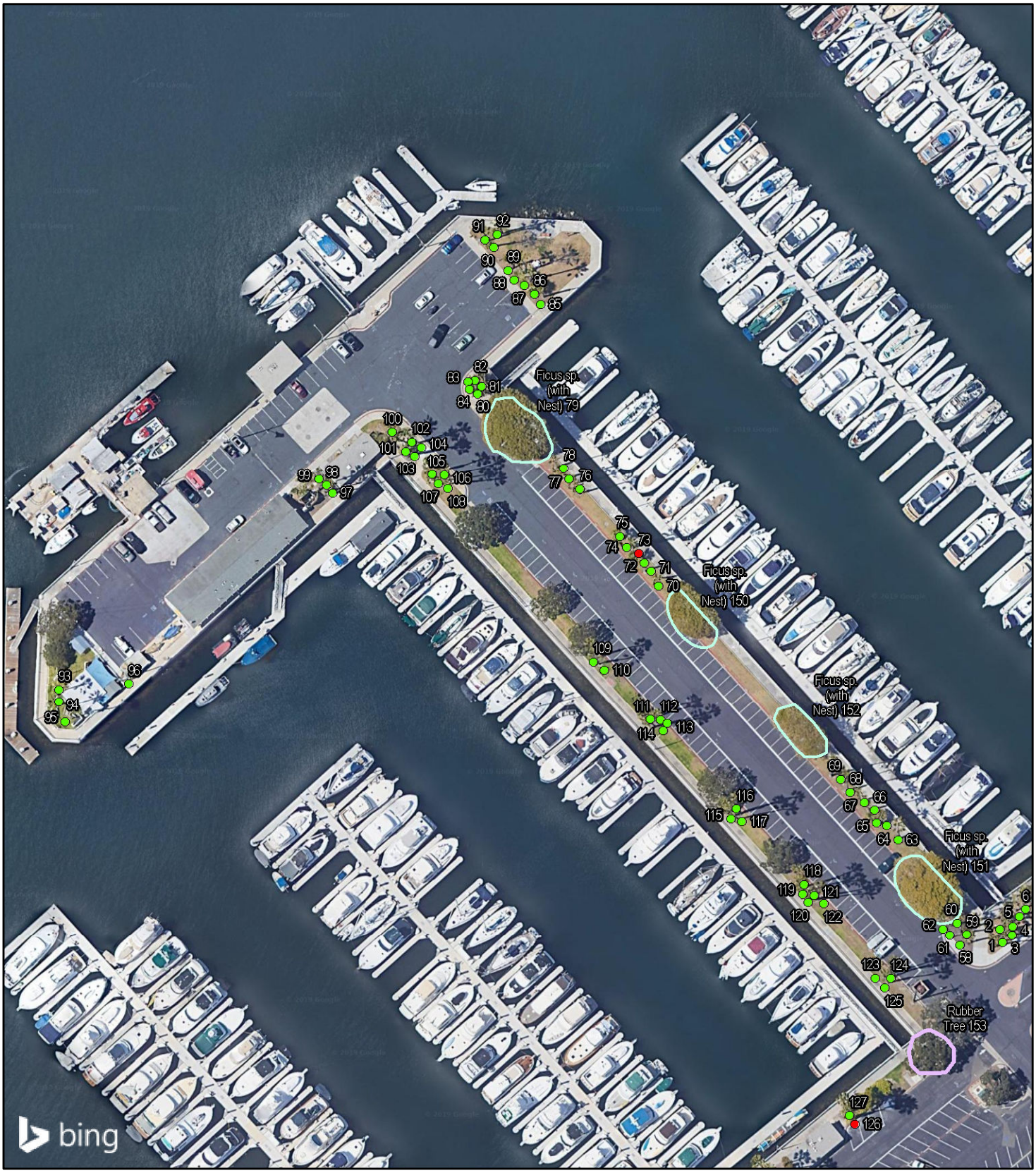


FIGURE 2

Sheet 2 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 1 Tree Survey



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LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm Tree (with Nest)
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)
- Rubber Tree

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

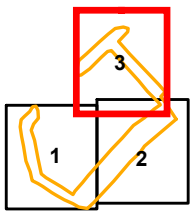

FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 3

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 1 Tree Survey

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