LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 1, 2019

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

FROM: Heather Monteleone, Assistant Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Basin 2 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 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 California 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.

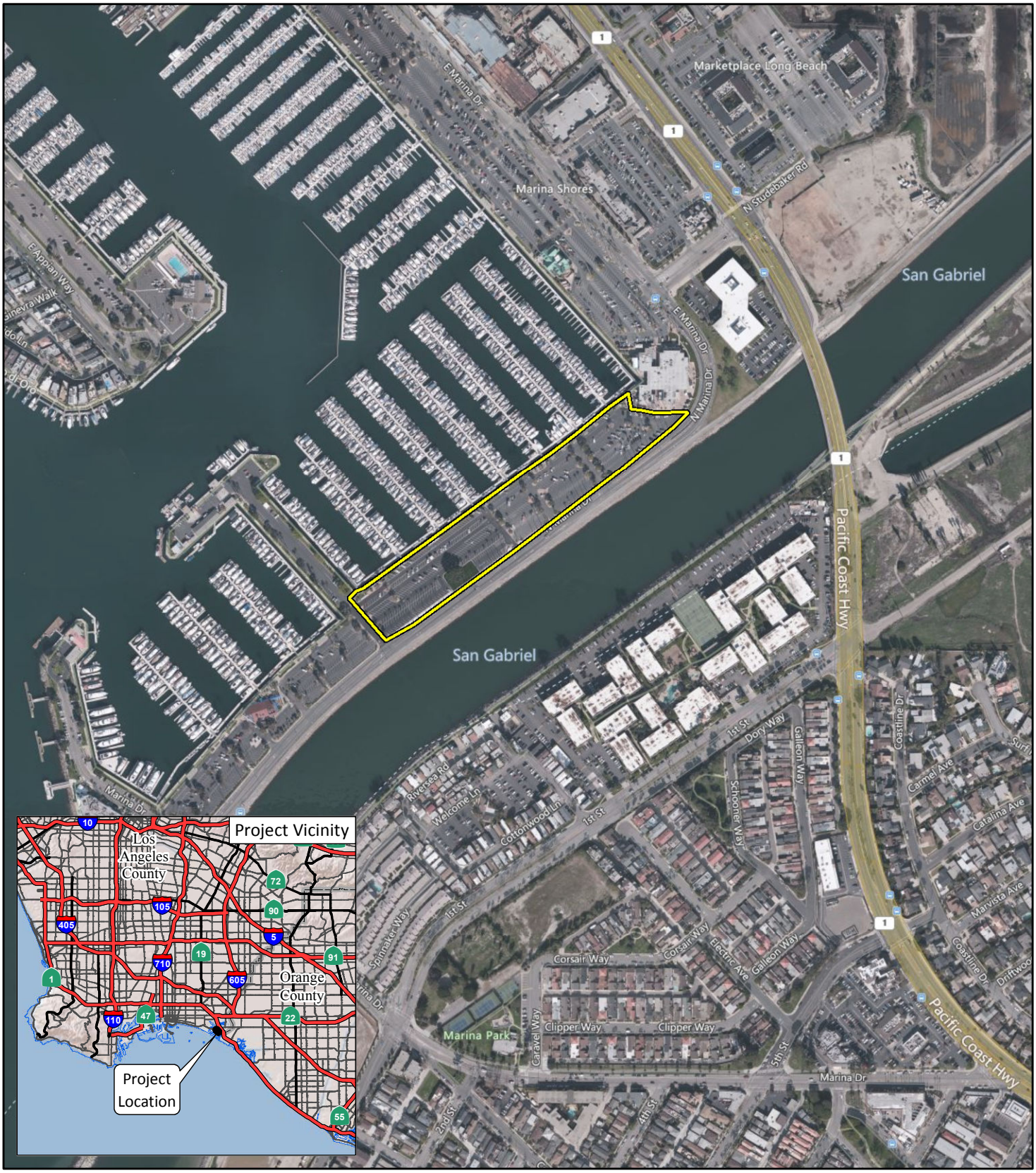
The City of Long Beach (City) is beginning its annual tree maintenance activity and has requested that all trees to be trimmed within Basin 2 be surveyed prior to maintenance (Figure 1; all figures attached). All trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (see Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Weather conditions were clear (66 degrees Fahrenheit [°F], windy, and cool). Aided with the use of binoculars, Ms. Monteleone surveyed 96 palm trees and 1 rubber tree within Basin 2 (see Figure 2). These palms are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), Canary Island palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., a 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 No. 38 was identified during the survey with stick material remnant of a nest potentially constructed by a great blue heron, and No. 43 was identified as having a nest in 2017. No nesting has occurred in palm No. 43 since 2017. No other palms or trees with active nest, nests, and/or nesting material were seen within the survey area of Basin 2.

Per CDP 5-08-187, palm tree No. 38, which was identified with sticks and remnants of a nest, and palm No. 43, which had a nest identified in 2017, 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 palm trees with a nest 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*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), 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*).

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2



LSA

LEGEND

Project Location - Basin 2

FIGURE 1

N

0 250 500

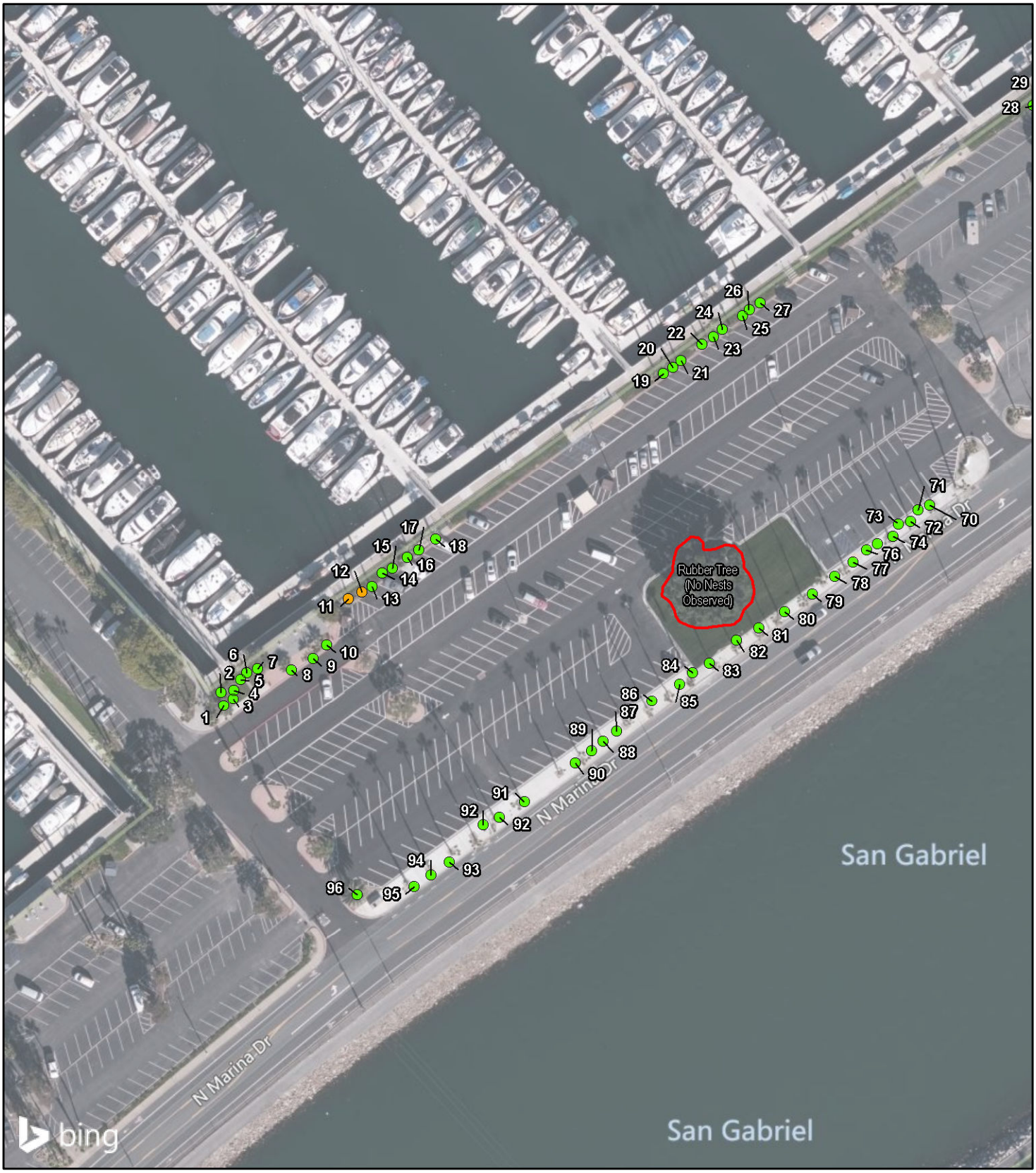
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 2 Project Location

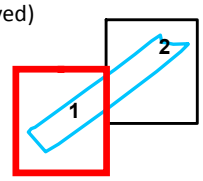
I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\ProjectLocation_Basin2_2019.mxd (10/31/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree (Poor Condition)
- Palm Tree
- Rubber Tree (No Nests Observed)



0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_Basin2_2019.mxd (11/1/2019)

FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 2

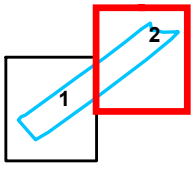
City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 2 Tree Survey

LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm (with Nest)*

FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 2



City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 2 Tree Survey

0 50 100
FEET

* Palm #43 nest identified in 2017
Palm #38 nest identified in 2019

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_Basin2_2019.mxd (11/1/2019)