LSA

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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 5, 2019

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

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Senior Biologist

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Basin 4 per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 30, 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 Basin 4 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).

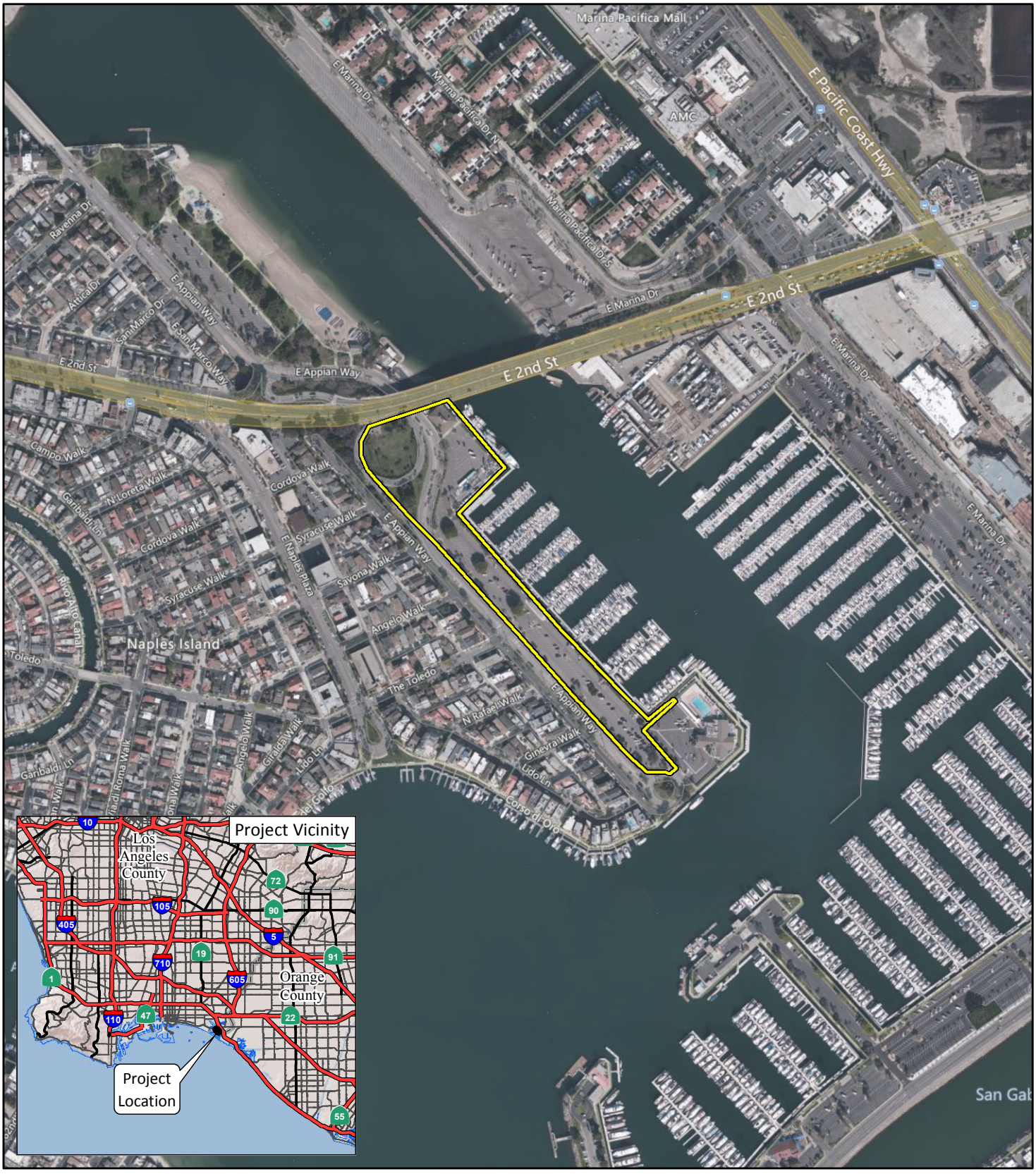
The survey was conducted between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Weather conditions were clear (60 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]), windy, and cool. Aided with the use of binoculars, Ms. Monteleone surveyed 170 trees within Basin 4 (see Figure 2). These palms are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), Canary Island palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), coral trees (*Erythrina* sp.), and ficus trees (*Ficus benjamina*). 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. Two ficus trees (Nos. 168 and 170) were noted with nesting material this year, likely to be black-crowned night-heron nests. In 2018, a coral tree (No. 167) and a ficus tree (No. 168, respectively) each had a stick nests, also likely to be black-crowned night-heron nests. In 2017, palm tree No. 153 was identified with an inactive house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) nest. Ficus tree (No. 169) had extensive whitewash (i.e., bird excrement below tree branches) from bird roosting. No active nests were identified at the time of the survey in Basin 4.

Per CDP 5-08-187, palm tree No. 153, ficus trees Nos. 168, and 170, and coral tree No. 167, which were identified with remnants of a nest or nests,these trees 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 brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), 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*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative bird species observed include the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

Please contact me 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 4

FIGURE 1

N

0 250 500

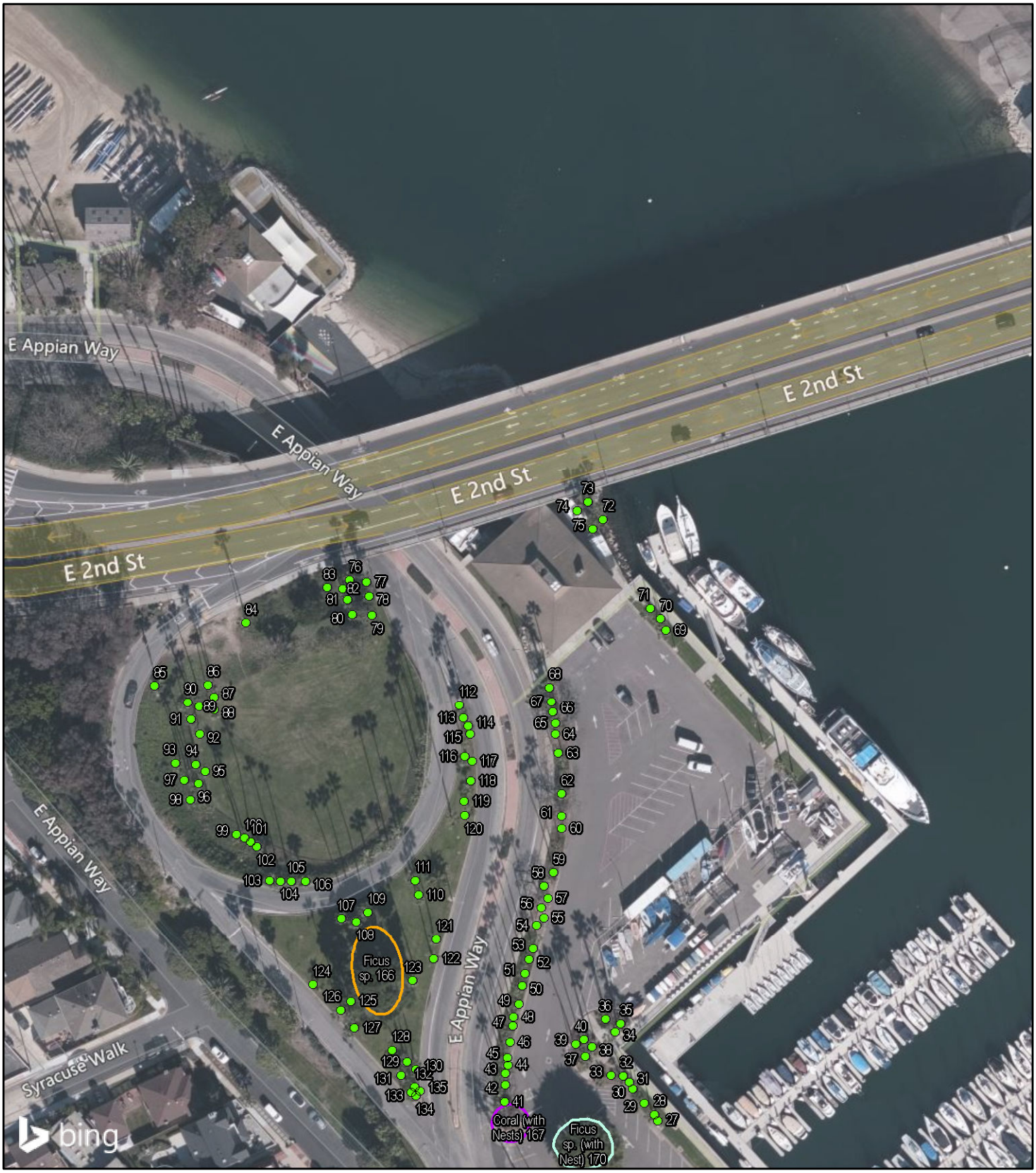
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 4 Project Location

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\ProjectLocation_Basin4_2019.mxd (11/4/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Ficus sp. (with Nest)*
- Ficus sp.
- Coral, (with Nests)*

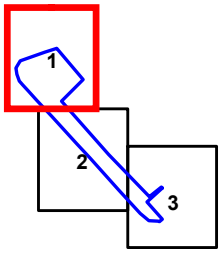


FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 3

N

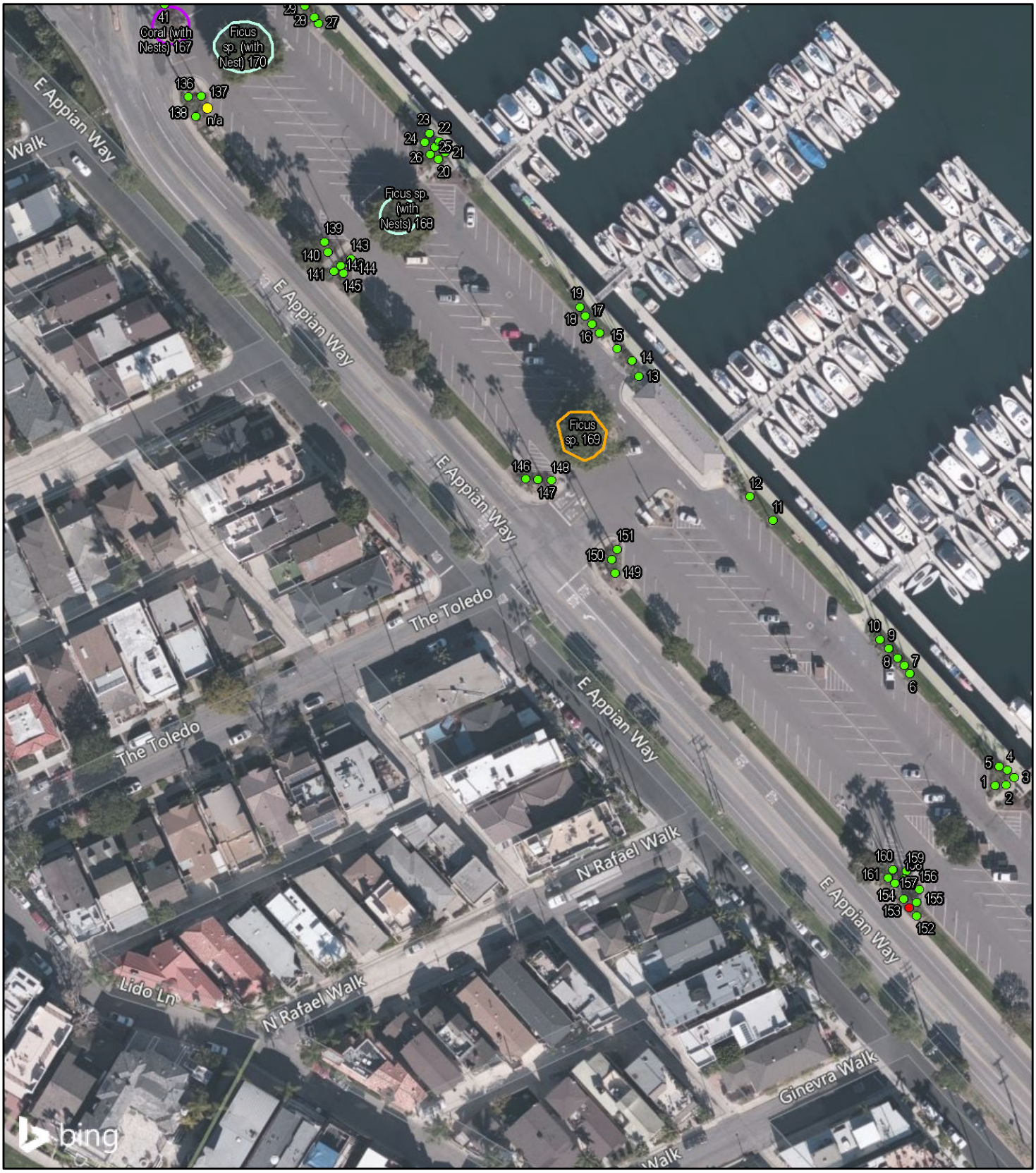
0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

* Palm #153, Coral #167, and Ficus sp. #168 identified in 2017

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 4 Tree Survey

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_Basin4_2019.mxd (11/4/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree
- Palm Tree (with Nest)
- Beehive
- Ficus sp. (with Nests)*
- Ficus sp.
- Coral, (with Nests)*

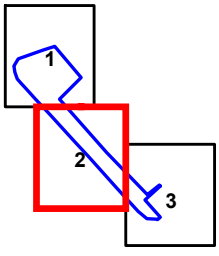


FIGURE 2
Sheet 2 of 3

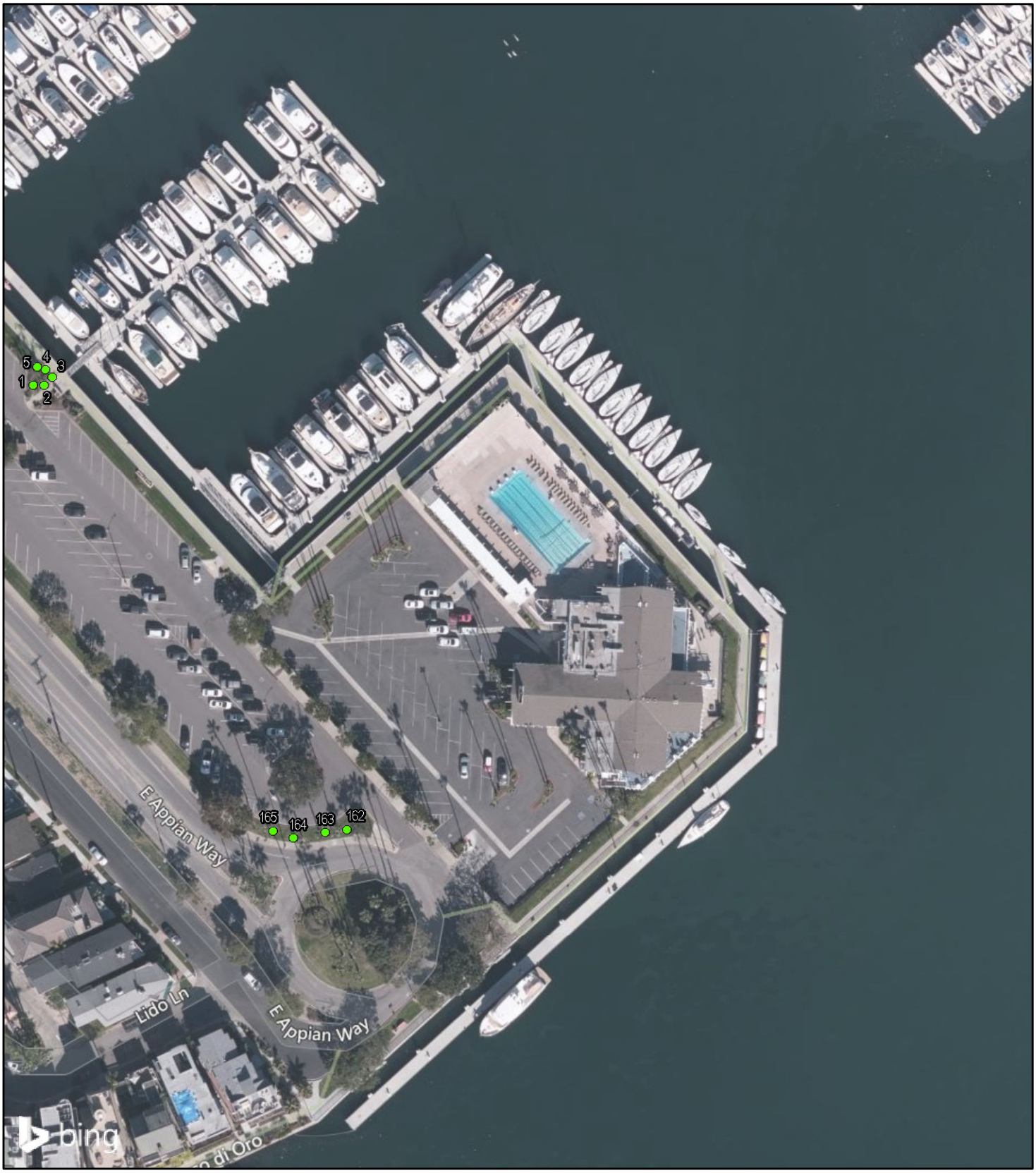
0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

* Palm #153, Coral #167, and Ficus sp. #168 ident6ified in 2017

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Basin 4 Tree Survey

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_Basin4_2019.mxd (11/4/2019)



LSA

LEGEND

- Palm Tree

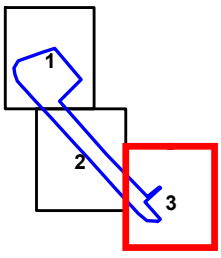


FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 3

N

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

* Palm #153, Coral #167, and Ficus sp. #168 ident6ified in 2017

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Basin 4 Tree Survey

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_Basin4_2019.mxd (11/4/2019)