



MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2019
To: Jeffrey King, Park Maintenance Supervisor Marine Bureau, City of Long Beach
FROM: Jeremy Rosenthal, Biologist
SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Bluff Park per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 31 and November 7, 2019, LSA Biologists Jeremy Rosenthal and Lonnie Rodriguez conducted a nesting bird 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 Bluff Park be surveyed prior to maintenance (Figure 1; all figures attached). All trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (see Figure 2).

The October 31 and November 7, 2019, surveys were conducted during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (67 degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and mild). Aided with the use of binoculars, Mr. Rosenthal and Mr. Rodriguez surveyed 213 trees within Bluff Park (Figure 2). The palms are ornamental species and include blue hesper palms (*Brahea armata*), Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*); and rubber trees (*Ficus* sp.). 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. No nests were identified in the palms or in the other trees within Bluff Park and within and adjacent to the parking lot area. Within the survey areas for the years 2017 and 2018, no nests were identified (see Figure 2).

Per CDP 5-08-187, no qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist would need to supervise the trimming of the surveyed trees because no nests were identified within the survey area.

Bird species observed during the survey included the brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), American white pelican (*Pelecanus erythrorhynchos*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), Clark's grebe (*Aechmophorus clarkii*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), bushtit (*Psaltriparus minimus*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative birds observed included the rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), 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