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PALM SPRINGS
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ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 6, 2019

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

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Senior Biologist

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Marine Park (Mother's Beach) per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 31, 2019, LSA Biologists Lonnie Rodriguez and 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 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 trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (see Figure 2).

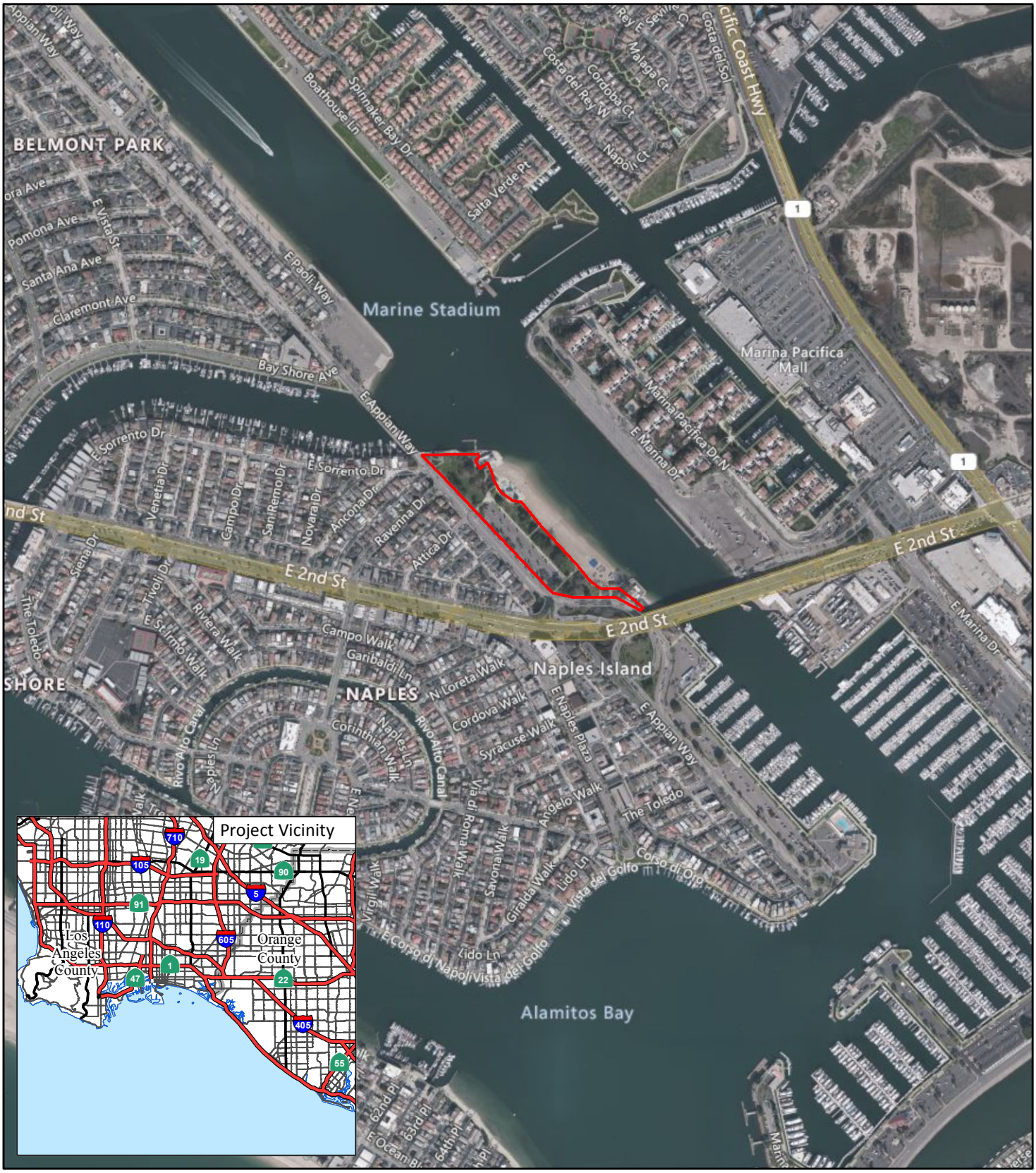
The survey was conducted between 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Weather conditions were clear (78 degrees Fahrenheit [°F]), calm, and warm. Aided with the use of binoculars, Mr. Rodriguez and Mr. Rosenthal surveyed 163 trees within Mother's Beach (see Figure 2). The trees surveys are ornamental species and include queen palms (*Syagrus romanzoffiana*), king palms (*Archontophoenix cunninghamiana*), Canary Island palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*), coral trees (*Erythrina* sp.), eucalyptus trees (*Corymbia citriodora*), and pine trees (*Pinus sp.*). Only one tree was seen with a nest: a Brazilian pepper tree (*Schinus terebinthifolius*) (tree No. 163). The nest was a stick nest and likely belonged to an American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). No whitewash (bird excrement) was seen throughout the park. No active nests were identified at the time of the survey at Mother's Beach.

Per CDP 5-08-187, tree No. 163, which was identified with a nest, 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 peregrine falcon (*Falco peregrinus*), western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), ring-billed gull (*Larus delawarensis*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), lesser goldfinch (*Spinus psaltria*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), and black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans)*. Nonnative bird species observed include the European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) and rock pigeon (*Columba livia*).

Please contact me at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2



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Project Location - Mother's Beach

FIGURE 1

N

0 375 750

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey

Mother's Beach Project Location

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\5Locations\ProjLoc_MothersBeach_2019.mxd (11/5/2019)

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- Brazilian Pepper Tree (with Nest)
- Trees Surveyed within Project Area

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing (2018)

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FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Mother's Beach Tree Survey