MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2019

TO: Jeffrey King, Contract Monitor, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine Park

FROM: Jessica Lieuw, Assistant Biologist

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Street Landscape per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 31 and November 7, 2019, LSA Biologists 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 existing nests will not be trimmed and existing nests will be preserved, unless the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) 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 the Street Landscape 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 on October 31 and November 7, 2019. Weather conditions were cool, clear, and calm. Aided with the use of binoculars, LSA Biologists Jessica Lieuw, Lonnie Rodriguez, and Jeremy Rosenthal surveyed 423 trees within the Street Landscape Maintenance Area (Figure 2). The trees surveyed are ornamental species, Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.), and red river gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*). The palm trees were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirt) or had newly formed skirts. Herons and egrets are not known to construct nests under dead palm frond skirts; therefore, their nests would not have been obstructed from view. One nest was identified in palm No. 47 during the 2018 survey. No nest material was observed in palm No. 47 during the 2019 survey; nonetheless, the palm was flagged by LSA due to the 2018 observation. Two additional palms were identified as having nest material during the October 2019 survey (i.e., palm Nos. 35 and 204). The nest in palm No. 35 is small, constructed of sticks, built atop palm fronds, and looks to have been constructed by a heron species. The nest in palm No. 204 consists of a few sticks atop palm fronds, potentially heron as well. In addition, two red river gum trees (i.e., Nos. 399 and 423) were identified with an old stick nest possibly constructed by great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*). No other nests were identified at the time of survey in the survey area.

Per CDP 5-08-187, palm Nos. 35, 47, and 204, and eucalyptus Nos. 399 and 423, which were identified with 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 nonbreeding and nonnesting season (October through December). All trees with nests have been marked with red-and-white-striped flagging.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), American coot (*Fulica americana*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), mourning dove (*Zenaida macroura*), Cassin’s kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative species observed include European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), 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
FIGURE 1

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Street Landscape Project Location

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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Project Vicinity

Legend

Project Location - Street Landscape

Source: I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\ProjectLocation_WestSL_2019.mxd (11/6/2019)
FIGURE 2
City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Street Landscape Tree Survey

LEGEND
- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Palm Tree (with Nest)*
- Eucalyptus (with Nest)*

* Palm Tree #47 identified in 2018,
Palm Tree #35 and #204 identified in 2019
Eucalyptus Trees #399 and #423 identified in 2019

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)
I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\TreeDetail_WestSL_2019.mxd (11/13/2019)
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