

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 30, 2017

To: Joe Ambrose, Beach Maintenance Supervisor, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Bluff Park per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On November 27, 2017, LSA Biologist Lonnie Rodriguez 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 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 has communicated that palm trees within Bluff Park along East Ocean Boulevard need to be trimmed (Figure 1; all figures attached). All palm trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification (Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 2:15 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (66 degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and mild). Mr. Rodriguez surveyed 105 palm trees within Bluff Park (Figure 2). These palms are ornamental species and include blue hesper palms (*Brahea armata*), Canary Island date palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*). The palms and trees in proximity to the palms that will be maintained were absent of nests at the time of the survey. CDP 5-08-187 would not prevent any of the palms from being trimmed within the survey area.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*), double-crested cormorant (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), yellow-rumped warbler (*Setophaga coronata*), house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*),¹ rock pigeon (*Columba livia*),¹ and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).¹

Please contact Lonnie Rodriguez or Blake Selna at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2

¹ These are nonnative species.

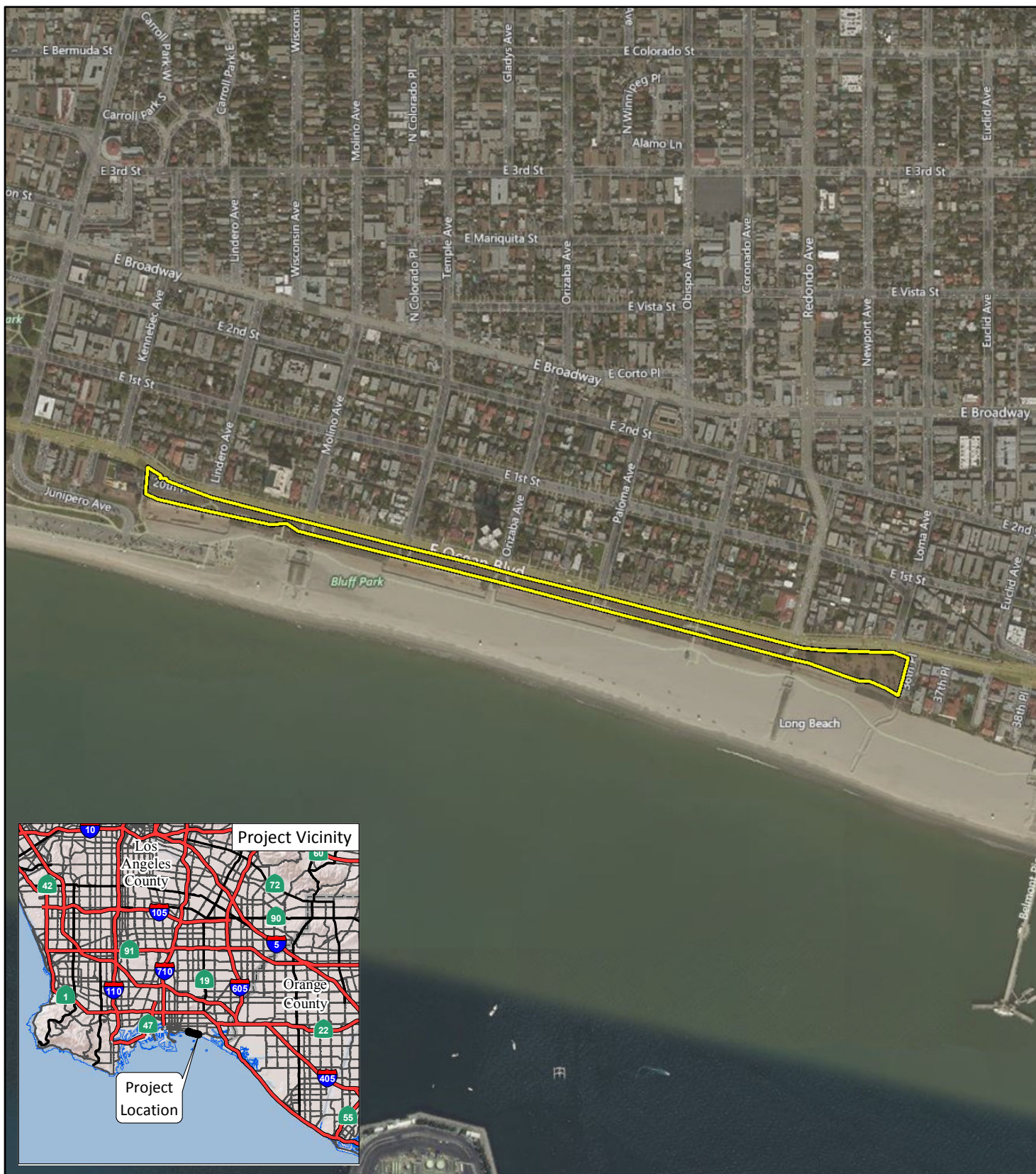


FIGURE 1

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 Bluff Park



0 375 750
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Project Location



FIGURE 2

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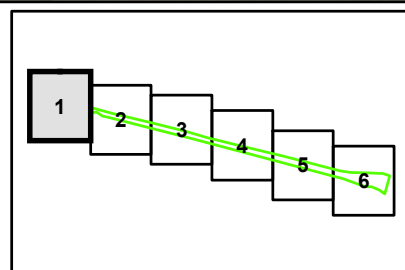
● Palm Tree



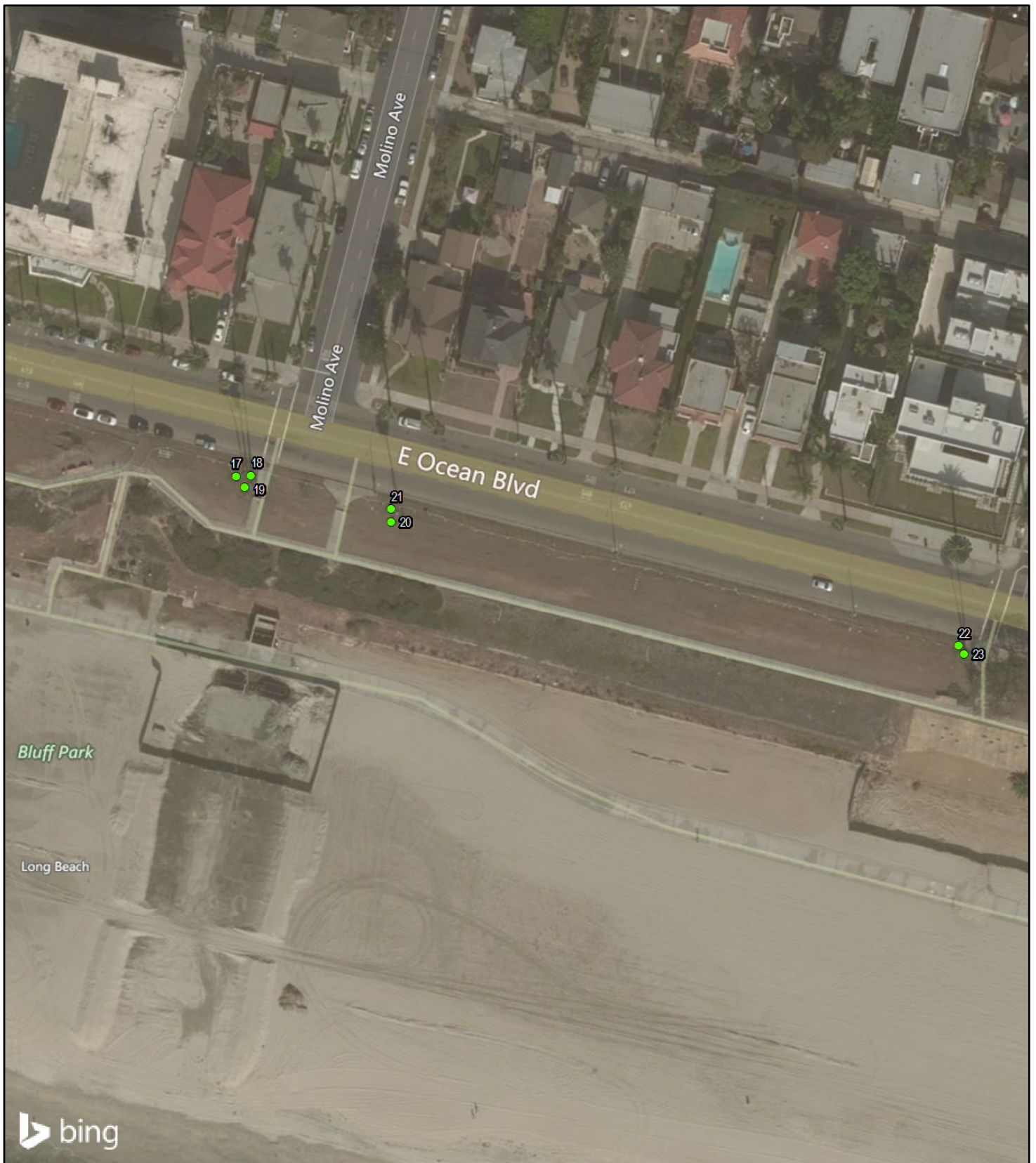
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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey



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● Palm Tree



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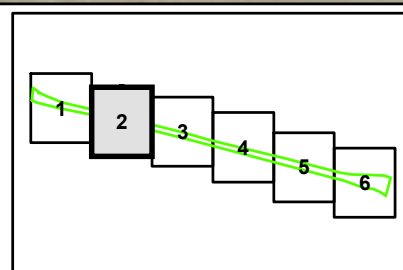
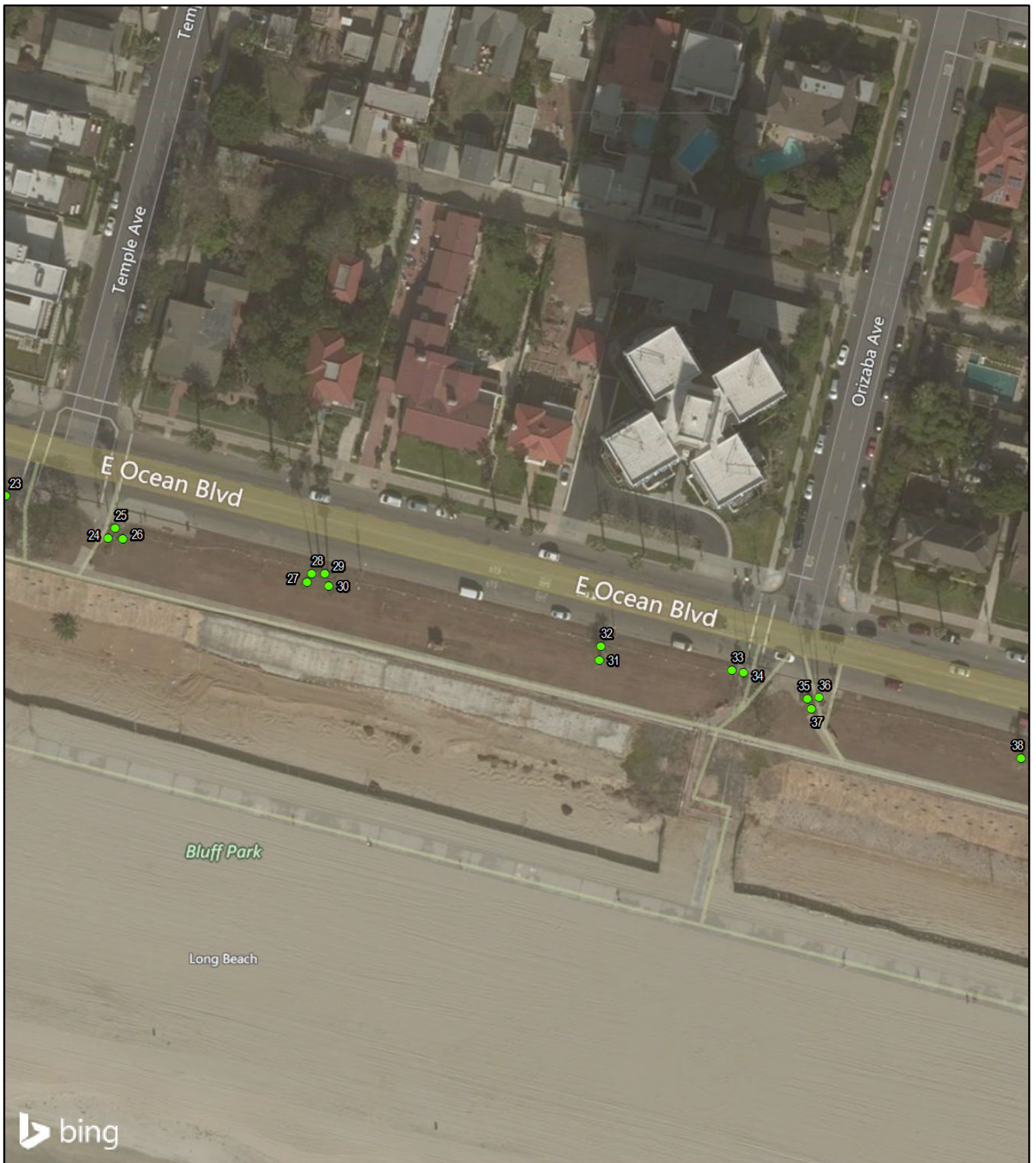


FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey



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● Palm Tree



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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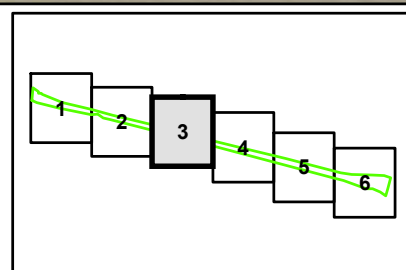
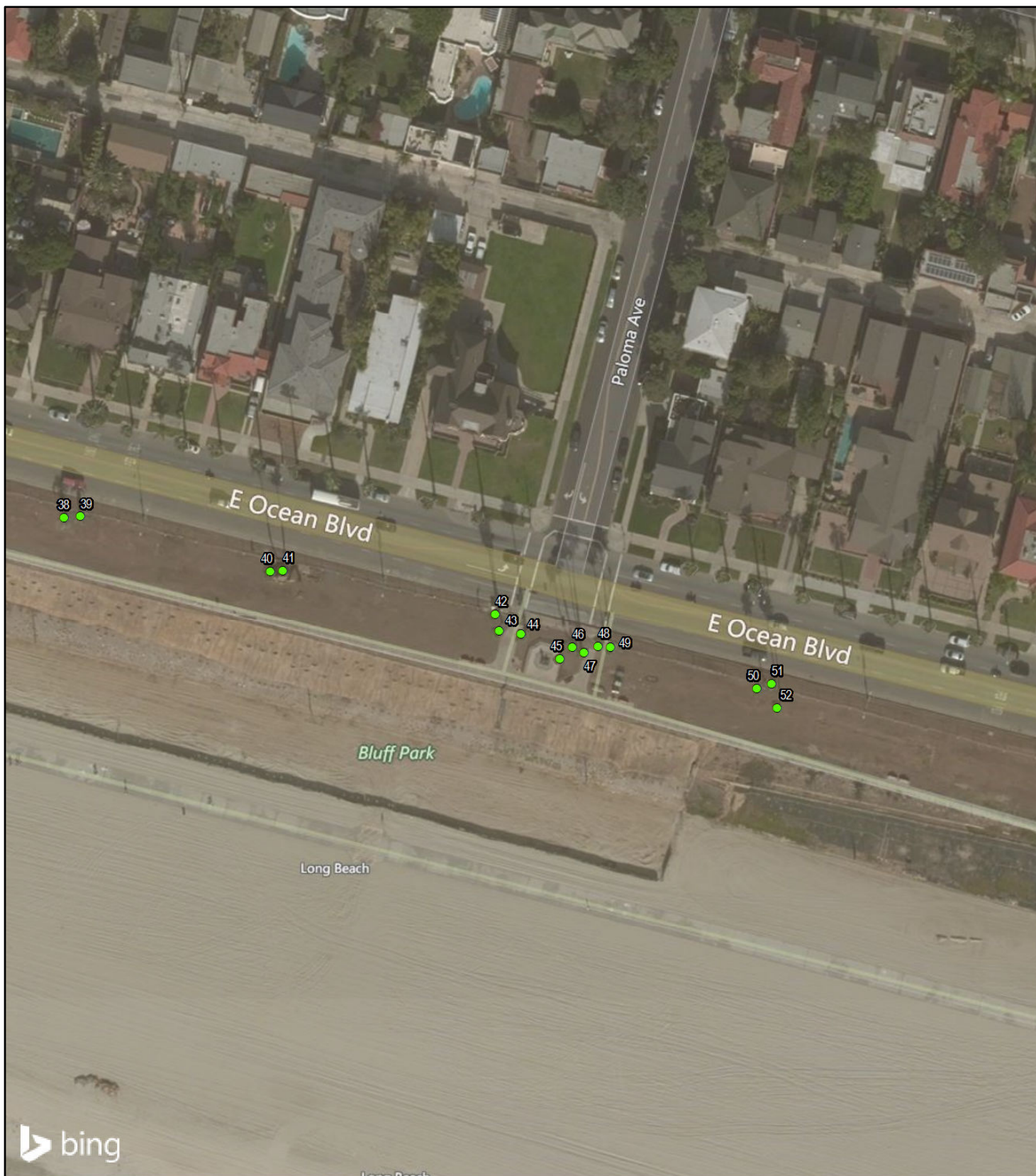


FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey



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SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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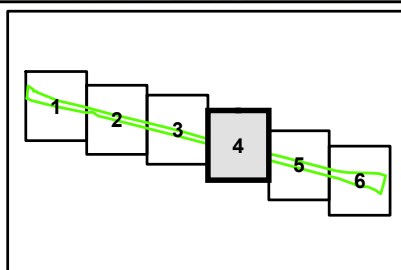
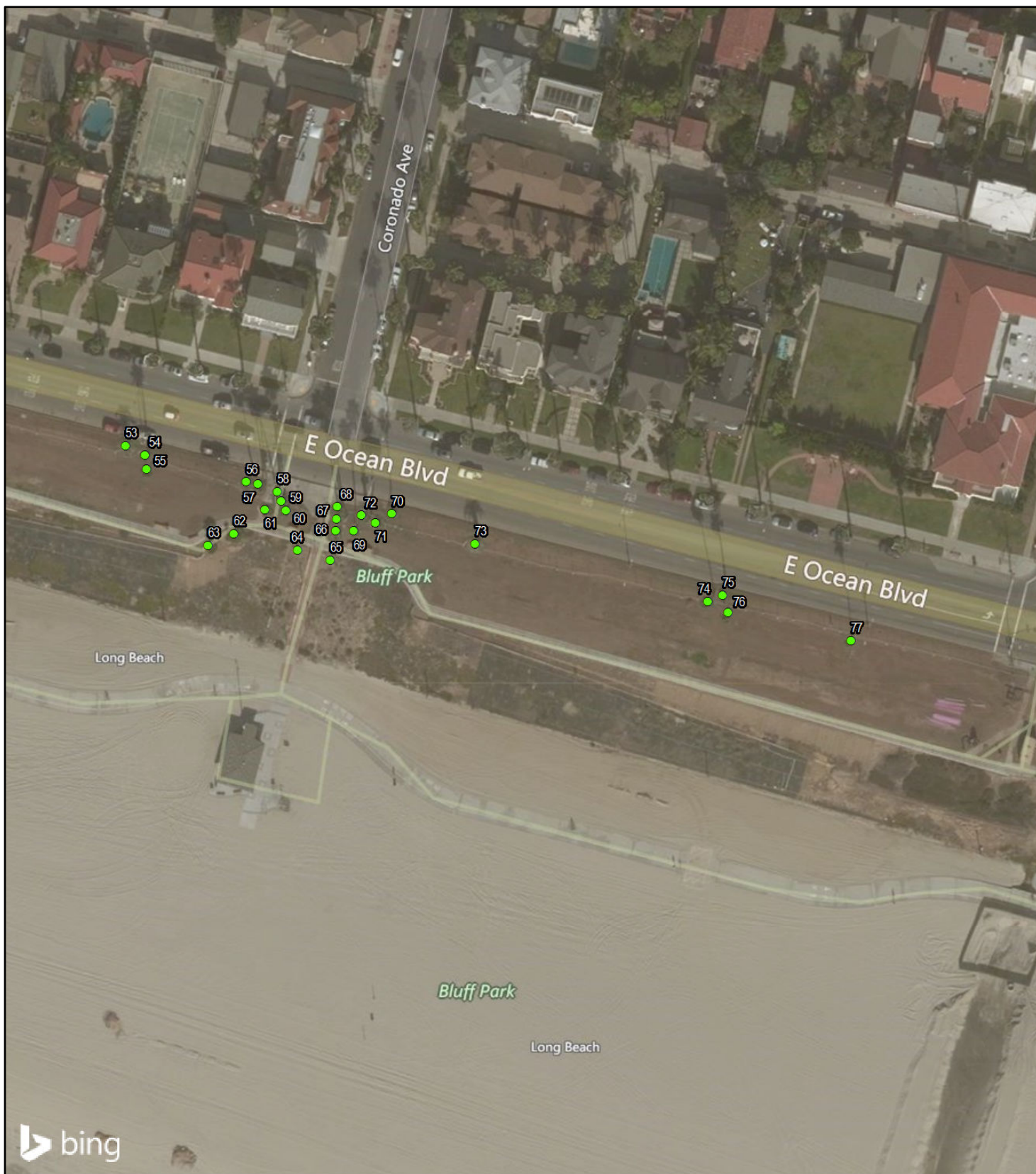


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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey



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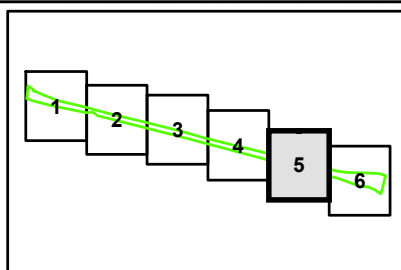


FIGURE 2

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey



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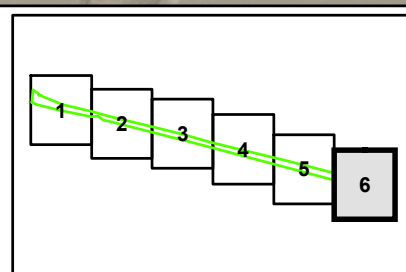


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City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Bluff Park Tree Survey