

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** November 16, 2017

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

**FROM:** Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

**SUBJECT:** Nesting Bird Survey for Area 1 per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On November 8, 2017, LSA Biologist Lonnie Rodriguez conducted a survey consistent with the terms of Coastal Development Permit 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 trees within Area 1 along Ocean Boulevard, and trees adjacent to Bennett Avenue and 43<sup>rd</sup> Place need to be trimmed and or removed (Figure 1, Site

Plan; all figures attached). All trees surveyed are referenced by number for identification, (see Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. during conditions that were conducive to observing potential nesting bird behavior (71 degrees Fahrenheit, calm, and sunny).

Mr. Rodriguez surveyed 10 trees within Area 1; see Figure 2. These trees are ornamental nonnative species. Trees 1 through 4 were identified as either having nest(s) and/or potential roosting habitat. Tree 1, a mature rubber tree (*Ficus elastica*) had multiple nests that were not active nor were there any birds perched in the tree at the time of survey; however, the nests looked to have been active in the last five years. No nests were seen in the weeping Chinese banyan (*Ficus benjamina*) Trees Nos. 2, 3, and 4, located at the east entrance of Bennett Drive, but the trees appear to be used for roosting; whitewash was present on the branches. In addition, at the time of survey, a dead black-crowned night heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) was hanging from a branch in the tree closest (Tree 2) to East Ocean Boulevard, possibly tangled to the tree by fishing line. At the entrance of 43<sup>rd</sup> Place and Bennett Avenue, Aleppo pines (*Pinus halepensis*) Trees 5 through 10 were surveyed. No nests or significant whitewash indicative of roosting were observed in these pines, Trees 5, 7, and 8 were dead and/or dying at the time of the survey.

DP 5-08-187 Condition A2 would prevent Tree 1 from being trimmed unless 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 removal of the Aleppo pines 5, 8, and 7 and the trimming of Trees 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 located at the entrance of Bennett and 43<sup>rd</sup> Place would be consistent with the permit conditions for annual tree-trimming activities.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), yellow warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), black-crowned night heron (deceased), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*)<sup>1</sup>, and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*)<sup>1</sup>.

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

---

<sup>1</sup> Nonnative species.





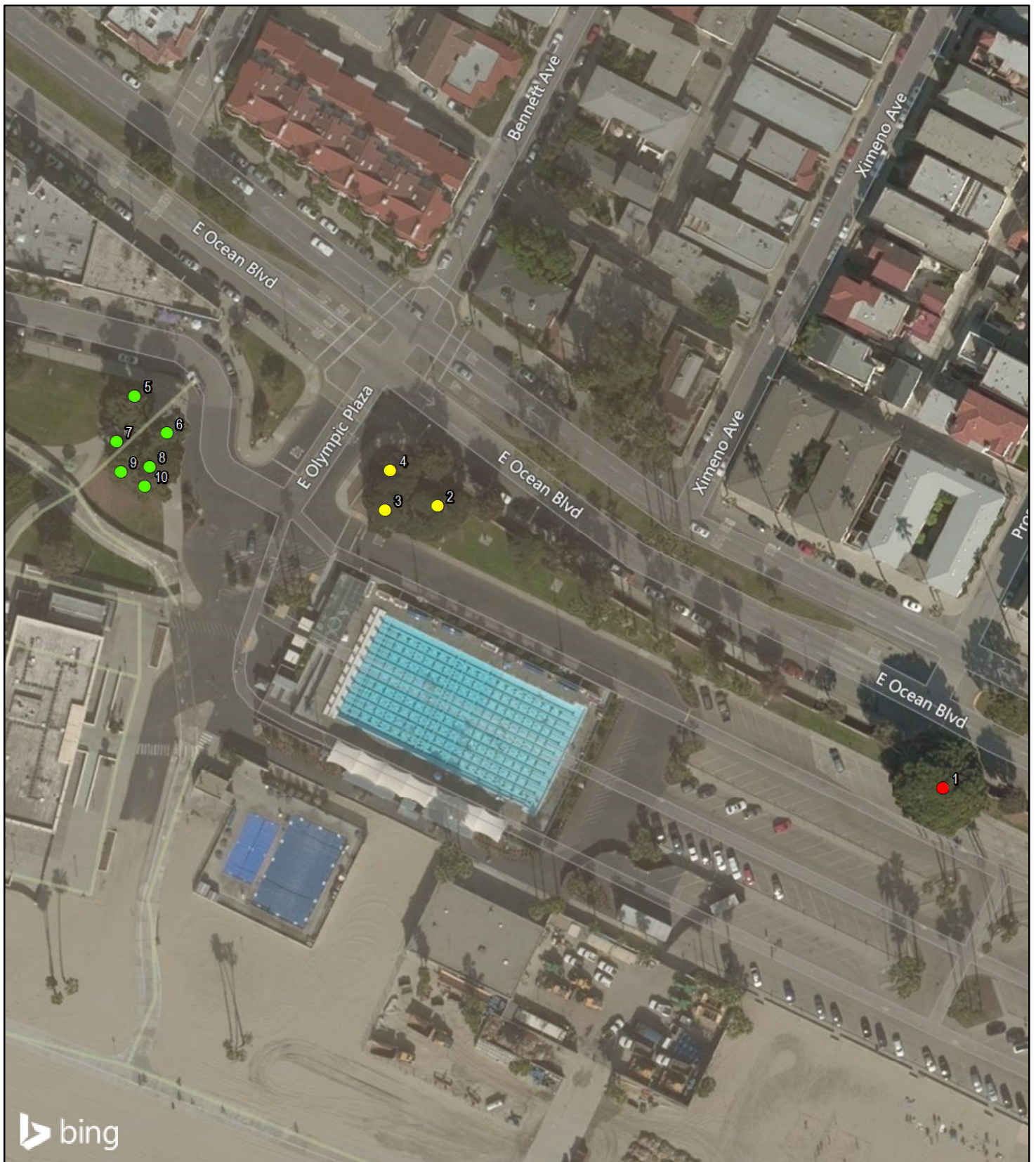


FIGURE 2

LSA

LEGEND

- Tree 1: Rubber Tree (Nests)
- Tree 2-4: Weeping Chinese Banyan (Roosting Habitat)
- Tree 5-10: Aleppo Pines



0 50 100  
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\TreeDetail\_Area1.mxd (11/14/2017)

City of Long Beach  
Coastal Tree Survey  
Area 1 Tree Survey