LSA

CARLSBAD
FRESNO
IRVINE
LOS ANGELES
PALM SPRINGS
POINT RICHMOND
RIVERSIDE
ROSEVILLE
SAN LUIS OBISPO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 2, 2018

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

FROM: Lonnie Rodriguez, Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Shoreline Marine per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On October 25, 2018, LSA Biologists Lonnie Rodriguez and Leeann McDougall 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 and coral trees within the Shoreline Marine maintenance area need to be trimmed (Figure 1; all figures attached). All palm and coral trees that were surveyed are referenced by number for identification (Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 10:00 a.m. and 11:30a.m.; weather conditions were 70 degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and calm. Mr. Rodriguez and Ms. McDougall surveyed 428 palm and coral trees within the Shoreline Marine Maintenance Area (Figure 2). The trees surveyed are ornamental species, Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*) and Coral tree (*Erythrina* sp.). The palm trees surveyed were either absent of dead palm fronds (e.g., skirts) or had newly formed skirts. Herons and egrets are not known to construct nests under dead palm frond skirts; therefore, they would not have been obstructed from view. No nests were identified, at the time of survey, in the palms throughout the survey area. However, seen amongst the palms were two coral trees with nests (Nos. 75 and 78). Coral tree No. 78, located at the end of an "island" between East Shoreline Drive and the docks, had a nest presumably used by birds (e.g., herons or egrets) with special biological or economic significance (see Figure 2, sheet 2). However, there were no birds associated with the nest at the time of the survey, and the nest was deemed inactive. Along with the inactive nest observed, there were black-crowned night herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) observed roosting in coral tree No. 78. Coral tree No. 75, located in an "island" between East Shoreline Drive and the docks, had a small inactive nest, likely constructed by a passerine species. Additionally, in coral trees Nos. 74 and 81, black-crowned night-herons were observed roosting within the tree canopy. No other nests were identified at the time of the survey. Caution should be taken during maintenance activities to palms adjacent coral trees Nos. 74, 75, 78, and 81.

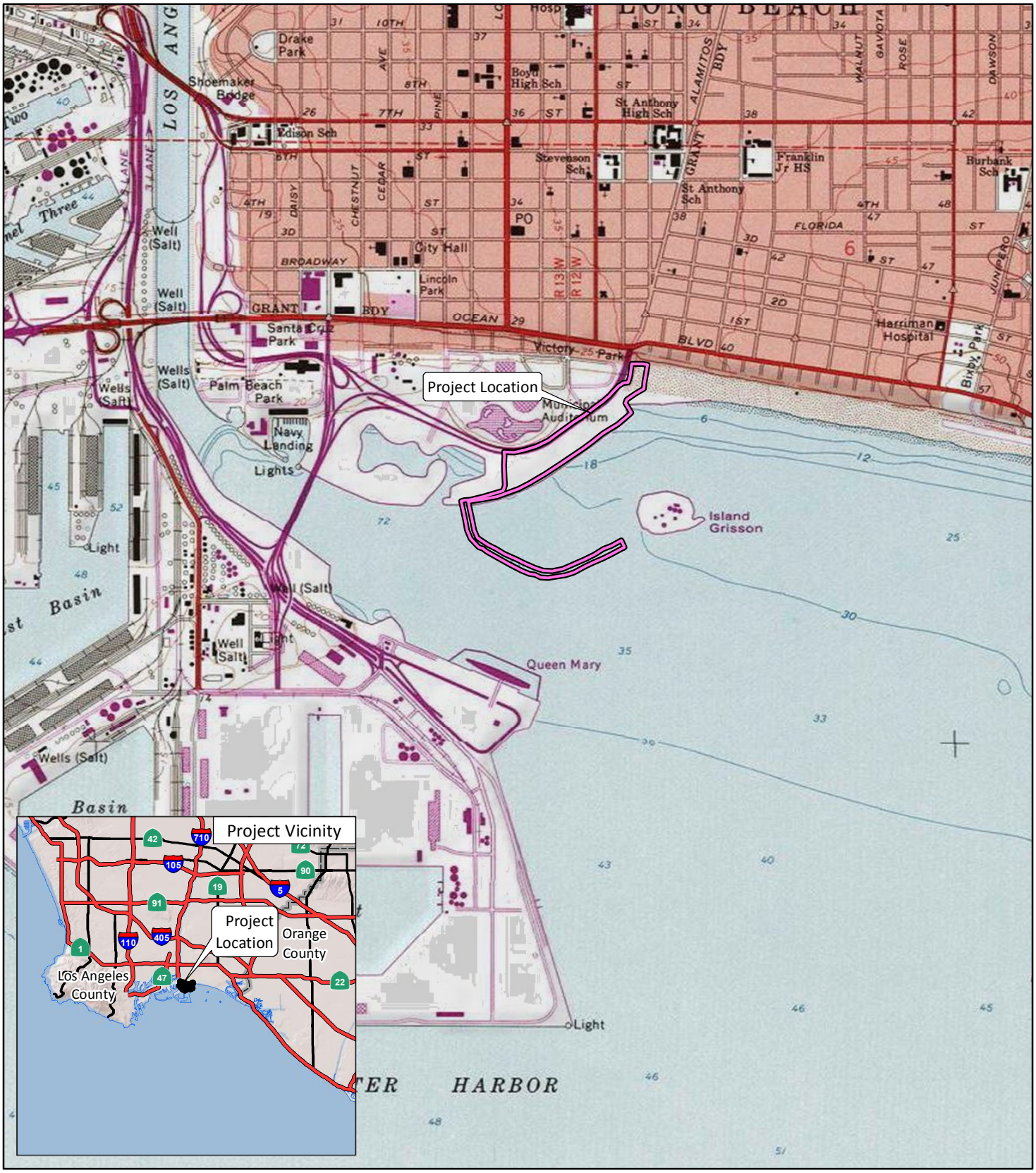
CDP 5-08-187 would not prevent any of the palms from being trimmed. Per the CDP Condition 2 mentioned above, a qualified biologist or ornithologist and qualified arborist would not need to supervise the trimming of the surveyed palms because none of the palms was identified with nests. However, maintenance activities occurring to coral trees Nos. 74, 75, 78, and 81 will need to be supervised by a qualified biologist or ornithologist and a qualified arborist so nests and/or the branches supporting the nests are avoided and not damaged during trimming activities.

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*), great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*), snowy egret (*Egretta thula*), western grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), surf scoter (*Melanitta perspicillata*), Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys*), spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*), American kestrel (*Falco Sparverius*), 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, Art Homrighausen, or Blake Selna at (949) 553-0666 if you have any questions regarding the results of this survey.

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2

[1] Nonnative species.



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Project Location

FIGURE 1

N

0 1000 2000

FEET

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' Quad - Long Beach (1978)

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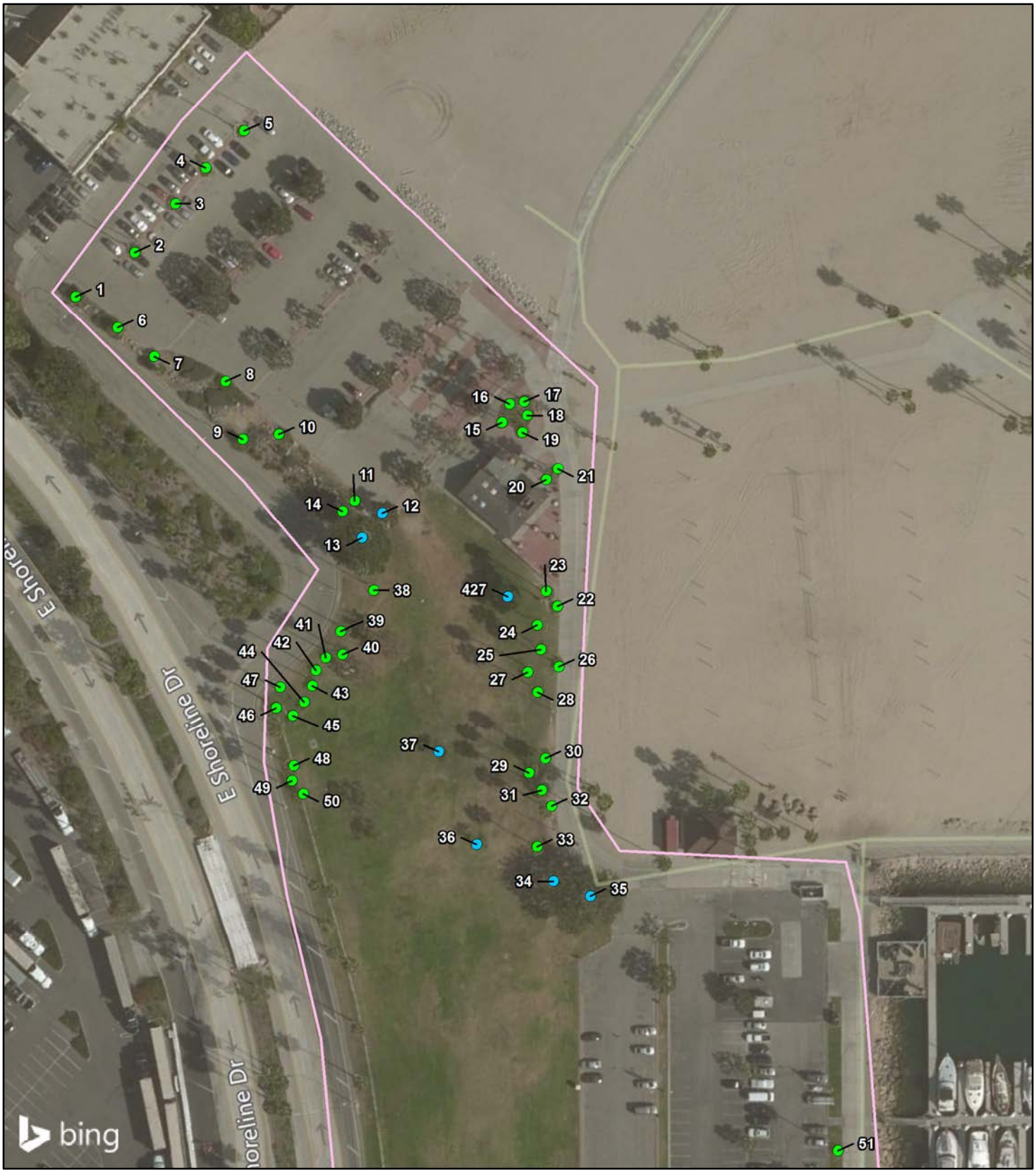
City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Project Location



LSA

LEGEND

- Shoreline Marine Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree

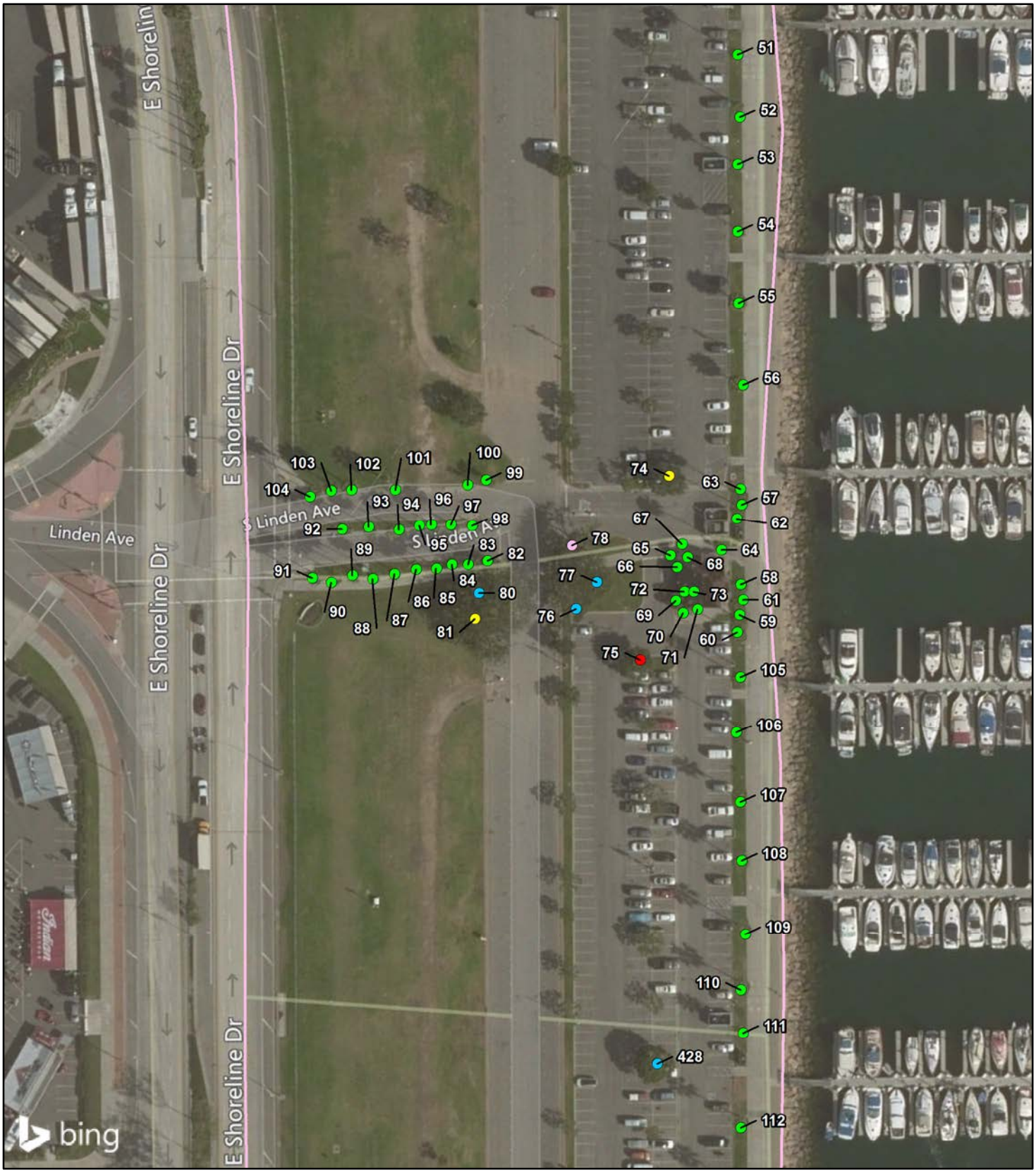
0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\TreeSurvey_WestSM.mxd (10/30/2018)

FIGURE 2
Sheet 1 of 9

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

- Shoreline Marine Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree
- Coral Tree (with Nest)
- Coral Tree (with Black-crowned Night Heron)
- Coral Tree (with Black-crowned Night Heron and Nest)

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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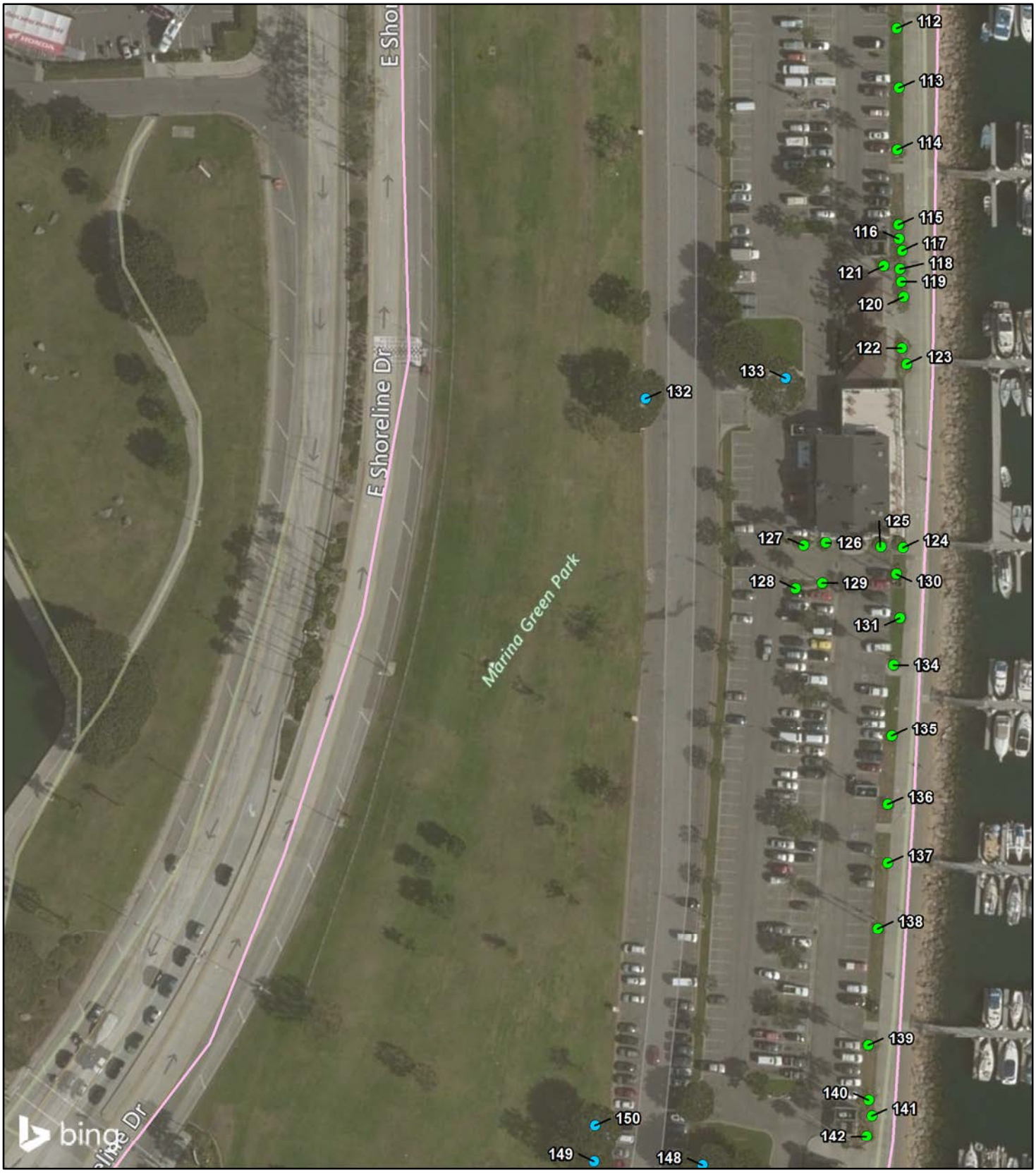
FIGURE 2
Sheet 2 of 9

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

- Shoreline Marine Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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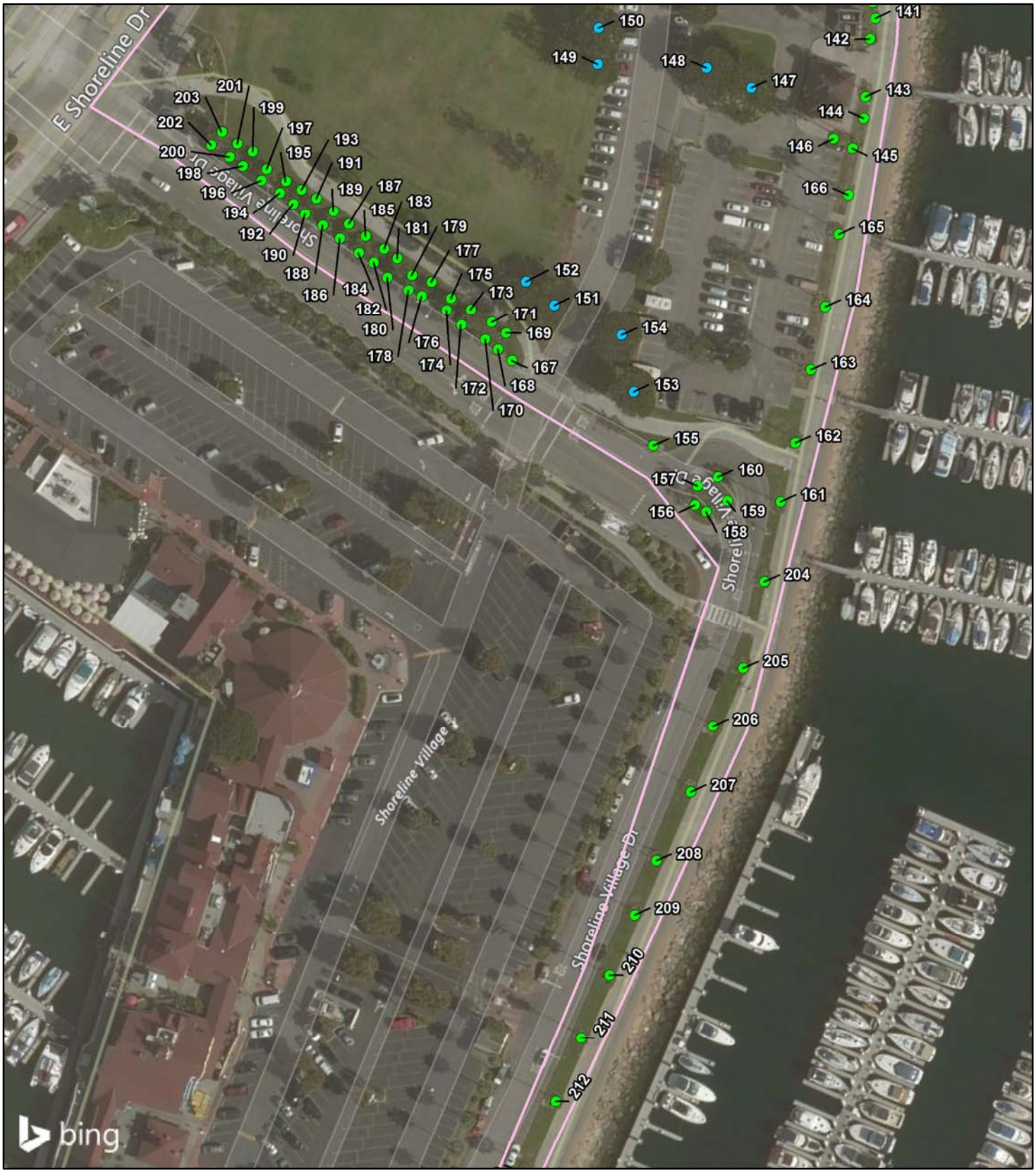
FIGURE 2
Sheet 3 of 9

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey
Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

- Shoreline Marine Survey Area
- Palm Tree
- Coral Tree

0 50 100
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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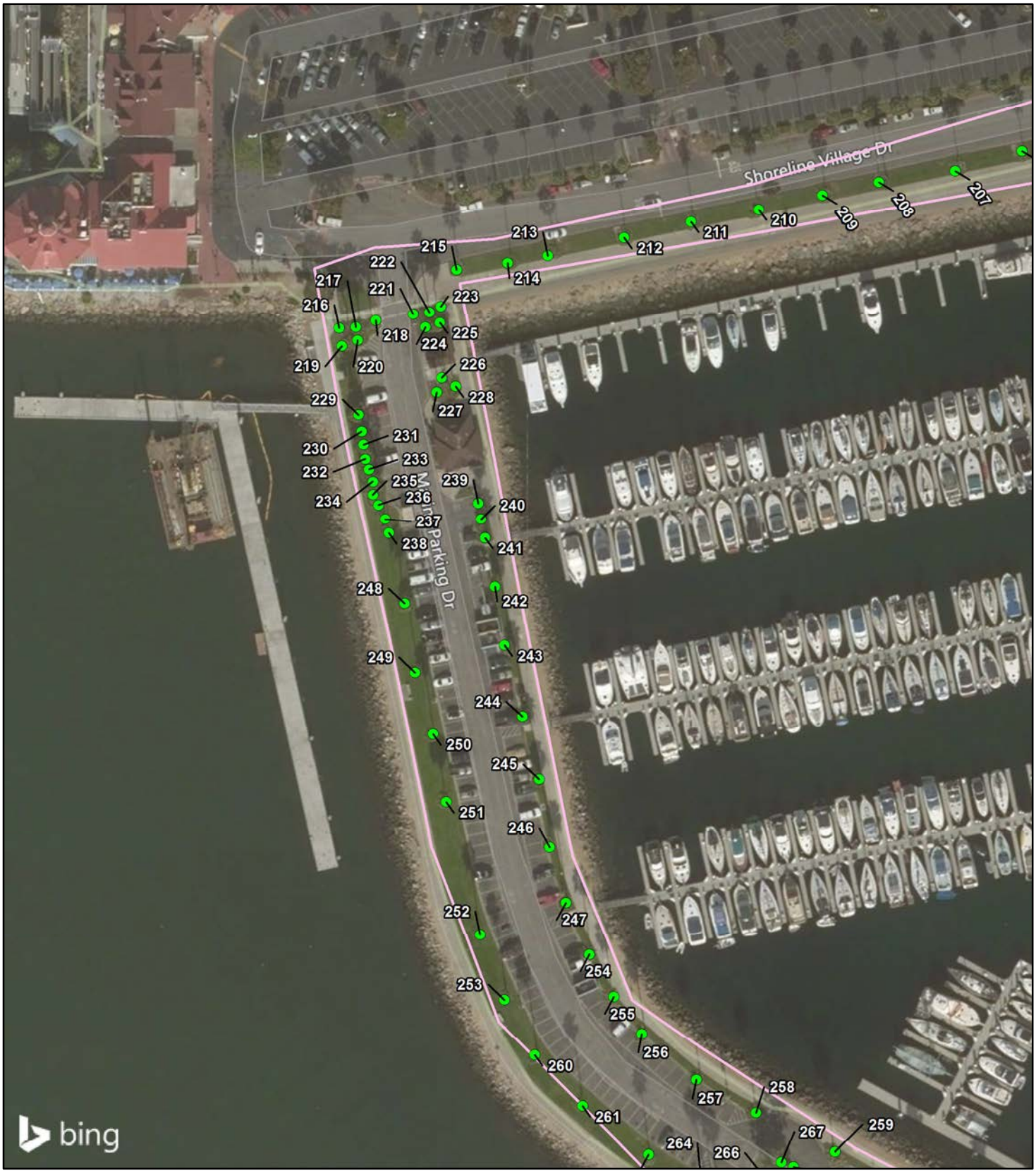
FIGURE 2
Sheet 4 of 9

City of Long Beach
Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Survey Area

Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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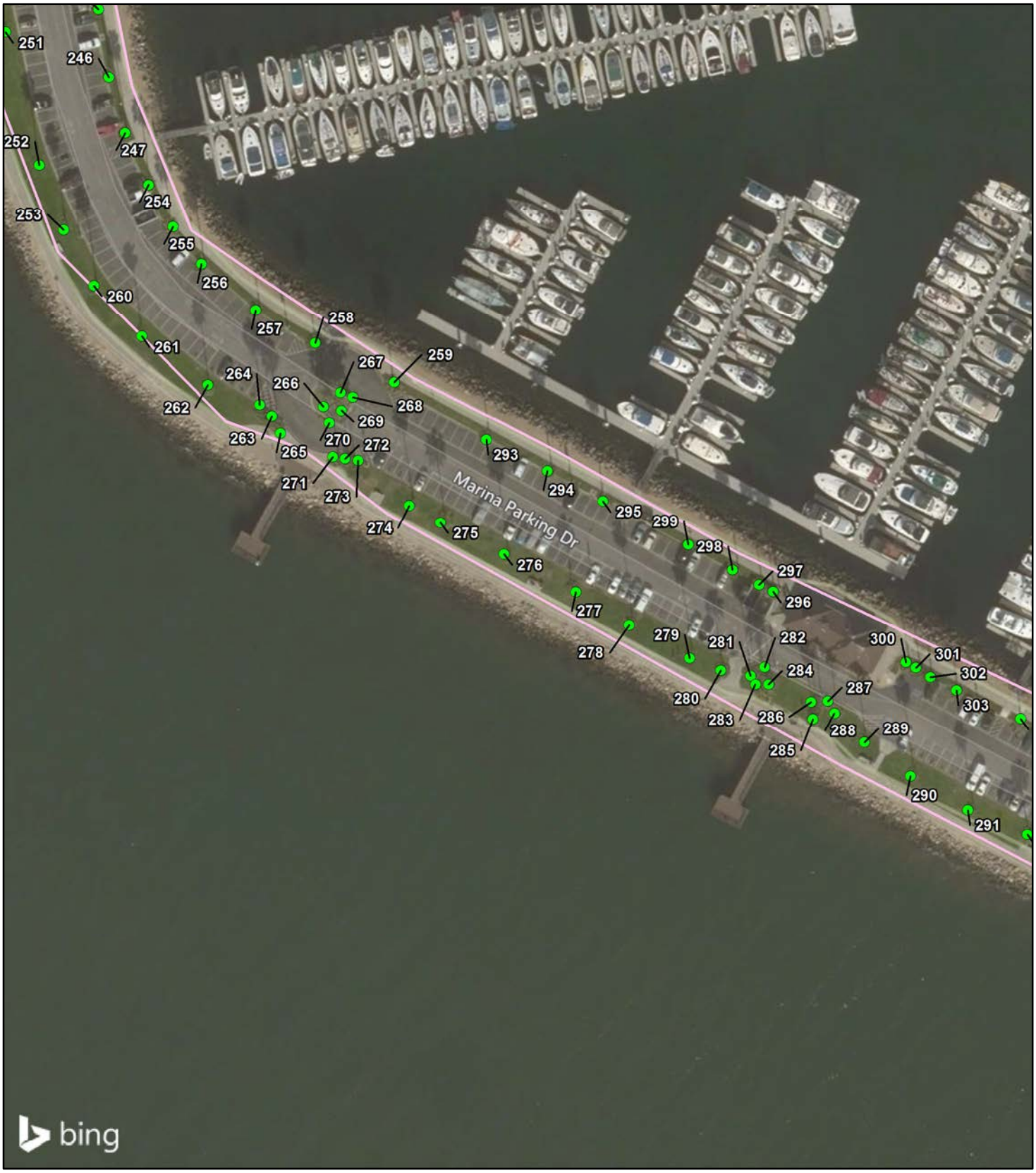
FIGURE 2

Sheet 5 of 9

City of Long Beach

Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Survey Area

Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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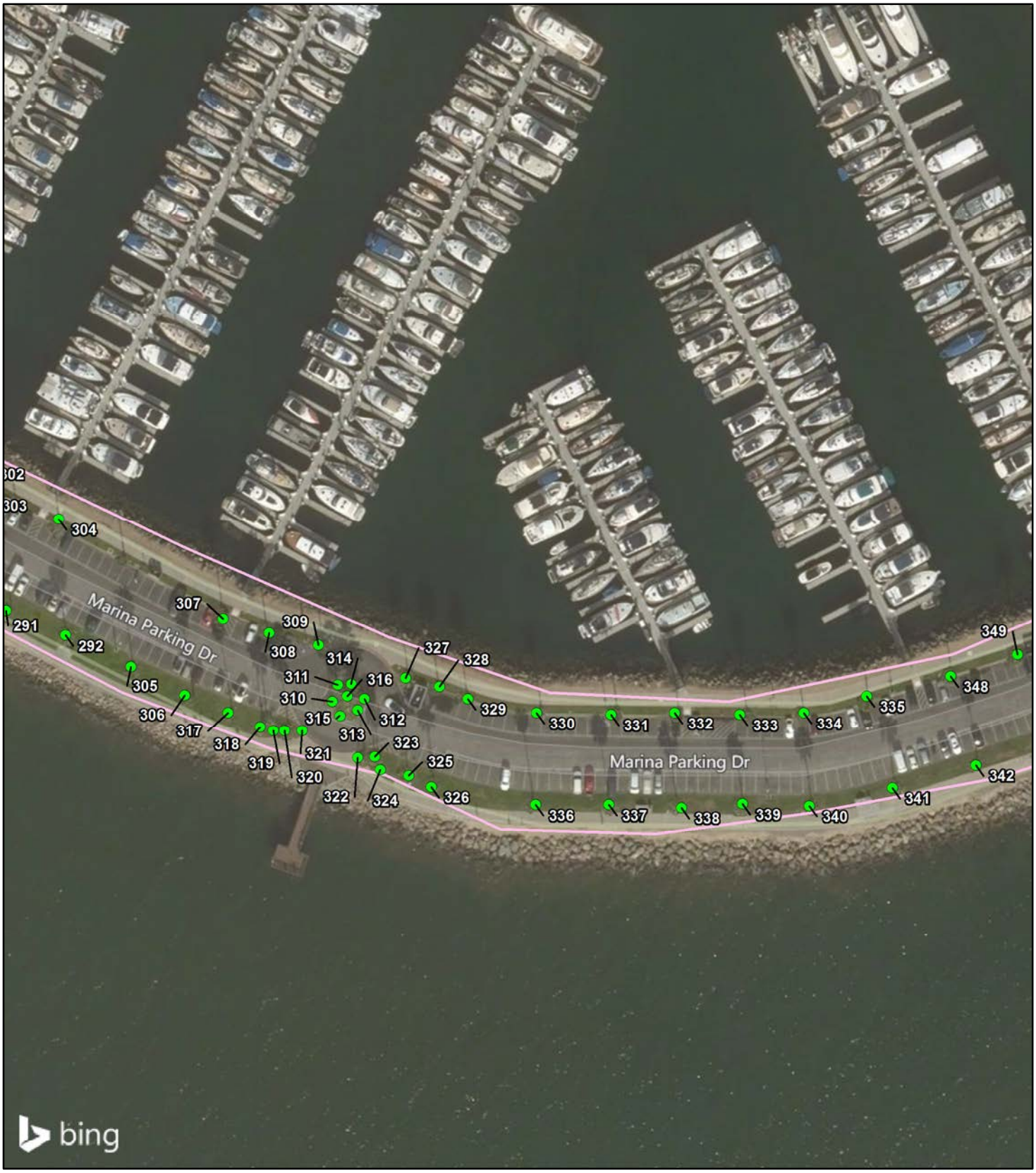
FIGURE 2

Sheet 6 of 9

City of Long Beach

Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Survey Area

Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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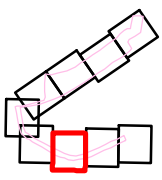


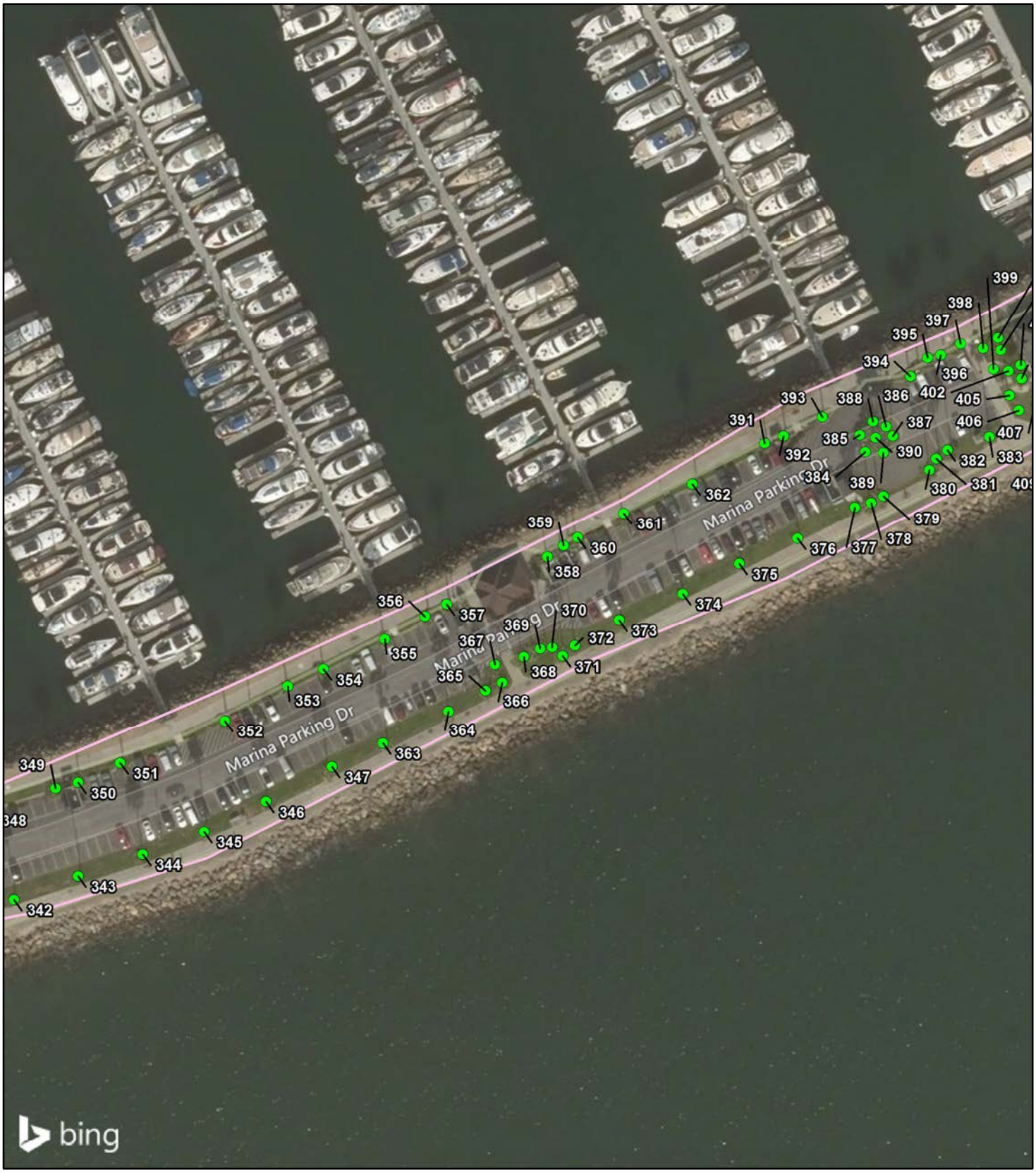
FIGURE 2

Sheet 7 of 9

City of Long Beach

Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Survey Area

Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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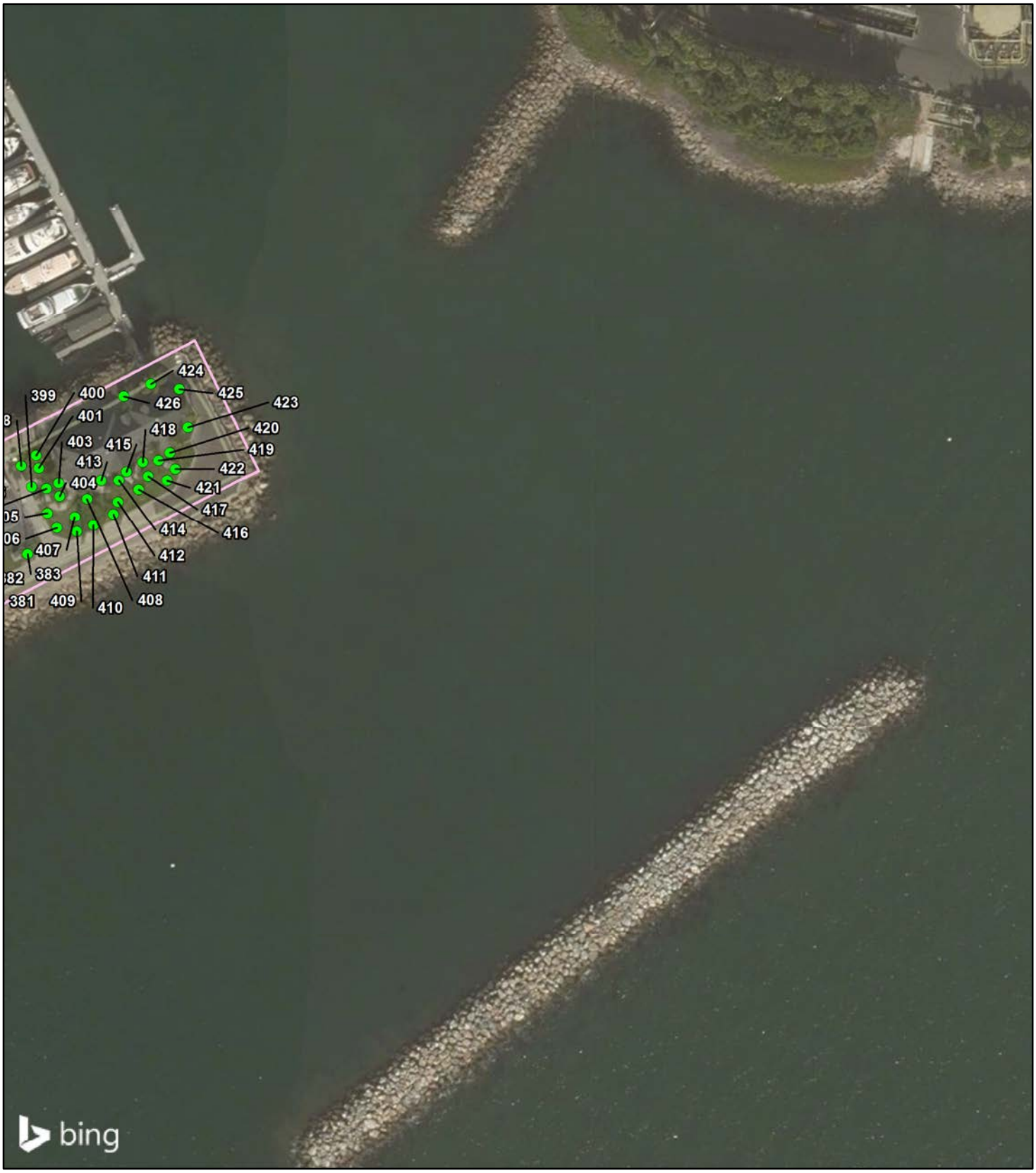
FIGURE 2

Sheet 8 of 9

City of Long Beach

Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey



LSA

LEGEND

Shoreline Marine Survey Area

Palm Tree

N

0 50 100

FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2014)

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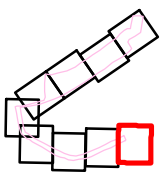

FIGURE 2

Sheet 9 of 9

City of Long Beach

Nesting Bird Survey

Shoreline Marine Tree Survey