

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 24, 2019

TO: Jeff King, Contract Manager, Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine

FROM: Heather Monteleone, Assistant Biologist, LSA

SUBJECT: Nesting Bird Survey for Belmont Pier Plaza per Coastal Development Permit 5-08-187

On December 20, 2019, LSA Biologist Heather Monteleone 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 the Belmont Pier Plaza maintenance area need to be trimmed (Figure 1; all figures attached). All trees that were surveyed are referenced by a number for identification (Figure 2).

The survey was conducted between 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m.. The weather conditions were fair and conducive to bird surveys (70° degrees Fahrenheit, clear, and windy). Ms. Monteleone surveyed 15 trees within the Belmont Pier Plaza Maintenance Area (Figure 2). The trees surveyed are ornamental species, and include Mexican fan palm (*Washingtonia robusta*), coral trees (*Erythrina caffra*), silk floss tree (*Ceiba speciosa*), and carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*). Except for tree No. 15, a coral tree, the remaining trees within the survey area were free of nests at the time of the survey. Two of the inactive nests observed in coral tree No. 15 consist mainly of coral tree leaves and sticks, and look to have been constructed by either an egret or heron species. A third, smaller inactive nest identified in tree No. 15, looks to have been constructed by a smaller passerine species. In addition, at the time of survey, tree No. 15 had two black-crowned night-herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) roosting near one of the larger nests; no breeding behavior was observed. No birds were displaying nest-building behaviors at the time of the survey in the remainder of the trees throughout Belmont Pier plaza.

Per CDP 5-08-187, coral tree No. 15 was identified with nests, and therefore 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 non-breeding and non-nesting season (October through December). All trees with nest(s) have been marked with red-and-white-striped flagging.

Bird species observed during the survey included western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), black-crowned night heron, Cassin's kingbird (*Tyrannus vociferans*), northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), white-crowned sparrow (*Zonotrichia leucophrys* house), house finch (*Haemorrhous mexicanus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Nonnative species observed included European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*).

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

Attachments: Figures 1 and 2

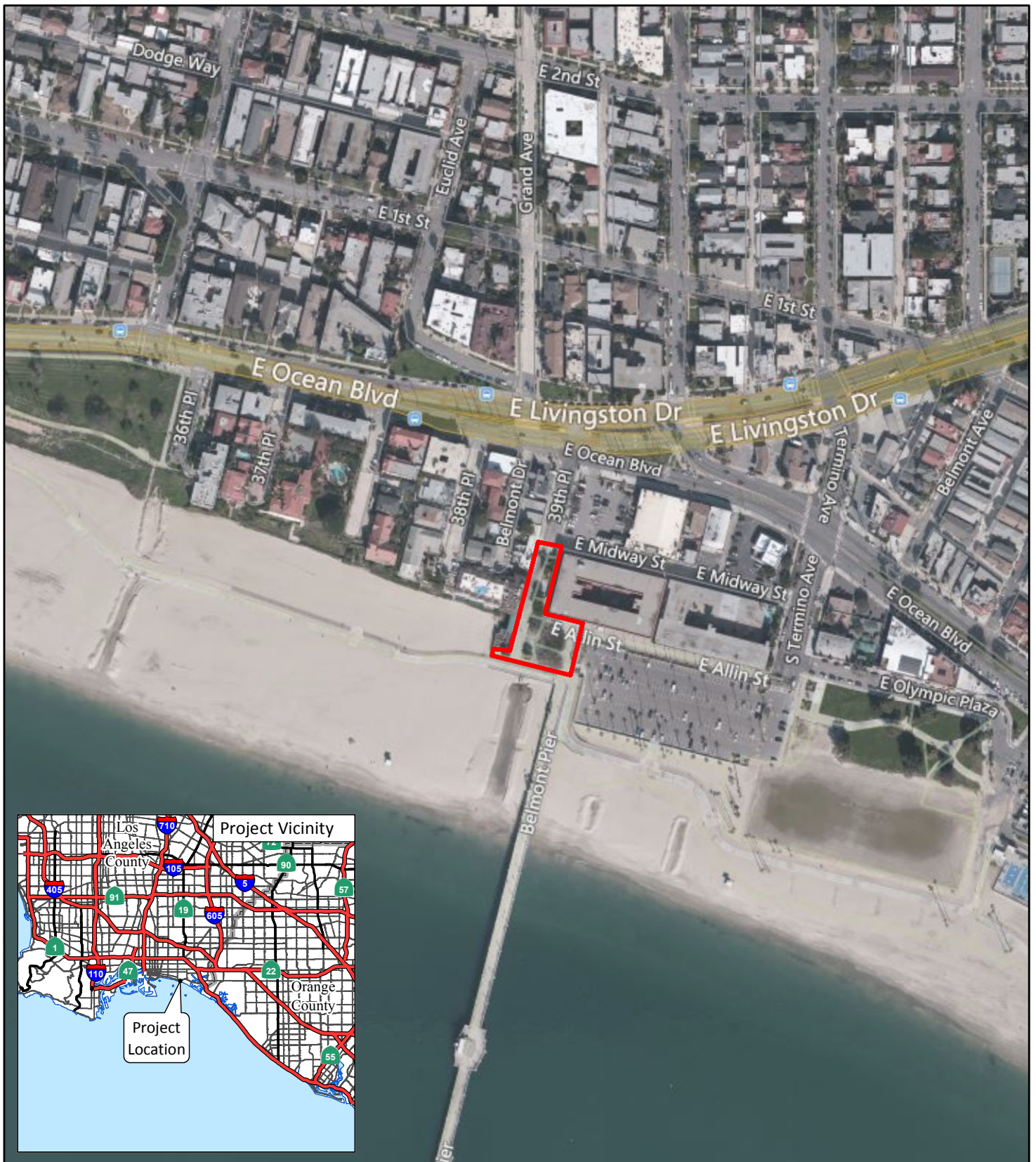



FIGURE 1

LSA

LEGEND

 Project Location - Belmont Pier Plaza



0 150 300
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

I:\CLB1710\GIS\MXD\2019\ProjectLocation_BelmontPierPlaza_2019.mxd (12/20/2019)

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Belmont Pier Plaza Project Location



FIGURE 2

LSA



0 25 50
FEET

SOURCE: Bing Maps (2018)

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LEGEND

- Belmont Pier Plaza
- Trees Surveyed within Project Area
- Coral (with nest)*

* Coral Tree #15 identified in 2019

City of Long Beach
Coastal Tree Survey
Belmont Pier Plaza Tree Survey