

4.4 CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

INTRODUCTION

This section provides a discussion of the existing historic, archaeological, and paleontological resources within the Alamitos Bay area and an analysis of potential impacts from implementation of the proposed project. This cultural resource section is based on the Cultural Resource Assessment Report prepared by LSA Associates, Inc. (July, 2009) and included as Appendix D.

4.4.1 EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located within the Alamitos Bay. Alamitos Bay, located in the southeastern portion of the City of Long Beach, is connected directly to the Pacific Ocean, and lies adjacent to the northwest of the mouth of the San Gabriel River. Alamitos Bay is composed of Marine Stadium, a recreation facility used for boating, water skiing, rowing, and special events; Long Beach Marina, which contains seven smaller basins for recreational craft and a boatyard; a variety of public and private berths; and the Bay proper, which includes several small canals, a bathing beach, and several popular clamming areas.

4.4.4.1 Project Area History

In 1923, the low-lying tidelands of Alamitos Bay were first dredged of more than 7 million cubic yards (cy) of sand, silt, and mud to create the Bay, and other water bodies. In 1932, Marine Stadium was officially engineered and constructed for use in the 10th Olympic Games. Marine Stadium is unique in its design, accommodating four competing rowing teams in one heat. During the 1932 Olympic Games, the United States rowing team won the gold medal in Marine Stadium. Since its development, the stadium has been utilized for recreational and competitive rowing and diving, including various Olympic events.

In 1955 the Second Street Bridge (also referred to as the Davies Bridge) was constructed over the boating channel, which changed the original dimensions of Marine Stadium, effectively eliminating it as a venue for the 1984 Olympic Games. The Marina was also formed in the 1950s, when portions of the bay were dredged to form a circular waterway and the existing basins and boat slips were constructed.

In 1968, the City remodeled Marine Stadium for the Olympic rowing and canoeing team trials and constructed the current boathouse. The boathouse that was used during the 1932

Olympics still remains (located on the southeast corner of E. Colorado and Neito Avenue). This building is noteworthy due to the Olympic history; however, it has been extensively remodeled and is not listed as a historical landmark.

In the late 1960s, the area between what is now the north end of Marine Stadium and the south end of the Colorado Lagoon (which was also the end of the original Olympic course) was filled and the existing underground box culvert constructed, thereby separating the Colorado Lagoon from Marine Stadium. This was done as part of the construction for the then-proposed Pacific Coast Freeway. The freeway was never built and the “filled” area is now Marina Vista Park.

Despite the fill, which relocated the Olympic course’s finish line, Marine Stadium still provides 2,000 meters (m) of straight water, which is the standard sprint distance for national and international rowing. Marine Stadium is the only rowing venue specifically built for the sport in the United States and it continues to be a center for training United States Olympic Rowing Teams. While not eligible as an Olympic venue due to modifications resulting from construction of the Second Street Bridge, the 1984 Women’s Olympic Sculling trials were held in Marine Stadium. Marine Stadium is also the location from which aviators Clyde Schlieper and Wes Carroll set off when they set a world record for longest sustained flight (30 days) in 1939. In addition, Marine Stadium is significant because it and the Los Angeles Coliseum are the only two surviving 1932 Olympic structures. For these reasons, Marine Stadium was designated a California Registered Historical Landmark (No. 1014) on April 29, 1995, and is listed in the California Register.

4.4.4.2 Historical/Paleontological/Archaeological Resources

Record searches and an archaeological survey have been conducted to determine the known existence and assess the potential existence of cultural resources within the project area. The record search found that a total of 37 previous studies have been conducted within 0.25 mile radius of the project area; however none of these studies have included any portion of the project area. Seven resources have been identified, including six archaeological sites and one historic resource. None of the archaeological sites are located within the project area.

However, as described above, Marine Stadium is a historic resource, and a portion of the Stadium is located adjacent to the project area. The Marine Stadium is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL; No. 1014), and the California Points of Historical Interests (PHI; No. 19-186115). However, due to its lack of integrity, it was found to be ineligible for the National Register by the United States Army Corps of Engineers in 1990.

4.4.2 METHODOLOGY

4.4.4.1 Cultural Resources Records Search and Research

Records searches were conducted for the Alamitos Bay Marina Project, and also for the adjacent Colorado Lagoon Restoration project on October 30, 2008, and October 17, 2007, respectively. These two records searches encompass the entire Alamitos Bay Marina Rehabilitation Project area and a 0.25 mi radius around it. Both records searches took place at the SCCIC of the California Historical Resources Information System, located at California State University, Fullerton. The records searches included a review of all recorded cultural resources located within the 0.25 mi radius as well as a review of known cultural resource survey and excavation reports. In addition, the California Points of Historical Interest (PHI), CHL, California Register, National Register of Historic Places (National Register), and California State Historic Resources Inventory (HRI) listings were reviewed.

Research indicated that the boundary for Marine Stadium had been plotted inaccurately at the SCCIC due to the limited information provided in the CHL nomination form when it was submitted to the OHP in 1993. Based on conversations with SCCIC personnel, the City Historic Preservation Officer, and the OHP, the boundaries have been revised to reflect those defined by the City in its Municipal Code (16.08.150 Marine Stadium East; 16.08.160 Marine Stadium West) and other documents. Additional detail regarding the boundaries of Marine Stadium is provided in (Appendix D, Cultural/Historic Resources Assessment).

4.4.4.2 Field Survey

A pedestrian field survey was not conducted because the areas to be impacted are entirely paved and previously disturbed, or consist of the water bodies that comprise Alamitos Bay and Marine Stadium. No undisturbed native soil is visible. This was confirmed by examination of historic and modern aerial photos and a cursory inspection of the project area by vehicle.

4.4.3 THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Pursuant to Section 15064.5 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a project may have a significant effect on the environment if the project may cause substantial adverse change to a historic, archaeological, or paleontological resource. An impact may be considered significant if it can be reasonably argued that the project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource as defined in Section 15064.5;

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5;
- Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature; or
- Disturb any human remains, including those found outside of formal cemeteries.

4.4.4.1 Evaluation of Cultural Resources under CEQA

The criteria for listing resources on the California Register are based on those developed by the National Park Service for listing in the National Register. The federal criteria have been modified in order to include a broader range of resources that better reflect the history of California. A property must be significant at the local, State, or national level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. It is associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history and cultural heritage of California and the United States.
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important to the nation or to California's past.
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the State and the nation.

4.4.4.2 Integrity

Integrity is the authenticity of a property's physical identity, evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the property's period of significance. Properties eligible for listing in the California Register must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historic properties and convey the reasons for their significance.

Integrity is judged in relation to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which a property is thought to be eligible. Alterations to a property, or changes in use, may themselves have historical, cultural, or architectural significance.

It is possible that such properties may not retain sufficient integrity to meet National Register standards, yet they may still be eligible for listing in the California Register. Properties that have lost their historic character of appearance may still have integrity if they maintain a

potential to yield significant scientific or historical information, if the archaeological resources retain integrity, or if the resource retains substantial cultural value even though some major constituents have been removed or disturbed.

4.4.4 IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Alamitos Bay Marina will continue to operate as a Marina after project implementation. Therefore, this discussion is limited to potential impacts to cultural resources during construction as the proposed project would not involve operational activities that would disturb or destroy underlying archaeological or paleontological remains or other cultural/scientific resources.

4.4.4.1 Less Than Significant Impacts

The following impacts that could result from implementation of the proposed project were evaluated and determined to be less than significant.

Historic Resources. As described above, Marine Stadium is a historic resource and located adjacent to the project boundaries. Marine Stadium is listed on the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), the California Historical Landmarks (CHL; No. 1014), and the California Points of Historical Interests (PHI; No. 19-186115). The basis for these designations is the stadium's history as the official rowing site of the 1932 Olympic Games. It was also the location of several other Olympic trials in the years following the 1932 event, and is the only water body constructed specifically for rowing events.

Subsequent to the 1932 Olympic Games, Marine Stadium underwent a series of changes. Figure 4.4.1 illustrates this by comparing aerial photos of the stadium from 1928, 1938, 1952, 1972, and 2008. The most significant of these was construction of the Second Street Bridge in 1955. Construction of the bridge changed the dimensions of the stadium, effectively eliminating it from consideration as a rowing venue for the 1984 Olympic Games. The northern end of the stadium has also been reconfigured since the 1932 Olympic Games. Figure 4.4.1 illustrates how that area was filled for the formation of Marina Vista Park, in comparison to where the finish line that was used in 1932 was located (Figure 4.4.2). The area surrounding Marine Stadium no longer retains integrity of setting; extensive alterations have been made to the environment that existed at the time of the 1932 Olympic Games for which the resource is significant.

Likewise, Marine Stadium retains little integrity because the physical characteristics that existed during the 1932 Olympic Games, which is the property's period of significance, have been compromised. Due to this lack of integrity, Marine Stadium was determined to be

ineligible for the National Register by the United States Army Corps of Engineers during its evaluation of the property in 1990.

Also as a result of the series of changes, and lack of integrity, the boundaries for Marine Stadium have changed. As it is defined in the City's Municipal Code (16.08.150 Marine Stadium East; 16.08.160 Marine Stadium West), Marine Stadium proper extends from 50 feet (ft) northwest of the centerline of the Second Street Bridge. This area is not within the project improvement area, and therefore will not be affected by the project's proposed Marina improvements. Improvements are included for the boat slips in Basins 1–7; it should be specifically noted that Basins 3 and 4 are located southeast of the bridge and are not within the boundaries of Marine Stadium. All other improvements will be on dry land outside of the body of water that defines Marine Stadium and will not alter its size or character as it currently exists. Although the eelgrass mitigation area will affect the current configuration of Marine Stadium, it is located outside of the boundaries of Marine Stadium as it existed during the 1932 Olympic Games (Figure 4.4.1). As described previously, the boundaries at the time of the Olympics are the contributing factor to the stadium's eligibility as a California Point of Historical Interest and its automatic listing in the California Register. The area to be impacted did not exist in its current form at that time, but has been created in modern times to its current dimensions. It retains no original integrity and does not contribute to the eligibility of Marine Stadium. Therefore, direct impacts to Marine Stadium will be less than significant.

No indirect impacts to Marine Stadium are anticipated. The area surrounding Marine Stadium no longer retains integrity of setting; nothing remains of the environment that existed at the time of the 1932 Olympic Games for which the resource is considered significant. The proposed project will not alter the character of the current surrounding area. Therefore, there will be no indirect impacts to Marine Stadium.

Archaeological Resources. The cultural resources record search concluded that there are no recorded archaeological resources located within the project boundaries. The presence of prehistoric cultural material is unlikely because the improvements would be located in areas that were previously disturbed or dredged. The Marina was formed from a series of dredging activities that began in the early 1900s. In the 1950s, portions of the bay were dredged to form a circular waterway and the existing basins and boat slips were constructed. Dredging that would occur along with the proposed project would not be deeper than the original Marina design depths and/or original basin depths. Similarly, the land side improvements include revitalizing the restroom facilities and parking lots, are located within existing developed and previously graded areas. Ground disturbance in the parking lot areas is anticipated to be less than 2 ft deep and will also be conducted within areas that have been previously disturbed and graded. Therefore, no native soil will be disturbed and potential

impacts to unknown archaeological resources is unlikely. As such, the project is not anticipated to impact any archaeological resources, and impacts are considered less than significant. No mitigation is required.

Paleontological Resources. The record search concluded that there are no recorded paleontological resources located within the project boundaries. Similarly, the presence of fossils is unlikely because the project area is previously disturbed or dredged. As described previously, the project would excavate in areas of previous, dredge, fill, disturbance, and or grading and does not involve excavation that would extend deep enough into the project area soils to reach native sediments. Therefore, no native soil will be disturbed and potential impacts to unknown paleontological resources is unlikely. As such, impacts to paleontological resources would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Human Remains. Human remains are unlikely to be located in the project area due to previous disturbance of project area soils and waters, as described previously. However, in the unlikely event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050 requires ground disturbance to stop and the County Coroner be notified immediately. Adherence to existing standard construction regulations, including State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, would reduce potential adverse impacts to human remains to less than significant levels, and no further mitigation is necessary.

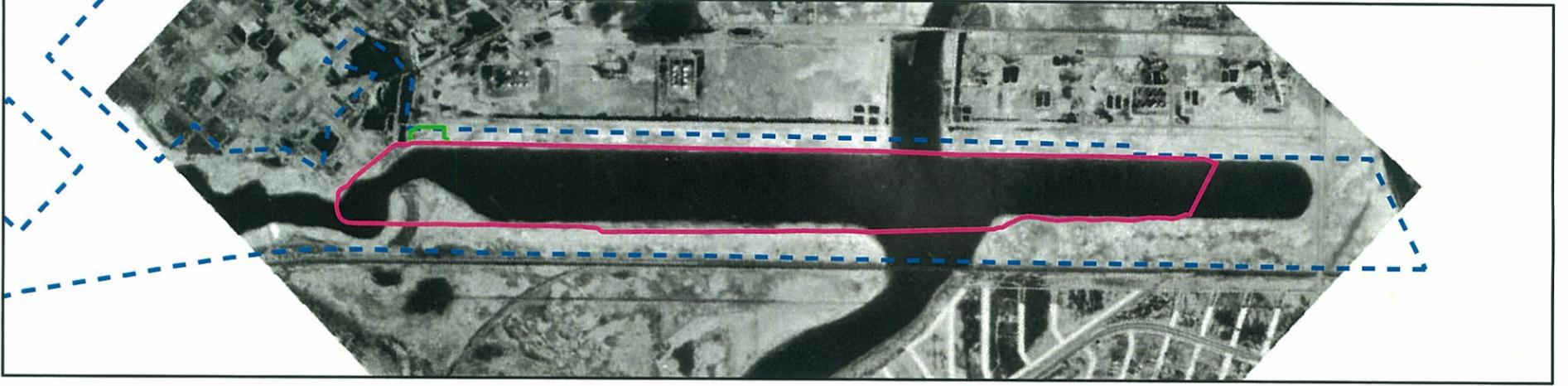
4.4.5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

The cumulative study area for cultural resources is generally localized and does not affect the vicinity surrounding the proposed project site. Therefore, cumulative cultural resource impacts involve the immediate project site and consideration of whether project implementation would result in the direct loss of such resources. As discussed above, implementation of the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on known historic resources and unknown cultural and paleontological resources. Therefore, because significant impacts would not result, the proposed project would not incrementally contribute to potential cumulative impacts related to cultural resources.

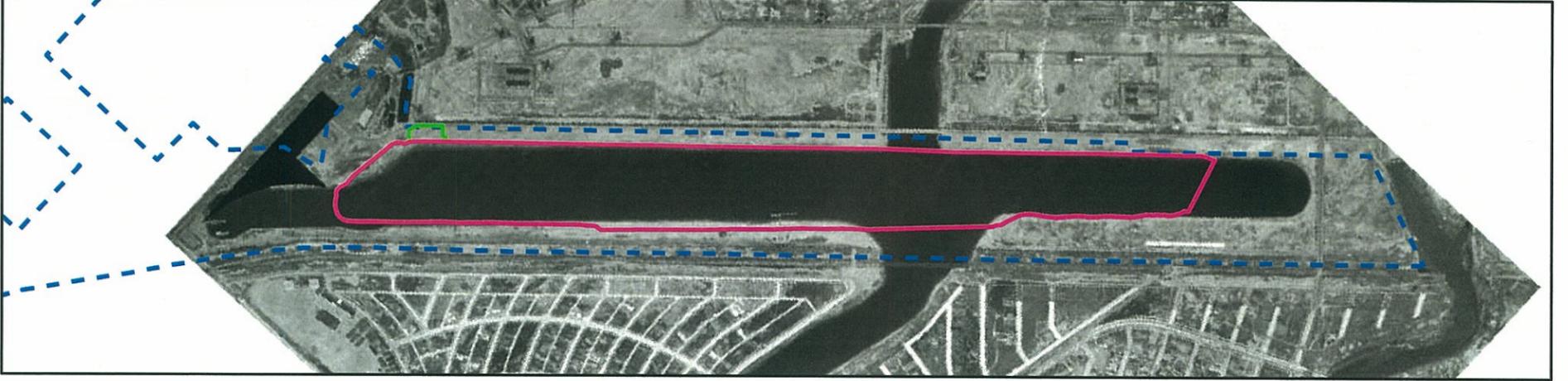
4.4.6 SIGNIFICANT UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS

No potentially significant historic, archaeological, or paleontological resource impacts have been identified. Therefore, there are no significant unavoidable adverse impacts of the proposed project related to cultural resources.

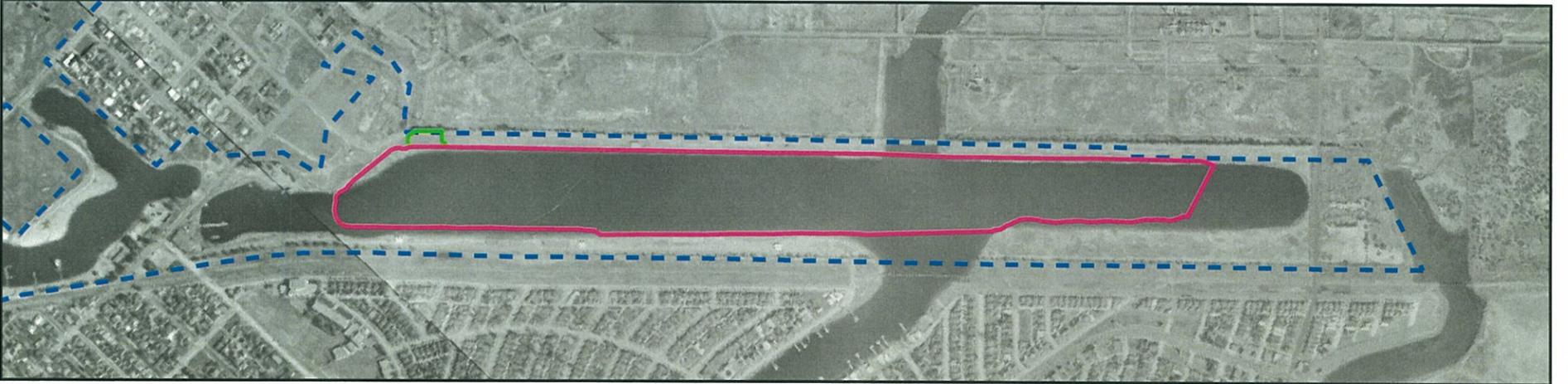
1928 Aerial:



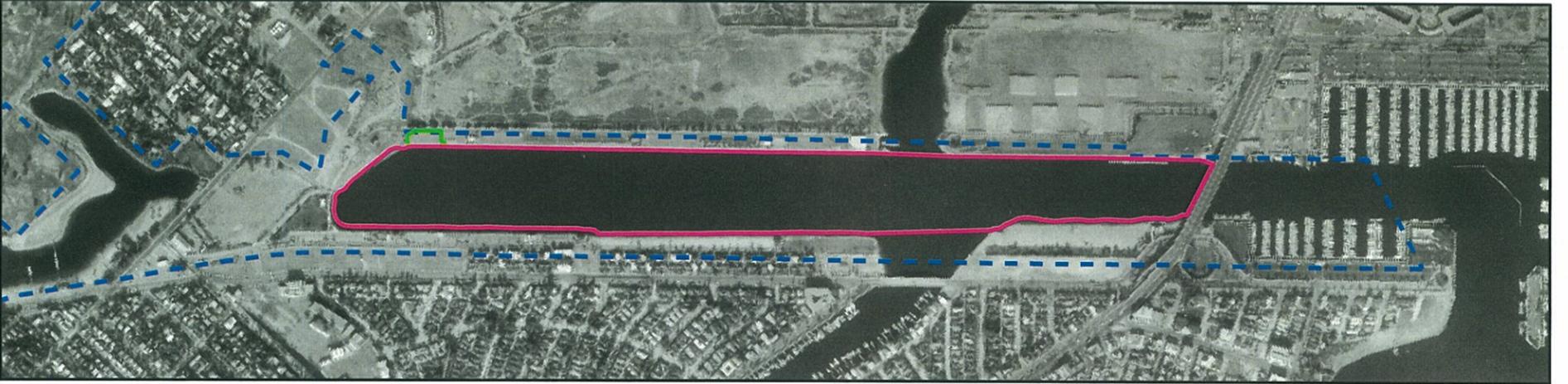
1938 Aerial:



1952 Aerial:



1972 Aerial:



2008 Aerial:



L S A

LEGEND

-  1932 Recreational Park Boundary from USGS
-  Current Marine Stadium Boundary
-  Eel Grass Mitigation Area



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FEET

SOURCE: Fairchild (1928); ASCS (5/1938); HistoricAerials.com (1952, 1972); (MSVE (2008)

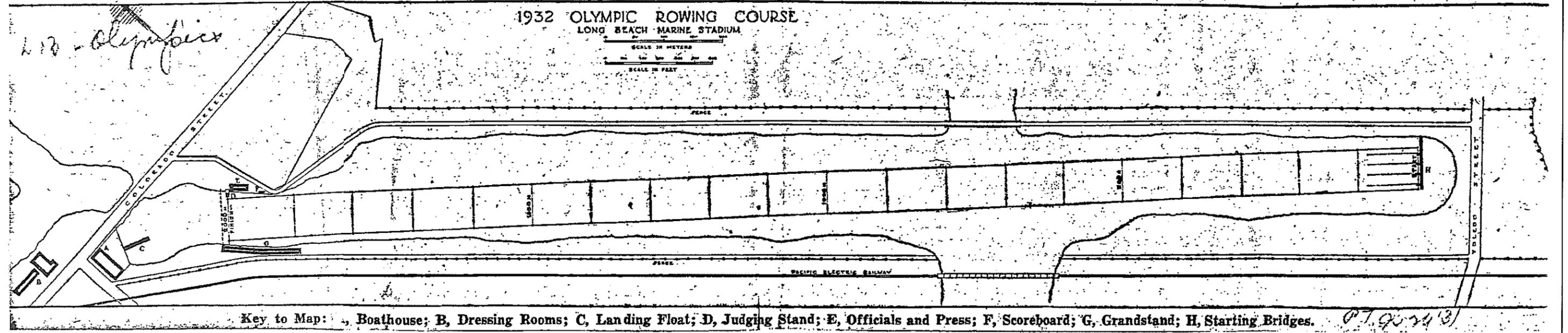
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FIGURE 4.4.1

Olympics-1932

L. B. COLL

MAP SHOWS LAYOUT OF OLYMPIC GAMES STRUCTURES



LSA

FIGURE 4.4.2

