

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** July 31, 2017

**To:** Alyssa Helper, Environmental Planner, LSA

**FROM:** Leeann McDougall, Assistant Biologist, LSA

**SUBJECT:** Biological Resources Assessment for the Alamitos Beach Concession Stand Project

This memorandum provides a summary of the findings of a biological resources assessment for the proposed Alamitos Beach Concession Stand Project (project) located in the City of Long Beach (City), Los Angeles County, California (Figure 1, Project Location and Vicinity; all figures attached). The proposed project involves the replacement of an existing concession stand and café on the project site with an improved concession stand, a restroom facility, and an aquatic-equipment-rental facility. The project also includes an outdoor recreational area and improvements to the southern portion of the existing on-site parking lot. Additionally, the project would add a dedicated bike lane farther south of the existing pedestrian and bicycle pathway, along the southern boundary of the site, and would also relocate five existing volleyball courts south of the site to accommodate the additional bike lane. (Figure 2, Project Site).

### SITE AND PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project site is located in the Alamitos Beach area of the City of Long Beach. As shown on Figure 1, Project Location and Vicinity, regional access to the project site is provided via California State Route 1 (Pacific Coast Highway) to the north and Interstate 710 to the west of the project site. Local access to the site is provided via East Ocean Boulevard, East Shoreline Drive, and Beach Access Road. In addition, there is a multiuse trail adjacent to the south side of the project site that provides pedestrian and bicycle access to the site. The project site is situated at the western end of Alamitos Beach and is adjacent to the waterfront area near the City's downtown.

### SURROUNDING LAND USES

The project site is bound by commercial, office, and high-rise residential uses to the north; sandy beach areas associated with Alamitos Beach to the east and south, as well as the Marina Green to the south; and Beach Access Road and East Shoreline Boulevard to the west.

The 1.22-acre project site (Assessor's Parcel No. 7265-021-901) is currently developed with the existing Alamitos Café, which itself is on the north end of the Marina Green. The existing one-story concession building is 2,234 square feet in size. A small outdoor patio and an automated teller machine (ATM) are present directly south of the building and are intended for use by patrons of the concession stand and visitors to the beach. An existing monument sign marks the southeastern corner of the site. Pedestrian and bicycle access to the project site are provided by an existing

bicycle pathway and an existing pedestrian pathway south of the site, both of which traverse Alamitos Beach in an east-west direction. Vehicular access to the site is provided via Beach Access Road and an onsite surface parking lot directly north of the existing concession stand. An electric vehicle charging station is located within the onsite parking lot, near the entrance to the concession stand. Bicycle racks are also present on the project site and are located in between the on-site parking lot and the existing concession stand.

Figure 3, Representative Site Photographs, depicts the project site in its existing condition.

## METHODOLOGY

LSA conducted a literature review to determine the potential for occurrence of special-status plant and animal species on or in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project site. The site is on the *Long Beach, California* United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle (quad) map. Database records for the *Long Beach* quad and surrounding quads (*San Pedro, Inglewood, South Gate, Whittier, Los Alamitos, Seal Beach and Torrance*) were reviewed on July 3, 2017, using the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) *Rarefind 5* (Commercial Version, Version 5.2.14; Biogeographic Data Branch), the California Native Plant Society Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (online edition, v8-03), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC; v3.0.9) online database.

LSA biologist Leeann McDougall conducted a site visit on July 3, 2017, to survey the existing biological conditions on the site.

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The areas adjacent to the project site include sandy beach east of the site; the existing surface parking lot associated with the current concession stand to the north of the project site; and the Marina Green south of the site. The sand in the area is groomed on a regular basis and the area receives a high level of human recreational use. The project area offers poor habitat for most special-interest animal species that may occur in the project area. Given the extent of historical disturbance in the project area, the probability of any of the special-interest plant species occurring in the project area is very low. Summaries of the plants and wildlife observed during the July site visit are provided in the Plants and Wildlife sections below.

### Plants

The vegetation on site consists of nonnative ruderal and ornamental landscaping, including ornamental trees and Mexican fan palms (*Washingtonia robusta*).

LSA carefully evaluated the list of special-status plant species generated by the literature search. However, due to the disturbed nature of the vegetation, sand, and soil and to the site's isolation from native habitats, there is little potential for special-status plant species to occur on the project site.

## Wildlife

Given the site is heavily disturbed and located in an area that is almost entirely developed, species diversity is expected to be relatively low within the project boundaries. The site does not function as a wildlife movement corridor and does not offer much habitat for wildlife to reside beyond nonnative ruderal and ornamental vegetation; however, the site does contain foraging and nesting habitat for birds. Active nests of native bird species are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the California Fish and Game Code. Therefore, the proposed project would be required to adhere to Mitigation Measure BIO-1, listed in the Conclusion and Recommendations section, which requires compliance with the MBTA.

Wildlife detected during the survey include nonnative rock pigeon (*Columba livia*), and native Western gull (*Larus occidentalis*), California gull (*Larus californicus*), and American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*).

Special-status species identified through the CDFW's CNDDDB as having been observed within 3 miles of the proposed project site include Western tidal-flat tiger beetle (*Cicindela gabbii*), Western beach tiger beetle (*Cicindela latesignata latesignata*), Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), California least tern (*Sternula antillarum browni*), bank swallow (*Riparia riparia*), and big free-tailed bat (*Nyctinomops macrotis*). These bird and bat species may be found foraging near the site; however, habitat is not suitable for nesting or maternity roosting. Therefore, no mitigation is required. While the Western tidal-flat tiger beetle and Western beach tiger beetle could potentially occur in some of the adjacent open space habitat, they are not expected to occur within the project limits due to the high level of recreational use of the beach. Therefore, no mitigation is required.

## Jurisdictional Features

This project does not propose to impact jurisdictional wetlands or nonwetland waters; therefore, it will not be necessary to secure authorizations from the regulatory agencies (e.g., a 404 Permit from the United States Army Corps of Engineers, a 401 Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, or a 1602 Streambed Alteration Notification to CDFW). A Jurisdictional Delineation report will not be required because there are no proposed impacts to the surrounding waters.

Although the National Wetlands Inventory map (Figure 4, National Wetlands Inventory [NWI] Map) shows the site is partially mapped as Estuarine and Marine Wetland, Google Earth aerial images depicting the area during the time span of 1994 to 2017 were referenced and no evidence of tidal waters approaching the site was observed. The water appears to be at least 500 feet away from the site; therefore, the site would be considered outside of the tidal influence.

### California Coastal Commission

The California Coastal Commission (CCC) oversees implementation of the California Coastal Act (CCA) and the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act. The CCC, through provisions of the CCA, is empowered to issue a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for many projects located within the Coastal Zone. The Coastal Zone is generally defined as the distance from the ocean shoreline to 1,000 yards inland, or more in some locations. In areas where a local entity has a certified Local Coastal Program (LCP), the local entity (i.e., the City) can issue a CDP only if it is consistent with the LCP. The CCC, however, has appeal authority for portions of LCPs and retains jurisdiction over certain public trust lands and in areas without an LCP. Because the project is located within an area where a local entity has a certified LCP, the local entity (i.e., the City) can issue a CDP if it is consistent with the certified LCP.

### Permits

As discussed previously, the project proposes no impacts to jurisdictional wetlands or nonwetland waters. As such, permits for impacts to such resources will not be required. The project will require a Coastal Developmental Permit from the City of Long Beach LCP because the project area is located within the Coastal Zone.

In addition, no listed endangered and/or threatened species or designated critical habitat is anticipated to be affected by the project; therefore, coordination with the respective resources listing agency will not be required.

### CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The project is not expected to impact special-status biological resources provided the following measures are implemented:

- BIO-1: Nesting Birds.** In order to avoid impacts to nesting birds that are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and California Fish and Game Code, vegetation clearing or construction activities that impact existing vegetation shall be conducted outside the primary nesting season for birds. The nesting season accepted by the California Coastal Commission extends from January through September. If vegetation disturbance is scheduled to occur during the nesting season, a preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 3 days prior to vegetation removal. If a nest is found with eggs or young of any species covered under the MBTA or California Fish and Game Code, work shall not be permitted within a buffer distance to be determined by the qualified biologist. Commencing project construction activities, including vegetation clearing, outside of the primary nesting season for birds reduces the chances of the biologist finding an active nest during the preconstruction nesting bird survey.

Attachment: Figures 1–4

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## FIGURES 1–4

- Figure 1 – Project Location and Vicinity
- Figure 2 – Project Site
- Figure 3 – Representative Site Photographs
- Figure 4 – National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map