Ventura Harbor Maintenance Dredging

4/27/2022

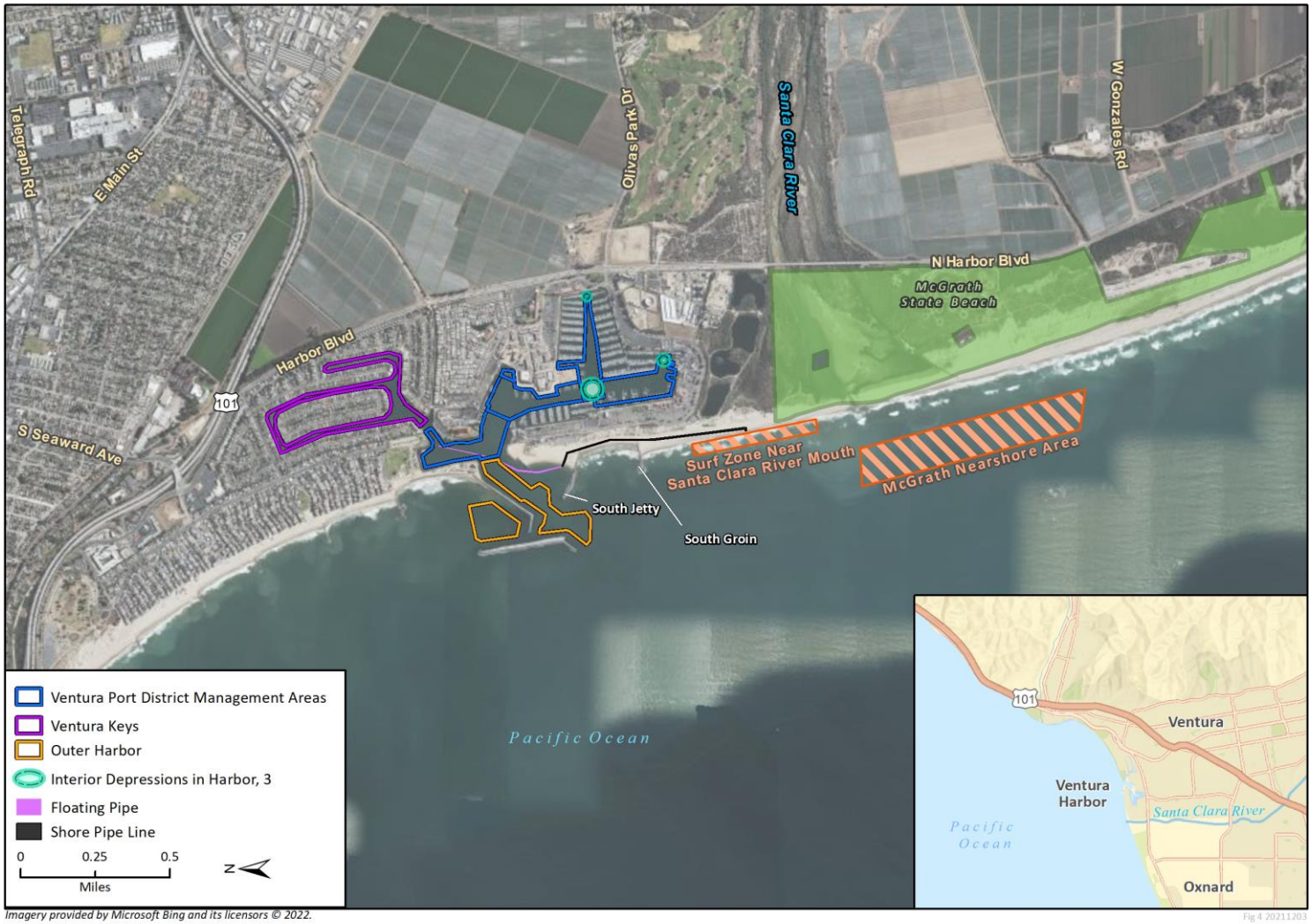
Overview

- Ventura Harbor Maintenance Dredging is composed of three different actions that are permitted and conducted under separate regulatory approvals.
- The US Army Corps (Corps) conducts federal maintenance channel dredging annually and places sand, defined as beneficial reuse material, on the beach south of Ventura Harbor.
- Ventura Port District (VPD) and the City of Ventura (City) perform maintenance dredging of inner harbor material every 3 to 5 years and place that material in the surfzone like the USACE but are subject to placement special conditions.

Regional View and USACE Deposition Areas

Fig 1 Ventura Harbor Regional View Landscape

VPD Dredge Material Deposition Locations



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Ventura Keys Deposition Locations

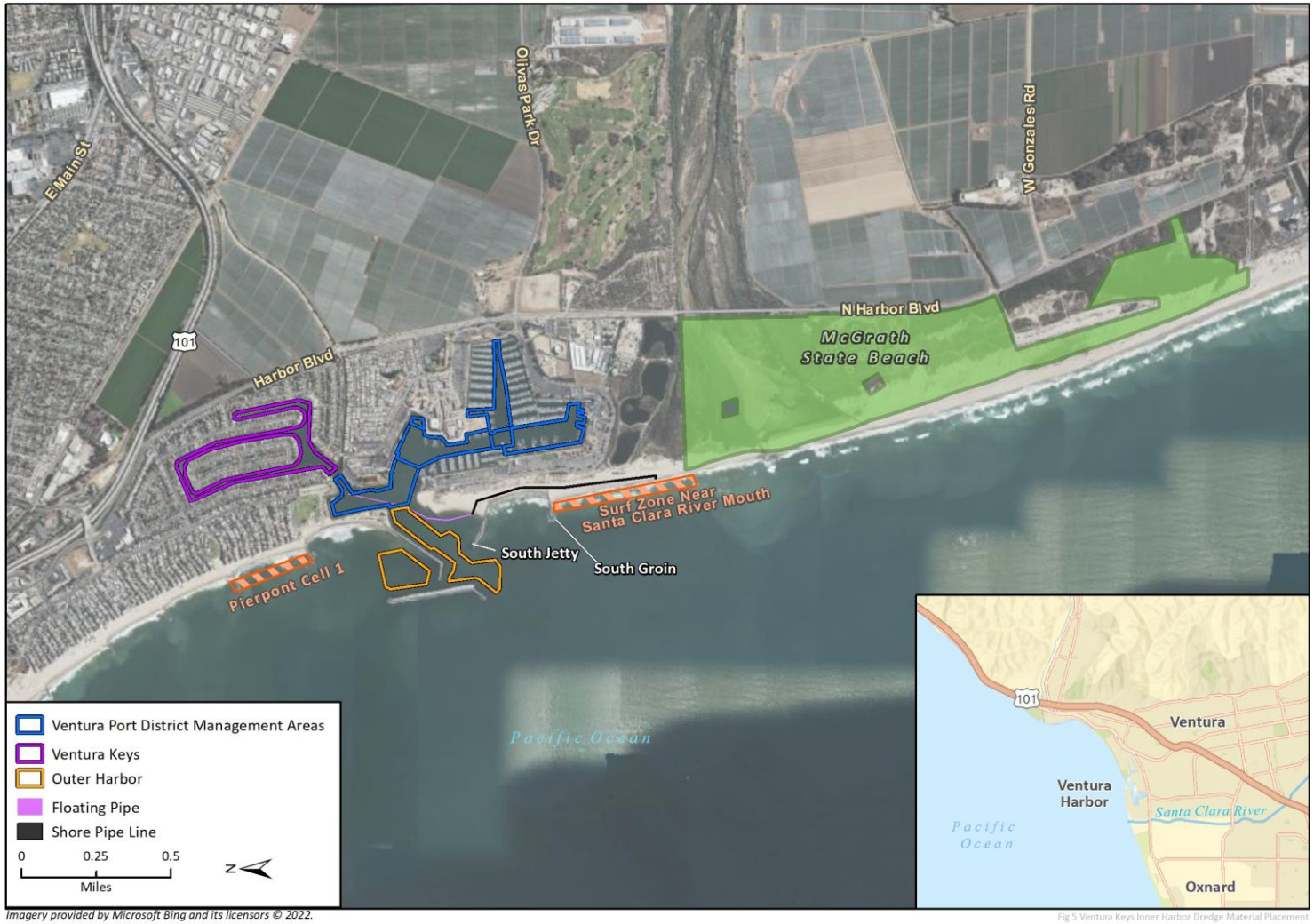

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Fig 5 Ventura Keys Inner Harbor Dredge Material Placement

Proposed Dredge Material Deposition Changes

- The Port District and City funded special studies, conducted in the fall of 2020, to investigate potential fine grain material placement alternatives

1. Sediment grain size and water quality study of the nearshore waters of the beach deposition location
2. Coastal processes study to examining fine grain deposition volumes relative to outer harbor coarse grain material in relationship to beneficial use guidance

- Special studies were provided to Corps, Regional Board, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January 2021

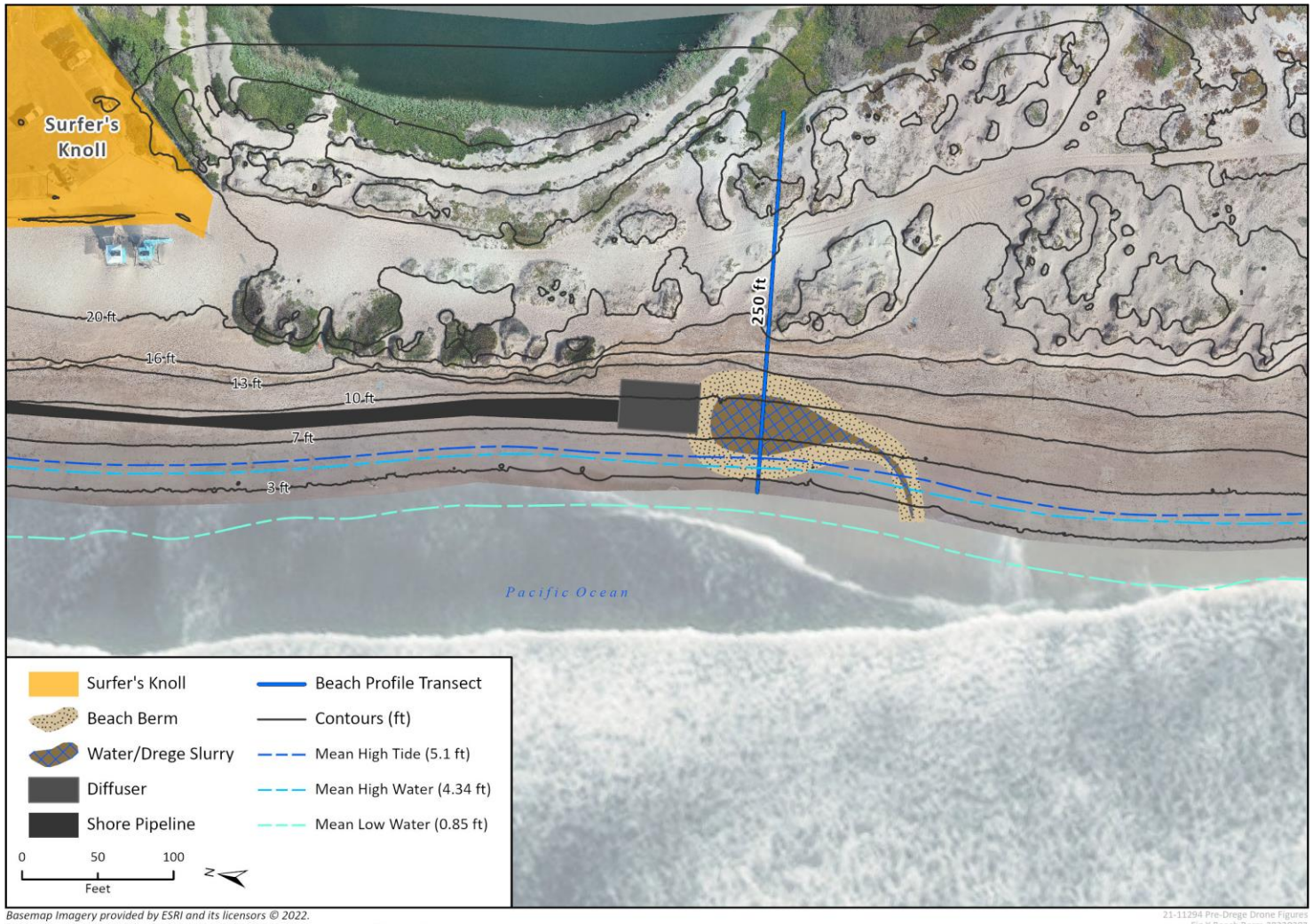
2021 Emergency Dredging

- March 2021 Ventura Port District and City of Ventura conduct emergency dredging to address navigational safety concerns
- Existing permit special conditions not capable of being met as drought causes low water flow (> 100 cfs) in Santa Clara River and the river is not open to the ocean

Dredge Material Placement Discussions

- Ventura Port District and City of Ventura proactively engage with the Corps, Regional Board, and EPA to discuss proposed alternatives to inner harbor fine grain dredge material placement
- EPA has jurisdictional conflict with USACE relative to beach placement stating that current deposition is direct discharge into the ocean (Ocean Dumping versus 404 fill)
- Rincon proposed the use of a beach berm to facilitate indirect discharge and EPA and Corps agreed that the suggested beach berm concept (similar to beach nourishment practices) would provide a viable solution
- Rincon developed the beach berm concept consistent with the existing project area and resource concerns

Inner Harbor Deposition – Beach Berm



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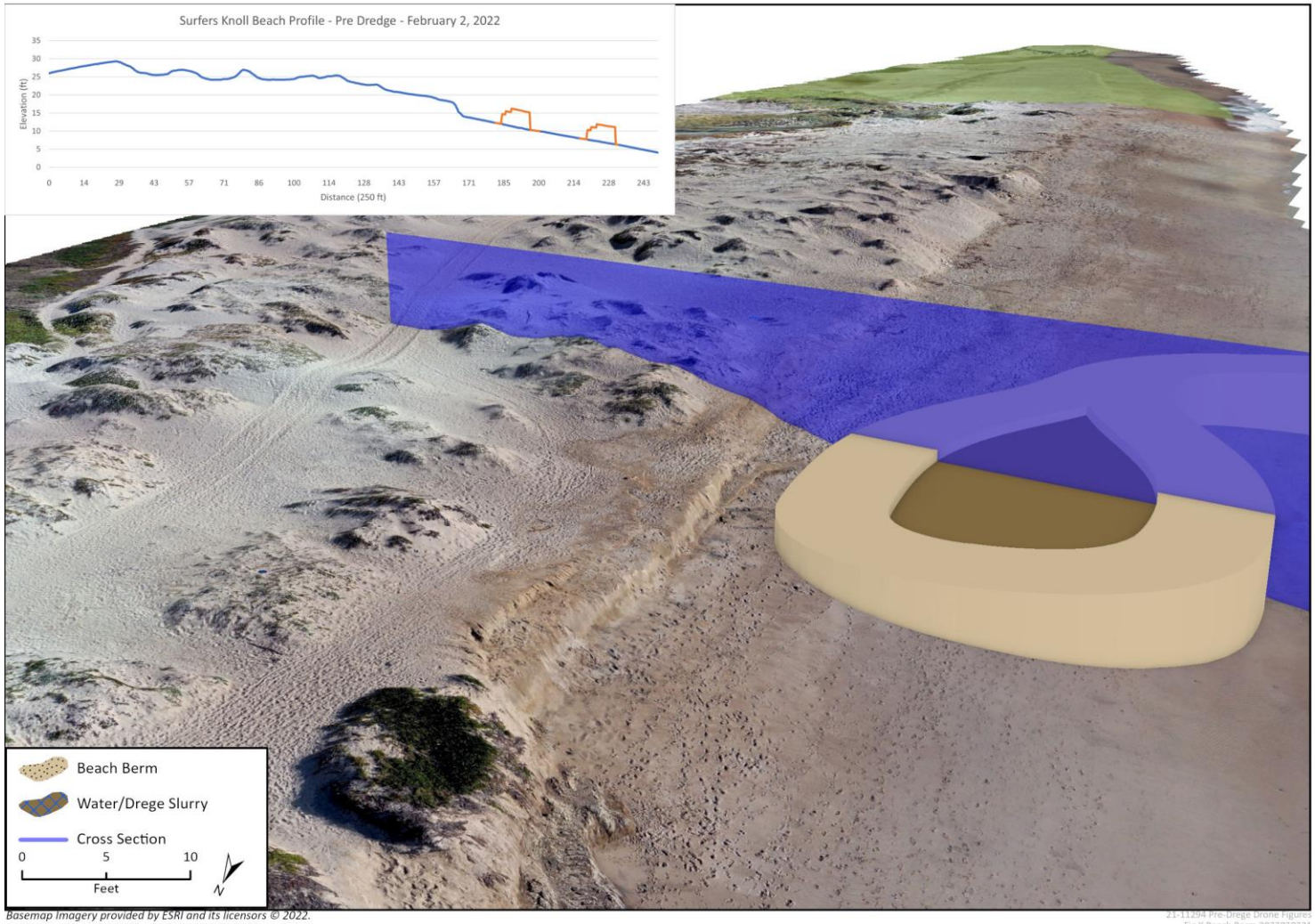
Drone Imagery provided by Sandshed LLC, 2022. Tidal Datum sourced by NOAA; 2022.

21-11294 Pre-Drege Drone Figures
Fig X Beach Berm 20220303

3D View of Beach Berm



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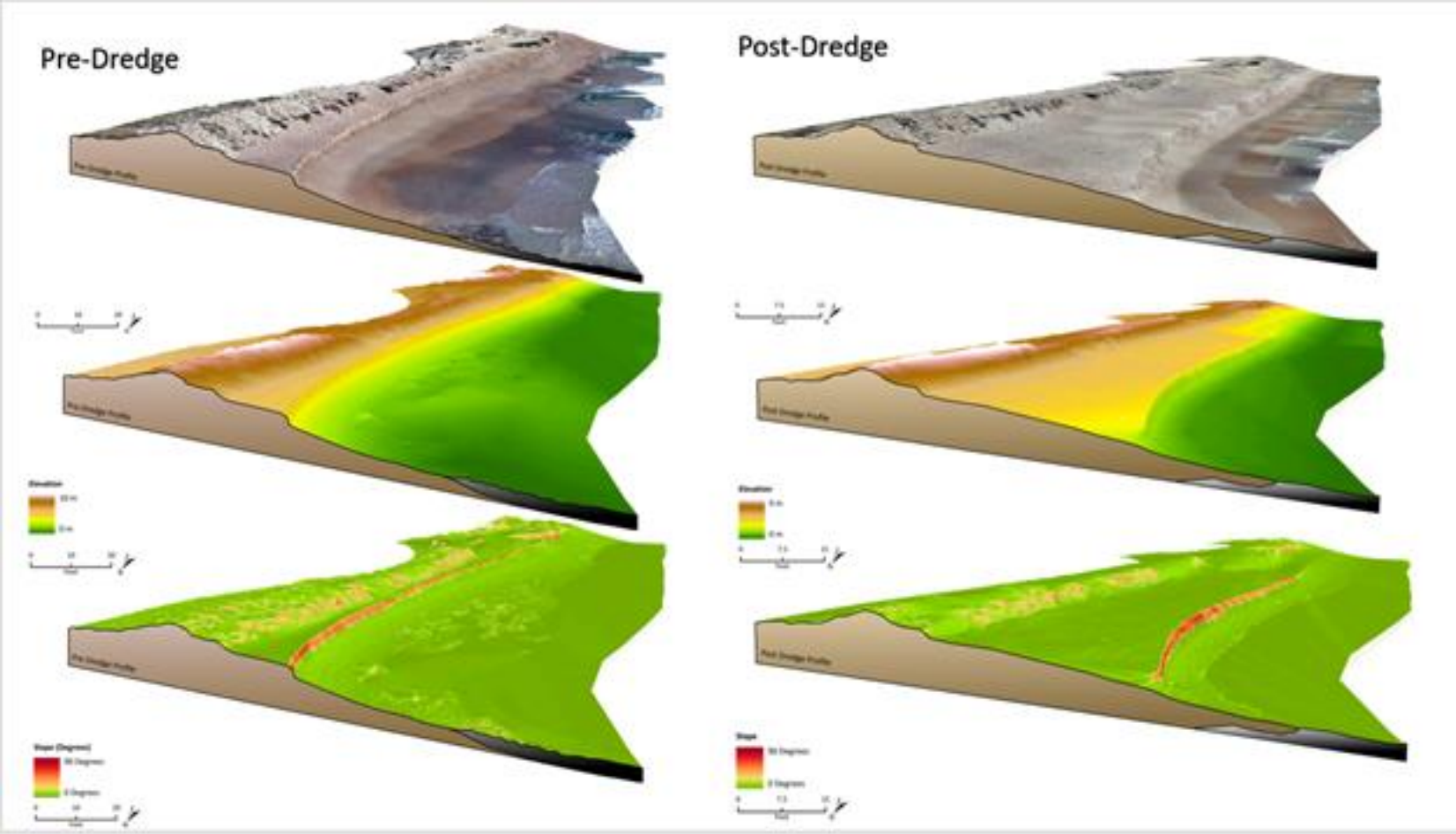
Drone Imagery provided by Sandshed LLC, 2022.

21-11294 Pre-Drege Drone Figures
Fig X Beach Berm 2022030321

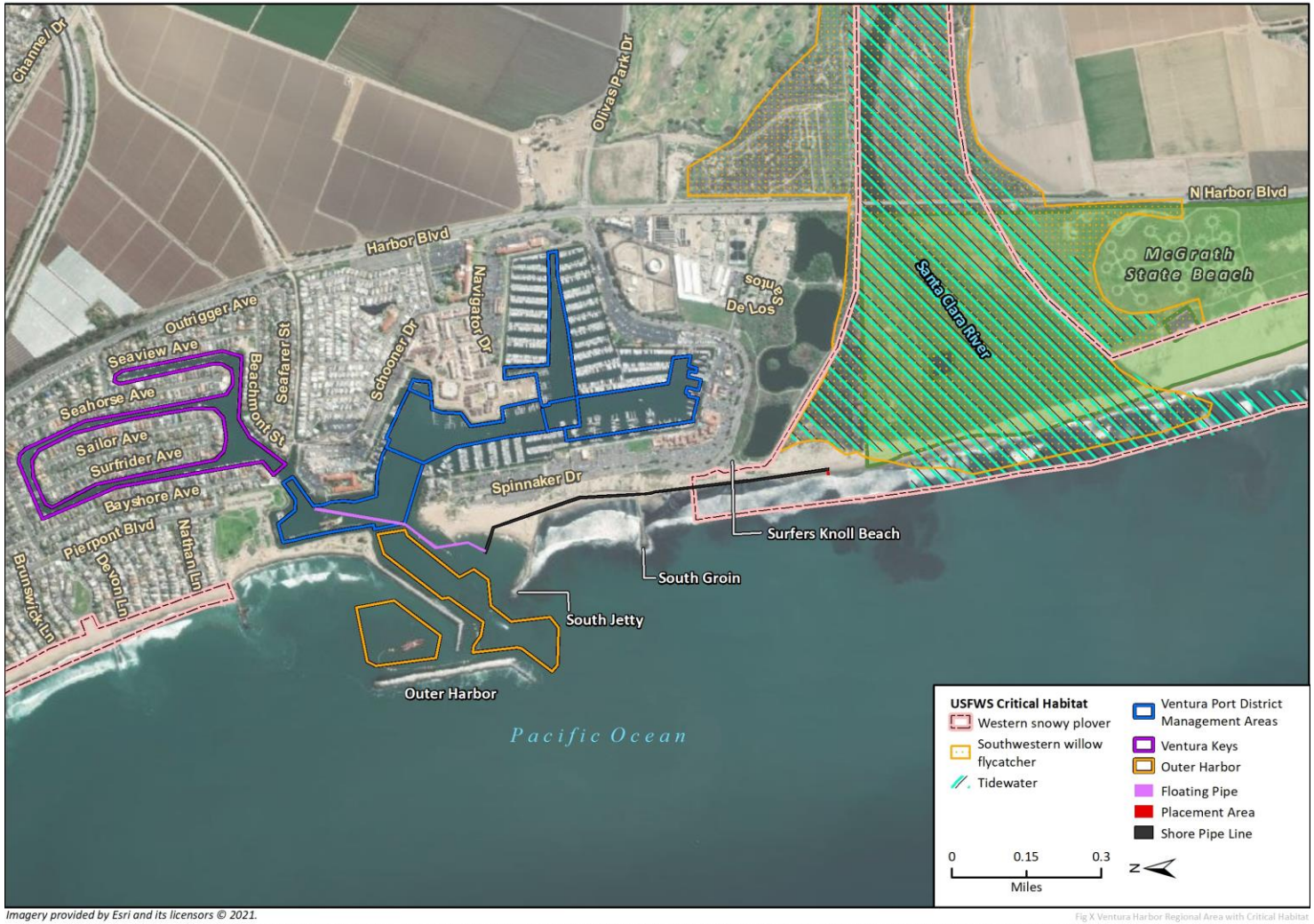
Pre and Post Dredge Beach Topography



Resources and Mitigation Monitoring

- The proposed changes to fine grain sediment placement using the beach berm were crafted to meet jurisdictional constraints and not to circumvent special conditions
- The beach berm will be implemented in the same footprint that the deposition pipe has historically been located and heavy equipment use permitted
- Mitigation monitoring already required to avoid impacts to sensitive species and habitats will remain in place and apply to the beach berm phase of the project
- The use of the beach berm will further reduce impacts to water quality and provide beneficial organic nutrients to invertebrates and wildlife

Project Area Critical Habitat



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Critical Habitat data provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 2021. It is only a general representation of the data and does not include all designate critical habitat. Contact USFWS for more specific data.

Fig X Ventura Harbor Regional Area with Critical Habitat

Western Snowy Plover and CA Least Tern Observations

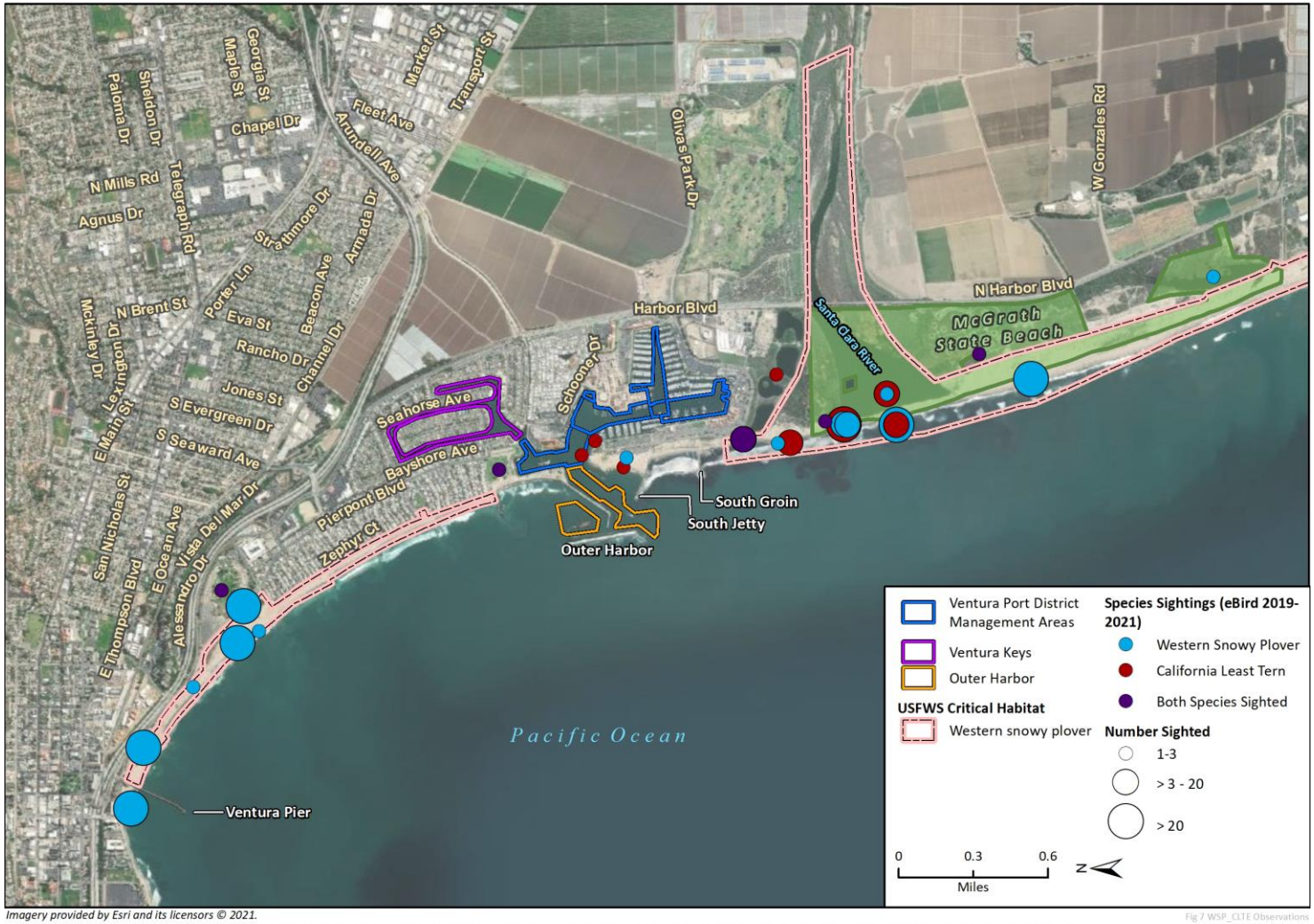

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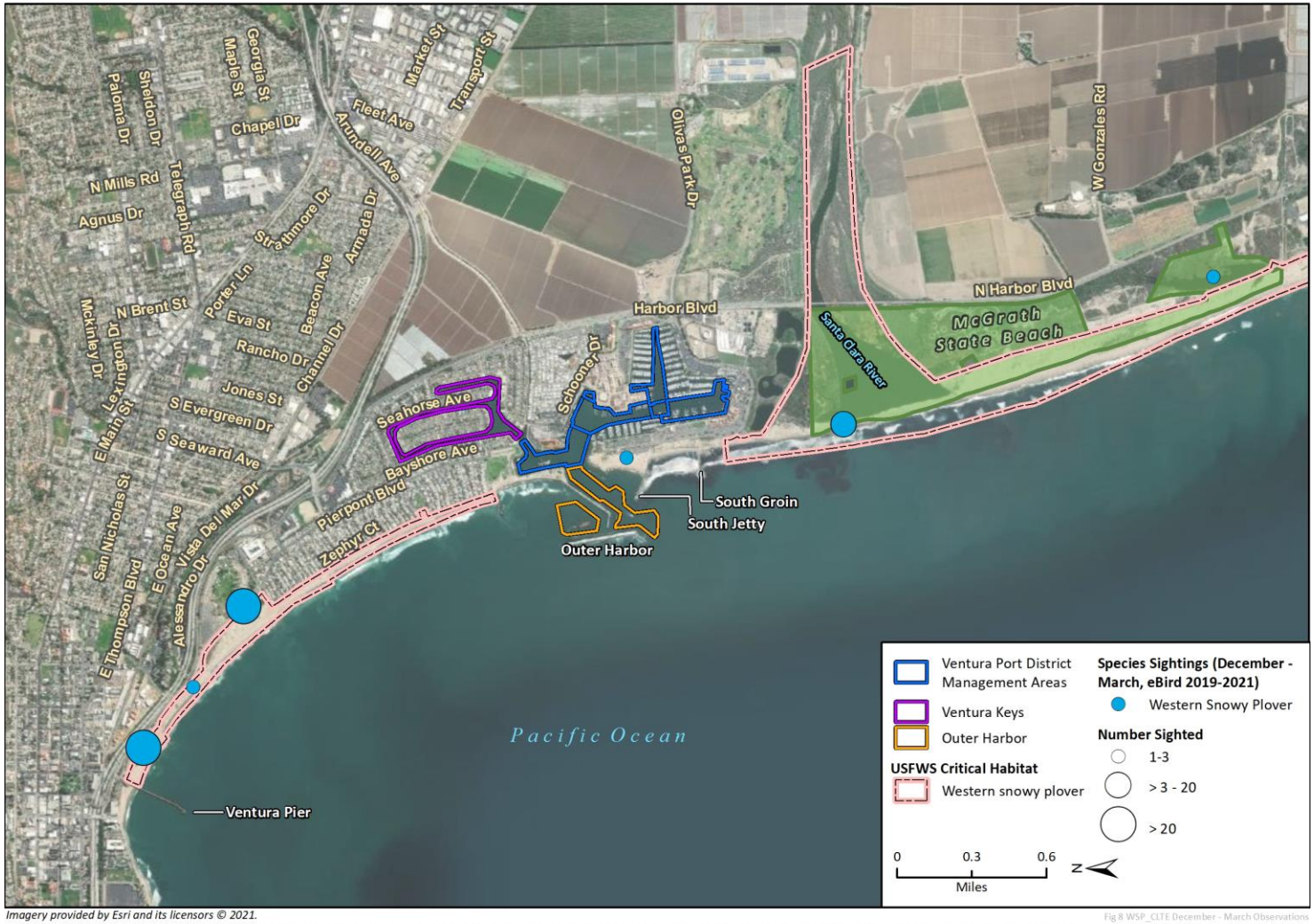
Fig 7 WSP_CLTE Observations

Western Snowy Plover and CA Least Tern Observations



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Critical Habitat data provided by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), 2021. It is only a general representation of the data and does not include all designate critical habitat. Contact USFWS for more specific data.

Fig 8 WSP_CLTE December - March Observations

Next Steps

The Port District, City, and its Consultant intend to:

- Work collaborative with Regulatory Agencies to Update Project Permits to amend the project description and associated special conditions
- Discuss, define, and align permit special conditions based on each proponent's proposed actions
- Remove dredge material deposition areas from the project descriptions that are neither needed nor viable alternatives based on stakeholder input
- Implement consistent nomenclature in both permits

Timelines

- **Winter/Spring 2022** – Port District and City to engage with regulatory agencies to socialize suggested changes to permits and obtain feedback
- **Spring/Summer 2022** – Port District and City to submit formal permit applications or amendment requests to USACE, CCC, and LARWQCB
- **Fall/Winter 2022** – USACE, CCC, and LARWQCB to process new permits with updated Project Description, special conditions, and provisions
- **January 2023** Port District and City to obtain new permit and potentially conduct maintenance dredging under new permits

Questions?

VENTURA PORT DISTRICT
Established 1952

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