

Public Utilities Department

Hodges Reservoir-Bernardo Bay Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Grant Project

San Diego Management & Monitoring Program

December 12th, 2018

Overview

- **SANDAG Transnet Environmental Mitigation Grant Program**
 - Restores habitat for this CA Species of Special Concern
 - 20 acre restoration of cactus burnt in 2007 Witch Creek Fire
 - Eighth cycle of funding
 - \$ 50K award
 - 1 year grant



Bernardo Bay Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Project

- Collaborative Effort
 - City of San Diego Public Utilities Department
 - Sandag
 - San Dieguito River Park JPA
 - San Dieguito River Valley Conservancy
 - San Diego Zoo Global ICR



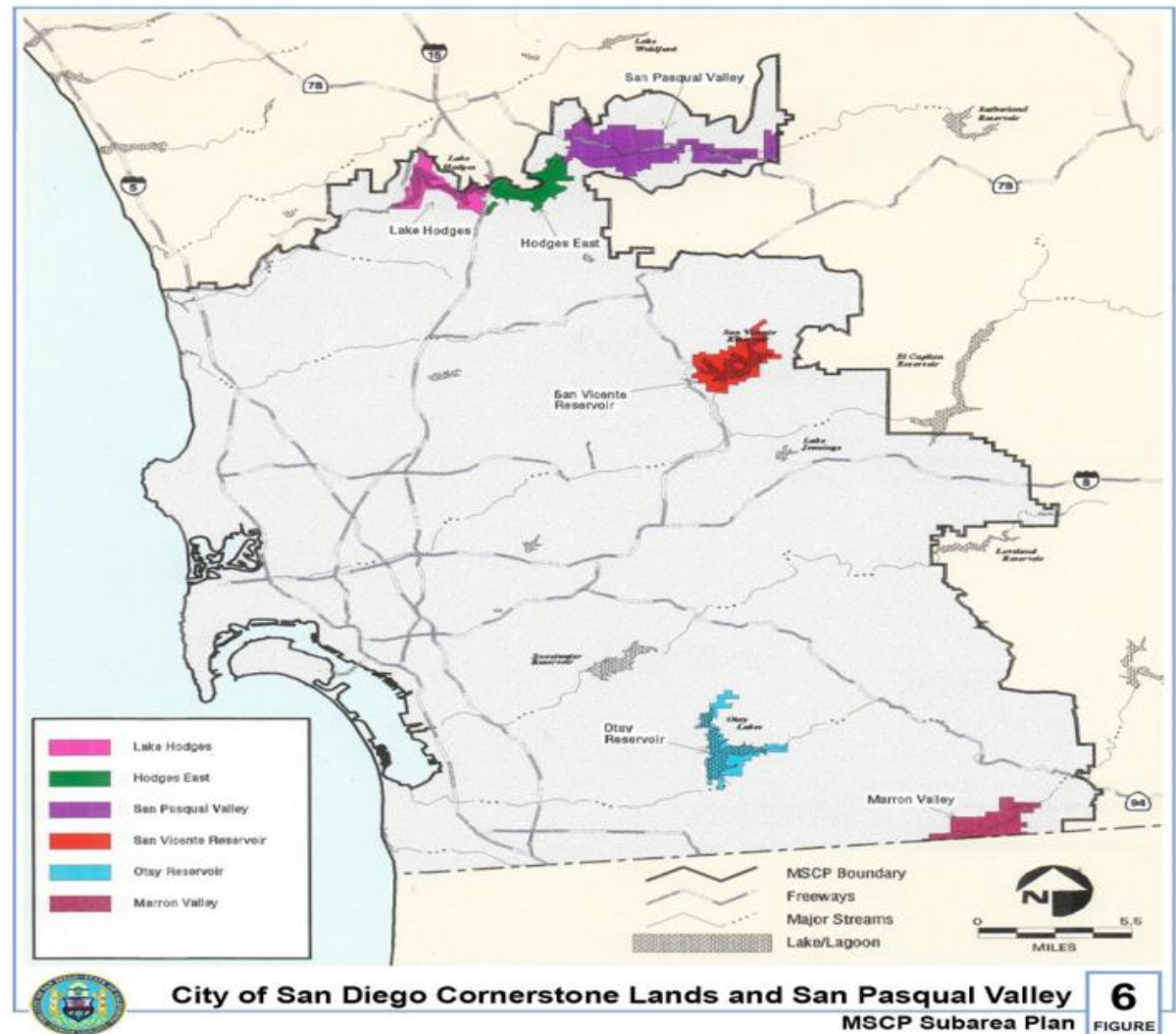
Why Restore Bernardo Bay Cactus Wren Habitat?

- Re-establish habitat and connectivity to eastern core habitats areas.
- Cactus wren is one of three target species in CA's NCCP
- Close off unauthorized trails
- Stabilize soil to minimize erosion and filter runoff into source water reservoir



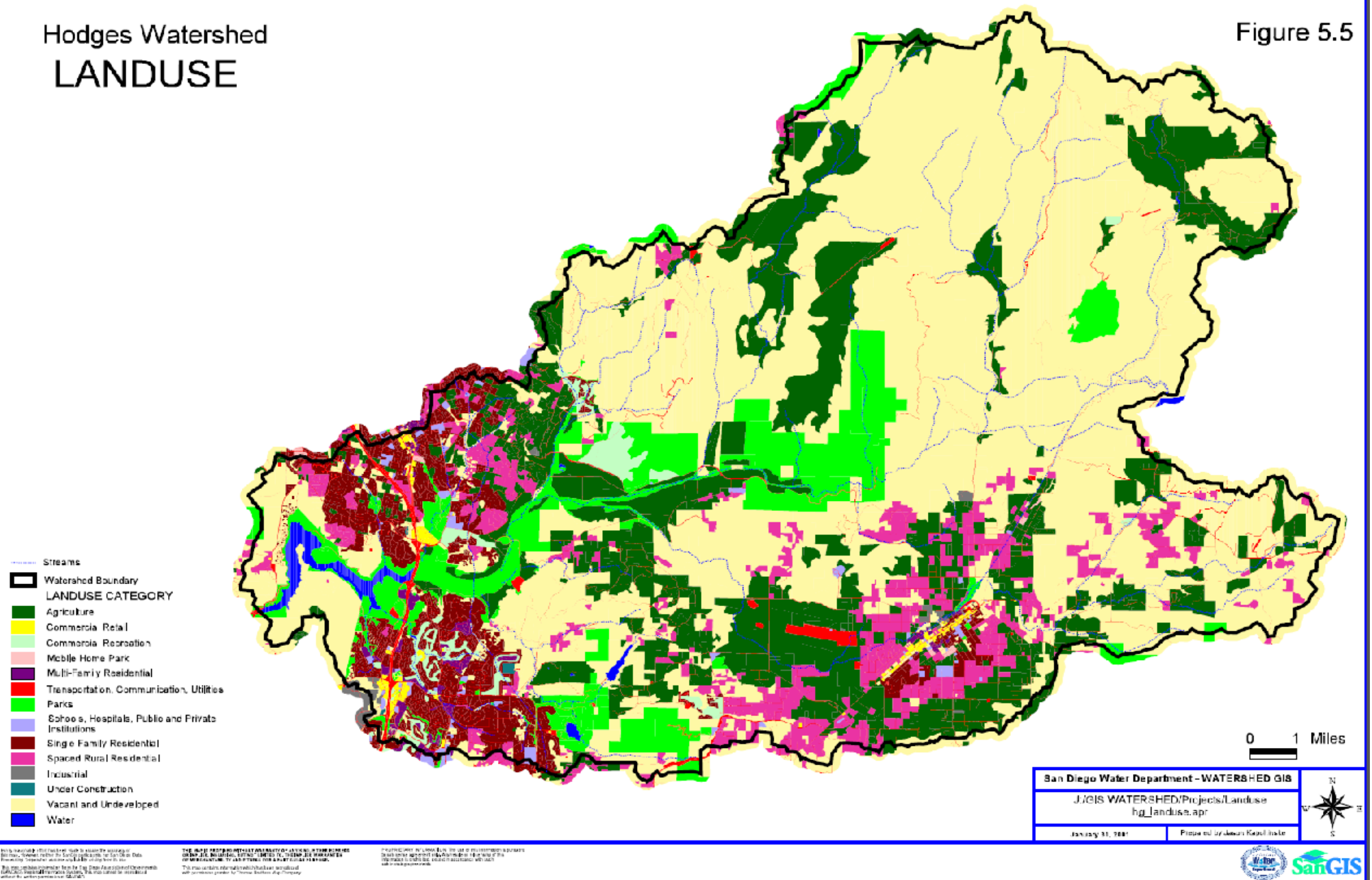
City of San Diego MSCP Subarea Plan

- Cornerstone lands and San Pasqual Valley
- Over 10,400 acres of these lands are core high value biological resource areas
- These water lands are considered the essential building blocks for creating a viable habitat preserve system



Hodges Watershed LANDUSE

Figure 5.5



Soil and Topographic Conditions

- Hard clay and rocky substrate on steep slopes
- Potting soil with perlite softened root structure



Cactus Planting Comparisons

- Moisture from one rain event and daily fog moisture

October 20, 2017

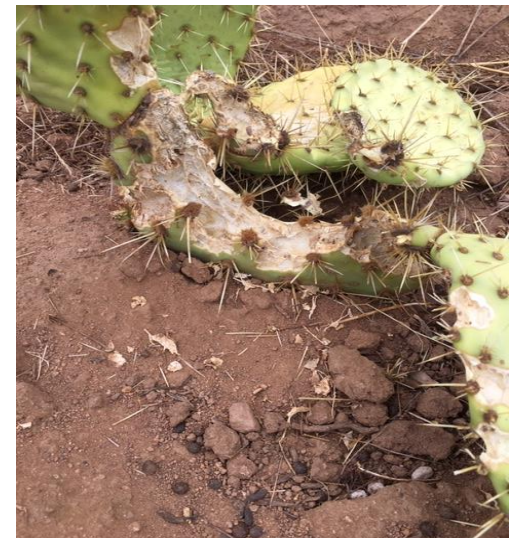


November 19, 2017



Supplemental Planting of Cuttings from Herbivory and Vandalism

- Wildlife consume the cactus pads and spread the cuttings closer to original planting site.
- Pads get stuck in animal fur and transport the pad farther away.
- Consistent vandalism in same locations on unofficial trails.
- Weeds were suppressed due to short rain season.



Supplemental Watering of Cactus During Dry Season

- Contractors and staff watered during dry season.
- Cactus pads were thin and desiccated



Unauthorized Trail Closures

San Dieguito River Park Sign



City PUD Sign & Fencing



General Watershed & Resources Protection Sign



Cactus Pads Healing and Surviving from Herbivory, Vandalism, and Dryness

October 20, 2017



December 4, 2018



Awarded 9th Cycle Sandag Transnet San Pasqual Valley Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Project-100 Acres for 5 Years

