

San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG)
Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) #5004552
Strategic Removal of Invasive Weed Species
2nd Quarter Report - FY 2014-15
October 01, 2014 – December 31, 2014

Project: County of San Diego, Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures - Strategic Removal of Invasive Weed Species

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Background:

Invasive plants are considered to be one of the biggest threats to endangered species and their habitats. A strategic plan for managing non-native invasive plant species in San Diego County was completed in 2012 through a SANDAG contract to the Conservation Biology Institute (CBI) available at sdmmp.com. The Invasive Plant Strategic Plan (IPSP) is designed to develop a strategic approach towards the eradication and management of invasive plants in the San Diego region. The IPSP is meant to work in conjunction with the Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County ("MSP"); available at <http://sdmmp.com/StrategicPlan>.

This Scope of Work (SOW) will require the contractor to focus on the management of invasive plants identified in Levels 1, 2, and 3 of the IPSP. The following tasks have been identified as necessary to implement this effort.

Tasks:

Task 1 – Invasive Plant Species Coordinator

Level of Effort: (25%) of overall contract

- 1) Prepared the first year work plan based on recommendations found in the IPSP. This included rational for all work, identification of target species, identification of all known sites, and information on sensitive species present in and around sites (using Master Occurrence Matrix (MOM) data and USFWS occurrence data). The work plan has been reviewed by San Diego Management and Monitoring Program (SDMMP) staff and submitted to SANDAG.
 - 2) Developed property ownership database for all sites. This database is being used to initiate contacting property owners where work will occur.
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- 3) Aggregated existing and added new survey data for target species. A mix of point and polygon data. Detailed distribution data is required to determine which properties are being worked on and the size of the effort.
- 4) Treatment methods and list of herbicides were included in the work plan (appendix 1).
- 5) Update Right of Entry (ROE) form. Updates and additions have been made to County ROE form. APNs were added as well as email and phone number contact information. This will allow better tracking of ROE forms and improve communication between landowner/managers and AWM/coordinator. The new ROE form is Appendix 2 in the work plan.
- 6) A CEQA NOE has been prepared and is being reviewed prior to posting by the County.

Task 2 – Invasive Plant Level 1 Management – AWM:

Level of Effort: (<10%) of overall contract

- AWM: No charges during this quarter

Task 3 – Invasive Plant Level 2 Management – AWM:

Level of Effort: (>40%) of overall contract

- AWM: No charges during this quarter

Task 4 – Invasive Plant Level 3 Management – AWM:

Level of Effort: (<20%) of overall contract

- AWM: No charges during this quarter

Task 5 – Tracking and Updating Invasive Species for Priority Removal – Coordinator:

Level of Effort: (5%) of overall contract

- 1) Worked with Cal-IPC and the DoD as Cal-IPC prepared regional EDRR plans for three installations: Camp Pendleton, Fallbrook NWS, and Warner Springs Training Facility. Work: reviewed plan drafts and participated in calls. The DoD project is aware of the Regional IPSP and considered them in framing their recommendations.
 - 2) Communicated with State Parks Mona Robison, as they prepared and released EDRR priorities for selected parks in our region (Torrey Pines SP). Work: reviewed plan drafts and participated in calls. The State Park project is aware of the Regional IPSP and considered them in framing their recommendations.
 - 3) Worked on aggregating data for several new species that are included in the work plan. These species are typically limited to one or a few known occurrences in our region. Most of them occur on DoD lands (Camp Pendleton) where control/eradication work is occurring. Two *Limonium* species are also included in the work plan that were not reviewed in the IPSP
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(both occur primarily in mid marsh habitat). The rationale for including the species is given in the work plan .

Summary of Preliminary Action by Department of Agriculture, Weights & Measures (AWM):

- 1) AWM with SANDAG prepared and approved the MOU contract. Approved by both parties on September 30, 2014.
- 2) AWM drafted and completed signed contract to retain Dendra Inc. as the contractor to carryout tasks 1 and 5 (Signed 10/2/14).
- 3) AWM prepared job announcement, posted for public view and held interviews to hire staff for upcoming surveys and treatments for the 2015 season
- 4) AWM began coordinating additional resources to allow work to occur as needed (e.g. roll off containers for biomass, labor crew for cutting and hauling woody plant biomass).
- 5) AWM worked with coordinator to draft the CEQA Notice of Exemption.
- 6) AWM updated AWM ROE form in collaboration with coordinator.

Work Anticipated for 3rd Quarter Period, January 1, 2015 – March 31, 2015:

Task 1 – Invasive Plant Species Coordinator:

- Finalize work plan.
- Review BMPs.
- Coordinate permitting compliance with AWM.
- Coordinate ROE work with AWM.
- Monitor and coordinate with AWM during implementation.

Task 2 – Invasive Plant Level 1 Management – AWM:

- Survey, map, and treat any reported sightings of the target level 1 plants if they are found/reported.

Task 3 – Invasive Plant Level 2 Management – AWM:

- Hire 3 staff, provide pesticide training, and prepare them for field work
- Coordinate and finalize tracking methods for work completed
- Initiate and continue work outlined in work plan.
- Obtain signed ROEs.
- Collect GIS points of targeted weeds

Task 4 – Invasive Plant Level 3 Management – AWM:

- No work planned

Task 5 – Tracking and Updating Invasive Species for Priority Removal – Coordinator:

- Continue coordination with DoD, State Parks and WMA.
 - Continue to aggregate data and track new prospective EDRR target species.
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