

**San Diego Association of Governments
Otay Ranch Preserve Enhancement Project
County of San Diego Department of Parks and
Recreation
Quarterly Progress Report
Reporting Period: April 1, 2024 – June 30, 2024
Submission Date: August 13, 2024
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125469**

EMP Land Management Grants

Quarterly Progress Report: April 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024

Otay Ranch Preserve Enhancement Project (SANDAG Contract Number S1125469)

Work Performed this Period:

1. Task 1- Planting

On May 29, a RECON biologist conducted a site assessment to qualitatively monitor the container plants. On May 30, the RECON restoration crew dug holes in preparation for installing additional plants. On June 5, the RECON restoration crew planted an additional 200 chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) and 200 scrub oak (*Quercus berberidifolia*) to supplement previously installed container plants that had died earlier in the year. Chamise and Scrub oak were selected because these species had the best survivorship from the previous plantings. Cages were installed around the plants to deter herbivory. On June 28, a RECON biologist conducted a site assessment to qualitatively assess the health of the installed plants. Percent complete: 100%.

2. Task 2-Seeding

Native seed was purchased consisting of 0.5 pounds of common goldfields (*Lasthenia gracilis*), 0.5 pounds of tidy-tips (*Layia platyglossa*), 0.5 pounds of nievitas cryptantha (*Cryptantha intermedia*), and 0.5 pounds of dot-seed plantain (*Plantago erecta*). On June 5, seed was placed on-site to create greater cover of host and nectar plants for Quino checkerspot butterfly. Exposure to summer heat can break seed dormancy mechanisms, increasing the number of seeds which will germinate in the rainy season. Broadcasting the seed in the summer can increase the fall germination rates by allowing the seeds to stratify in natural conditions. Delaying the broadcasting until summer can also reduce some seed predation pressure compared to broadcasting in spring. Percent complete: 100%.

3. Task 3-Watering

On May 24 and June 21, a RECON biologist conducted a site assessment to determine if the timing of supplemental watering needed to be adjusted. On May 30; June 5, 6, 7, 10, and 25, the RECON restoration crew watered the newly installed and previously installed container plants. Percent complete: 97%.

4. Task 4-Erosion Control

On May 31, the RECON restoration crew repaired areas with minor erosion where water had undercut the wattles. Percent complete: 100%.

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5. Task 5-Bollards and Sign

On May 30, the bollards and road closed sign were removed. The caps were placed over the bollard sleeves and locked, so dirt and rocks would not accumulate. This opened the road outside of Quino checkerspot season. The bollards and sign are stored at the RECON yard. Percent complete: 100%.

6. Task 6-Photo Monitoring

On June 28, a RECON biologist conducted repeat photo monitoring at previously established photo monitoring locations. Percent complete: 100% (Quarterly Report addressing January – March 2024 also stated 100% complete; however, after budget reallocation final repeat photographs were taken).

7. Task 7- Reporting

The project biologist prepared the January 1 through March 31, 2024 quarterly report. In April 2024, an FTP link to the draft quarterly report and associated photos was sent to County of San Diego and ESA staff. Percent complete: 75%.

Work Anticipated Next Period

The following activities are anticipated to occur during the next quarter (July 1 through September 30):

- Water container plants to encourage plant establishment and to supplement natural rain events.
- Submit the final project report.

Issues to Note

No issues were encountered during the reporting period.

Photographs & Figures

Photographs 1 through 7 are provided in Attachment 1.

Performance Measures

Please see the attached Project Performance Measures Excel spreadsheet.

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Photos start on next page



Photo #

1

Survey Date

06/05/2024

Coordinates

32.64761474,-116.85696

Description

View of some of the pre-dug holes the RECON restoration crew dug on May 30 before arrival of the plants on June 5.



Photo #

2

Survey Date

06/05/2024

Coordinates

32.64747736,-116.85705

Description

Plants were delivered.



Photo #
3

Survey Date
06/05/2024

Coordinates
32.64742504,-116.85704

Description
The RECON restoration crew distributing the plants in preparation of planting.



Photo #
4

Survey Date
06/05/2024

Coordinates
32.6474246,-116.856981

Description
Container plants were laid out for planting.



Photo #
5

Survey Date
06/05/2024

Coordinates
32.64741563,-116.85696

Description
The RECON restoration crew planted new container plants.



Photo #
6

Survey Date
06/05/2024

Coordinates
32.64814123,-116.85747

Description
Dot-seed plantain (*Plantago erecta*) and tidy-tips (*Layia platyglossa*) were observed in the seeded area that previously was a turnaround area for vehicles.



Photo #
7

Survey Date
06/05/2024

Coordinates
32.64742015,-116.85693

Description
The RECON restoration crew watered the newly installed plants as well as the previously installed plants.