

**San Diego Association of Governments  
Otay Water District San Miguel Habitat Management  
Area Perimeter Fencing Restoration and Threat  
Reduction Project  
Otay Water District  
Quarterly Progress Report  
Reporting Period: October 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023  
Submission Date: January 22, 2024  
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125497**

## **Quarterly Status Report Overview**

**PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE OR ALTER THE FORMATTING OF THIS DOCUMENT!**

SANDAG has developed a standardized grant monitoring and tracking program for the Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program. The purpose is to collect information on individual projects and the grant program as a whole for reporting to the Regional Habitat Conservation Taskforce, SANDAG Policy Advisory Committees, and the SANDAG Board of Directors. SANDAG monitors grantees through invoices, progress reports, performance measures, and designated photograph points. These standardized reporting templates and instructions for submittal are included below.

## **Work Performed this Period:**

### **1. Task 1 - Public Outreach & Education Campaign**

Task 1 was initiated on May 2, 2023 and is ongoing. Approximately 27% of the task is complete.

Activity A. Agency Coordination. The District met with the Preserve Manager of the adjacent U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), San Diego National Wildlife Refuge (SDNWR) on September 8, 2023 to continue discussion regarding trail users illegally entering District property from the USFWS SDNWR land. The USFWS confirmed that the District has permission to place signage that the HMA is closed to trail users on the SDNWR trail leading to the HMA; however, USFWS would like to know where the signage would be placed prior to installation and staff would like to review the proposed sign to ensure that it is consistent with USFWS requirements. M&A and the District expect to finalize the proposed locations of the offsite signs as well as the sign layout this quarter; the signs will be provided to the offsite landowners (either USFWS or San Diego Gas & Electric) as well as SANDAG for review prior to installation.

Activity B. Trail App Coordination. M&A researched the AllTrails app. (i.e., app which displays trails through District Property) and the OpenStreetMap data collection process and determined that the trails through the District property cannot be removed from the AllTrails app, but they can be reclassified as "Private". M&A submitted a request to OpenStreetMap that they reclassify all trails on District property as "Private". M&A confirmed on May 25, 2023 that all but one trail (small segment in the north of the District's Property, at Illegal Entry Point North 2b) has been reclassified as "Private". M&A submitted a follow-up request on September 1, 2023 to reclassify the remaining trail as "Private"; to date, the change has not been implemented on the AllTrails app. M&A also confirmed the trails are not displayed on the app, TrailForks, which is promoted by the San Diego Mountain Biking Association (SDMBA); however, one trail, the "Rolling Hills Ranch North" appears to be passing through District property. The District and M&A will follow-up on this item in the next quarter.

Activity C. Flyer Reproduction and Community Outreach. The District and M&A previously determined that community outreach opportunities include: 1) participation at local HOA meeting(s), 2) participation in District community event(s), and/or 3) participation in SDMBA (or similar) meeting. The District plans on participating in community events in Spring 2024. The SDMBA has monthly Board Meetings, open to the public on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. The District plans to coordinate with SDMBA staff to present at a Board Meeting next quarter.

The District and M&A submitted the community outreach flyer to SANDAG for review on September 29, 2023. The flyers were approved on October 6, 2023 and will

## **EMP Land Management Grants**

### *Quarterly Progress Report Template*

printed be next quarter. The flyer will be provided to the local community at three community events. In addition, the District created a designated San Miguel Habitat Management Area (HMA) page on the District's website in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter; the page went live in October 2023. The HMA also had a blurb in the District customer newsletter. This is a quarterly newsletter that goes out to all OWD customers either as a physical copy or digital format. The blurb was included in the Fall/Winter 2023 newsletter.

Activity E. Retired Volunteer Service Patrol. No activity this quarter.

### **2. Task 2 - HMA Illegal Entry Deterrence Efforts**

Task 1 was initiated on May 2, 2023 and is ongoing. Approximately 36% of the task is complete.

M&A completed the baseline monitoring in August 2023; the detailed results are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report.

The District solicited bids from gate companies for installation of two gates in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Five bids were received. The District awarded the contract to All Around Fence in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. The contracting phase was completed this quarter. M&A, the District, and All Around Fence met onsite on November 7, 2023 to inspect the site. All Around Fence installed the two new gates (including chains with District issued locks for the gates) on December 5, 2023.

M&A's restoration crew harvested some of the cactus that will be needed for the project in November 2023. All other deterrence efforts (e.g., cacti, monitoring cameras, signage) are expected to be installed next quarter.

### **3. Task 3 - Enhanced Site Signage**

Task 1 was initiated on May 2, 2023 and is ongoing. Approximately 50% of the task is complete.

No activity this quarter. Production and installation of the SANDAG approved signage is expected to occur in the next quarter. The District and M&A will ensure to take photos of the locations of where the signs will be placed.

### **4. Task 4 - Camera Trap Monitoring**

Task 1 was initiated on May 2, 2023 and is ongoing. Approximately 40% of the task is complete.

M&A completed the baseline monitoring in August 2023; the detailed results are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Report. No activity this quarter. M&A and the District are expected to initiate the project monitoring next quarter.

## EMP Land Management Grants

### Quarterly Progress Report Template

Provide the exact work start date, a description of the work completed under each task, and percent complete. Add additional tasks as necessary

### Work Anticipated Next Period

This does not need to be task specific but should include a short paragraph or bullet point list of activities anticipated for next quarter.

- Follow-up coordination with USFWS and SDG&E regarding illegal entry from these offsite lands and installation of new sign on either USFWS or SDGE land.
- Participation in community outreach events.
- Follow-up on the AllTrails and TrailForks app.
- Coordinate with District's private security company for patrols of HMA at times of maximum illegal entry based on results of baseline camera trap monitoring.
- Contacting the Retired Volunteer Service Patrol and City of Chula Vista Police Department to supplement patrols of HMA at times of maximum illegal entry.
- Install all deterrence efforts (project monitoring cell-enabled cameras, cacti, private security, etc.) and initiate project monitoring.

### Issues to Note

Please provide a brief description of any issue(s) encountered during the reporting period and any steps taken to address the issue(s).

- The baseline cameras captured 1000s of photos, primarily as a result of wind moving vegetation surrounding the hidden cameras. M&A adjusted the sensitivity of camera sensor. In addition, M&A returned more times than anticipated to download photos just in case any of the cameras were stolen (since the camera at West 1b was stolen during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter).

### Photographs & Figures

**Photographs and figures are invaluable!** Please include photos in the Quarterly Progress Reports and any figures (if applicable). Both photos and figures may be included throughout the document under corresponding tasks or at the end following the Issues to Note section. Photographs taken at the same place or photographic points (photo-points) can assist SANDAG staff in tracking the project's progress over time.

It is required that **Photographs include:**

- A before and after comparison sequence from the start to the completion of the project for photo points.
- A brief description of the corresponding tasks, date, and activity in the photograph.
- **A copy of each photograph included in the report submitted in a .jpeg or .png file format.**

It is required that **Figures include:**

- A caption with a brief description.

### SDMMP Project Page

## EMP Land Management Grants

### Quarterly Progress Report Template

To receive reimbursement for work conducted within the quarter, submission of Quarterly Progress, Annual, and Final Reports must be added to your project's Project Page on the SDMMMP website. Add any necessary photographs to the photo carousel and fill out the photograph information. *Please contact Sarah McCutcheon ([smccutcheon@usgs.gov](mailto:smccutcheon@usgs.gov)) or Emily Perkins ([eperkins@usgs.gov](mailto:eperkins@usgs.gov)) if you are having trouble accessing or editing your project page.*

## Project Performance Measures Instructions

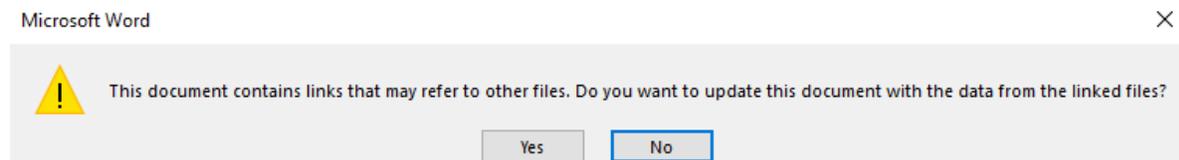
SANDAG will utilize the SANDAG Performance Measures to document compliance with the Project. Grantee's performance will be measured against the Performance Measures (Exhibit D) during the term of the project. More details on Performance Measures and Grant Recovery Plans are outlined in the Grant Agreements.

To access the **[Project Performance Measures Excel Spreadsheet](#)**:

- Simply double-click on the Excel icon located under the *Project Performance Measures* section.
  - An excel sheet will open, please fill out and then click save.
- Once the Excel spreadsheet is saved, please exit Excel and the spreadsheet will automatically update the icon in the Quarterly Progress Report Word document.

When opening the document with the **Project Performance Measures Excel Spreadsheet**:

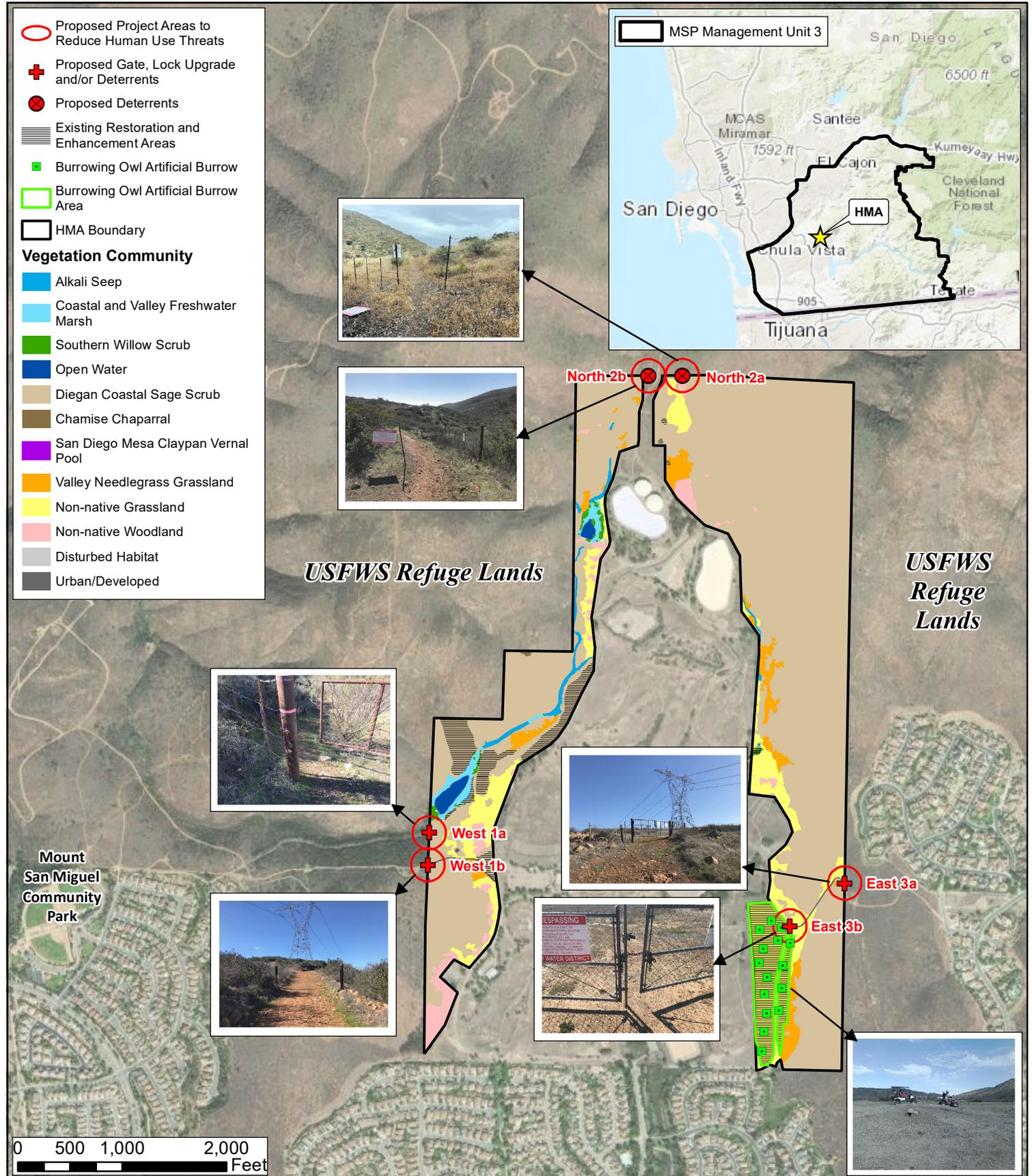
- When you first open the Quarterly Progress Report Template, a warning message will open (image of the warning message below)
  - Click Yes to update the links in the document.



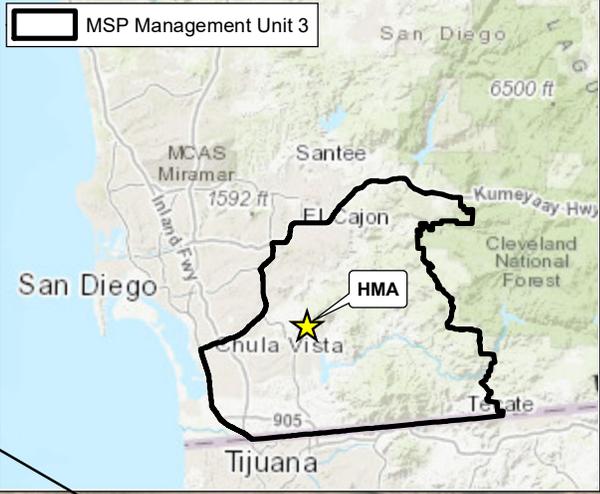
## Performance Measures

Please include the Project's Performance Measures for each Quarterly Invoice and Progress Report in order to receive reimbursement.





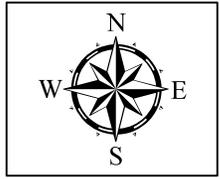
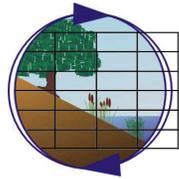
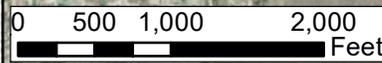
- Proposed Project Areas to Reduce Human Use Threats
  - Proposed Gate, Lock Upgrade and/or Deterrents
  - Proposed Deterrents
  - Existing Restoration and Enhancement Areas
  - Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow
  - Burrowing Owl Artificial Burrow Area
  - HMA Boundary
- Vegetation Community**
- Alkali Seep
  - Coastal and Valley Freshwater Marsh
  - Southern Willow Scrub
  - Open Water
  - Diegan Coastal Sage Scrub
  - Chamise Chaparral
  - San Diego Mesa Claypan Vernal Pool
  - Valley Needlegrass Grassland
  - Non-native Grassland
  - Non-native Woodland
  - Disturbed Habitat
  - Urban/Developed



*USFWS Refuge Lands*

*USFWS Refuge Lands*

Mount San Miguel Community Park



**Threats Reduction TransNet EMP Land Management Grant**

Otay Water District San Miguel Habitat Management Area



**Photo Point 1.** Illegal Entry Point West 1b. Prior to installation of new gate. Photo date: 6/15/2023.



**Photo Point 2.** Illegal Entry Point West 1b. Installation of new gate. Photo date: 1/9/2024. Gate lock cut. In addition, trespassers cut the barbed wire fencing just to the left of the new gate.



**Photo Point 1.** Illegal Entry Point West 1a. Prior to installation of new gate. Photo date: 6/15/2023.



**Photo Point 2.** Illegal Entry Point West 1a. Installation of new gate. Photo date: 1/9/2024. During installation of the new gate, the original gate was shifted to the north (right of the new gate) in hopes that it would deter trespassers from cutting the barbed wire fence adjacent to the new gate. Unfortunately, trespassers cut the barbed wire fence to the left of the new gate and are continuing to cut the fence to the right of the gate (out of view).