

**San Diego Association of Governments
MISSION TRAILS SAN DIEGO THORN MINT
RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
Mission Trails Regional Park Foundation
Year 2 Quarterly Progress Report 3
Reporting Period: April 1, 2025-June 30, 2025
Submission Date: July 17, 2025
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125506**

Work Performed this Period:

1. Task 2- Vegetation Monitoring

None

Percent Complete 0%

2. Task 3-Photo Monitoring

None

Percent Complete 0%

3. Task 6-Weed Treatment (Supervision)

After the new maintenance and monitoring contracts were executed, the project biologist coordinated with the Habitat West maintenance staff to schedule weed treatment work on May 28, 2025.

On June 12, 2025 the Habitat West crew began maintenance work at Sites 1 and 2 to hand pull and weed whip non-natives. The crew began hand weeding at Site 1 and weed whipped outside of the fenced thornmint seeding areas at Site 2. On June 13 the crew started hand weeding inside of the caged thornmint seeding locations at Site 2 and then moved to Site 1 to continue hand weeding.

On June 16 the crew began weed treatment at Site 3. Weed treatment continued at Site 3 on June 18th. On June 24 the crew hand weeded at Sites 4 and 3. The weedy debris generated at the sites was placed in tarps for removal from the sites. The weedy debris was loaded into a truck for disposal at a landfill.

San Diego thornmint plants were observed within many of the caged seeding sites during May and June 2025. By June, most of the thornmint plants had completed their flowering cycle for the season.

Percent Complete 82%

4. Task 7-Seed Collection and Redistribution

Native seeds were collected for redistribution into the four restoration sites on the following dates: May 24, and May 27, 2025, June 2, June 18 and June 27, 2025. Seeds of the following native species were collected including purple needlegrass (*Stipa pulchra*), small-flowered morning glory (*Convolvulus simulans*), blue-eyed grass (*Sisyrinchium bellum*) and San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*).

EMP Land Management Grants

Year 2 Quarterly Progress Report 3

Percent Complete 91%

5. Task 8- Focused San Diego Thornmint Survey

Focused thornmint population counts were conducted at all four sites on May 27, 2025. At Site 1 there were approximately 725 seeded plants, while 311 were present at the natural population for a total of approximately 1,039 total plants at Site 1.

At Site 2, a total of 3 thornmint were present. At Site 3 approximately 630 thornmint were present. At Site 4, approximately 304 thornmint were observed. The total number of thornmint plants at all 4 sites combined was approximately 1,973.

Percent Complete 84%

6. Task 9-Reporting

The Year 2 second Quarterly Report including project photographs was submitted to the Mission Trails Foundation staff on April 24, 2025.

Percent Complete 21%

Work Anticipated Next Period

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

Weed control efforts will continue and will include a combination of hand weeding and weed whipping. Monitoring will include vegetation and photo monitoring. Seed redistribution into the four sites is also anticipated.

EMP Land Management Grants

Year 2 Quarterly Progress Report 3

Issues to Note

The main issue to note was the below average rainfall during the Year 2 growing season. Rainfall in January and February 2025 was well below normal. January totaled 0.28 of an inch and February totaled 1.37 inches, for a combined January-February total of 1.65 inches. The normal rainfall at Montgomery Field Airport (the closest reporting station) is 2.30 inches in January and 2.65 inches in February for a combined total of 5.30 inches. The total deficit for January and February 2025 was 3.65 inches.

March 2025 was the first month that recorded above normal rainfall since early 2024, with a total of 2.93 inches recorded. Normal rainfall for March is 1.63 inches, so March 2025 was 1.30 inches above normal.

Rainfall in April, May and June was also below normal. The station at Montgomery Field recorded 0.23 of an inch in April 2025. Normal rainfall for April is 0.77 of an inch. Rainfall totaled 0.11 of an inch in May, with normal being 0.28 of an inch. Rainfall in June 2025 totaled 0.01 of an inch, with normal being 0.06 of an inch. The total deficit of rain for the April through June period was 0.76”.

Despite the below average rainfall during the Year 2 growing season, many thornmint seedlings germinated, grew and flowered successfully.

Another issue to note was the time lapse between the initial spraying effort in March 2025 and the execution of the new contracts in late May for continuing the monitoring and maintenance. This resulted in substantial growth of non-natives during the period from late March through May, while maintenance work could not be performed. After the contracts were executed, under the project biologists supervision, the maintenance crew did an excellent job of removing the non-natives and disposing of them at a landfill.

Photographs & Figures

16 photographs are provided and include examples of the maintenance activities and thornmint.

Photographs are provided in Attachment 1.

Performance Measures

Please see the attached Project's Performance Measures Excel spreadsheet updated through Year 1 of the project.