

**San Diego Association of Governments
Dennery Canyon Restoration Project
City of San Diego
Quarterly Progress Report
Reporting Period: 10/01/2023 – 12/31/2023
Submission Date: 01/22/2024
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125503**

Quarterly Status Report Overview

The City of San Diego received the Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the Dennerly Canyon Rare Restoration Project on May 2, 2023. This quarterly progress report details work performed from October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023. Work performed during this period included dethatching Areas 1 – 4, contracting coordination, and qualitative site visits to determine timing of activities. Additionally, the San Diego Wildlife Alliance Native Plant Gene Bank initiated work to bulk produce San Diego thornmint seed for this project. Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include weed control in Areas 1 – 4, qualitative monitoring, and continuation of seed bulking work for San Diego thornmint.

Work Performed this Period:

1. Task 1- Area 1: SD thornmint restoration and vernal pool enhancement (1.55 acres)

Work start date: October 4, 2023.
Percent complete: 10%

An Alpha Project crew performed dethatching of Area 1 on October 4, 2023, and October 6, 2023. The crew used line trimmers to cut dead standing biomass. Cut biomass was raked onto tarps and hauled by hand to a dumpster that was temporarily staged on the access road leading to the site.

2. Task 2-Area 2: SD thornmint buffer (1.54 acres)

Work start date: October 18, 2023.
Percent complete: 10%

An Alpha Project crew performed dethatching of Area 2 on October 18, 2023, and October 20, 2023. The crew used line trimmers to cut dead standing biomass. Where feasible, cut biomass was raked onto tarps and hauled by hand to a dumpster that was temporarily staged on the access road leading to the site.

3. Task 3-Area 3: Otay tarplant restoration (3.36 acres)

Work start date: October 25, 2023.
Percent complete: 10%

An Alpha Project crew performed dethatching of Area 3 on October 25, 2023, October 26, 2023, and October 27, 2023. The crew used line trimmers to cut dead standing biomass. Cut biomass was raked onto tarps and hauled by hand to a dumpster that was temporarily staged on the access road leading to the site.

4. Area 4: San Diego ambrosia, Orcutt's bird'sbeak, and vernal pool restoration and enhancement (2.23 acres)

Work start date: November 1, 2023.
Percent complete: 10%

An Alpha Project crew performed dethatching of Area 4 on November 1, 2023, November 2, 2023, and November 3, 2023. The crew used line trimmers to cut dead standing biomass. Cut biomass was raked onto tarps and hauled by hand to a dumpster that was temporarily staged on the access road leading to the site.

5. Monitoring and Reporting

Work start date: 05/08/2023
Percent complete: 18%

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City biologist staff performed qualitative monitoring visits to determine appropriate timing of dethatching and provided direction to crews in the field. City staff also prepared the quarterly progress report for work performed from July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023, that was submitted to SANDAG on October 20, 2023.

6. Administrative

Work start date: 07/01/2023

Percent complete: 12%

City staff administered purchase requisitions for dethatching, weed control, and seed bulking work. City staff coordinated with San Diego Wildlife Alliance Native Plant Gene Bank to initiate work to bulk produce San Diego thornmint Seed for this project.

Work Anticipated Next Period

Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include:

- 1) As-needed targeted herbicide applications to control invasive weed species in Areas 1-4.
- 2) San Diego Wildlife Alliance Native Plant Gene Bank will continue San Diego thornmint seed bulking effort.

Issues to Note

- 1) The Notice to Proceed for this grant was issued on May 2, 2023. Due to the delay in the issuance of the NTP, the timeline for active restoration and weed management activities had to be adjusted accordingly. Active restoration started on October 4, 2023, after sensitive plant species on site had senesced and set seed.
- 2) While conducting baseline monitoring surveys, biologists noted prickly goldenfleece (*Urospermum picroides*) was present in low numbers in Area 1 and abundant in the northern part of Area 2. This is a newly documented invasive plant species for San Diego County (see Photo 5). Weed management efforts will target this species in the project area and the City plans to seek additional funding sources to help control it outside of the project area.
- 3) Otay tarplant continued to flower into early September. This pushed back the start date for dethatching work because we wanted to give the tarplant time to senesce and set seed before weed whipping the area.

Photographs & Figures

Area 1:



Photo 1.1: Photo point 1 shows baseline conditions for Area 1. Nonnative species cover in Area 1 is estimated at 90%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle (*Centaurea melitensis*), Mediterranean stork's bill (*Erodium malacoides*), Annual yellow sweetclover (*Melilotus indicus*).



Photo 1.2: Photo point 1 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 1 is estimated at 90%. Most nonnative species have senesced.

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Photo Point 1
11S 497811 3605149 (±44ft)
11.14.2023 03:17 PM



Photo 1.3: Photo point 2 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 2 occurred on October 4th and 6th, 2023.

Area 2

Photo Point 2
11S 497729 3605142 (±21ft)
05.08.2023 03:01 PM



Photo 2.1: Photo point 2 shows baseline conditions for Area 2. Nonnative species cover in Area 2 is estimated at 80%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle, Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), slender wild oat (*Avena barbata*), and Mediterranean stork's bill.

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Photo 2.2: Photo point 2 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 2 is estimated at 80%. Most nonnative species have senesced.



Photo 2.3: Photo point 2 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 2 occurred on October 18th and 20th, 2023.

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Area 3



Photo 4.1: Photo point 3 shows baseline conditions for Area 3. Nonnative species cover in Area 3 is estimated at 85%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle, crown daisy, Italian ryegrass, and slender wild oat. *Note: previous reports incorrectly labeled this as photo point 4.*



Photo 4.2: Photo point 3 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 3 is estimated at 85%. Most nonnative species have senesced. *Note: previous reports incorrectly labeled this as photo point 4.*

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Photo 3.2: Photo point 3 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 3 occurred on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2023.

Area 4



Photo 4.1: Photo point 4 shows baseline conditions for Area 4. Nonnative species cover in Area 4 is estimated at 90%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle, black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), and Mediterranean stork's bill. *Note: previous reports incorrectly labeled this as photo point 3.*

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Photo 4.2: Photo point 4 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 4 is estimated at 90%. Most nonnative species have senesced. *Note: previous reports incorrectly labeled this as photo point 3.*



Photo 4.2: Photo point 4 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 4 occurred on October 25th, 26th and 20th, 2023. *Note: previous reports incorrectly labeled this as photo point 3.*

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Photo 5 & 6: Alpha Project crews using line trimmers and rakes to dethatch and remove dead standing biomass.

SDMMP Project Page

This quarterly report was added to the Denney Canyon Rare Plant Restoration Project Page on the SDMMP website on 01/22/2024.

Performance Measures

Project performance measures are included in the Excel workbook linked below. Click the Excel icon below to open the workbook.

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Performance
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