San Diego Association of Governments
Dennery Canyon Restoration Project
City of San Diego
Quarterly Progress Report
Reporting Period: 01/01/2024 – 03/31/2024
Submission Date: 04/22/2024
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125503

Quarterly Status Report Overview

The City of San Diego received the Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the Dennery Canyon Rare Restoration Project on May 2, 2023. This quarterly progress report details work performed from January 1, 2024, through March 31, 2024. Work performed during this period included as-needed weed management in Areas 1 – 4, contracting coordination, and qualitative site visits to determine the timing of activities. Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include continued weed management in Areas 1 – 4, qualitative and quantitative monitoring, and continued 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: 20%

   Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and hand weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf herbs. The initial weed management visit occurred on January 16th, and a follow-up treatment was performed on February 22nd. RECON Biologist Jacob Dioli and City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight to avoid sensitive plant species.

2. **Task 2 – Area 2: SD thornmint buffer (1.54 acres)**
   Work start date: October 18, 2023.
   Percent complete: 20%

   Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and hand weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf herbs. The initial weed management visit occurred on January 17th. RECON Biologist Jacob Dioli and City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight to avoid sensitive plant species.

3. **Task 3 – Area 3: Otay tarplant restoration (3.36 acres)**
   Work start date: October 25, 2023.
   Percent complete: 20%

   Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and hand weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf herbs. The initial weed management visit occurred on January 18th, and a follow-up treatment was performed on February 23rd. RECON Biologist Jacob Dioli and City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight to avoid sensitive plant species.

4. **Task 4 – Area 4: San Diego ambrosia, Orcutt's bird's-beak, and vernal pool restoration and enhancement (2.23 acres)**
   Work start date: November 1, 2023.
   Percent complete: 20%

   Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and hand weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf herbs. The initial weed management visit occurred on January 19th, and a follow-up treatment was performed on March 27th and 28th. RECON Biologist

Jacob Dioli and City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight to avoid sensitive plant species.

5. **Monitoring and Reporting**
   Work start date: 05/08/2023
   Percent complete: 25%

   City biologist staff performed qualitative monitoring visits to determine appropriate timing for herbicide applications, flagged sensitive plant species, and directed crews in the field. City staff also prepared the quarterly progress report for work performed from October 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, submitted to SANDAG on January 21, 2024.

6. **Administrative**
   Work start date: 07/01/2023
   Percent complete: 18%

   City staff administered purchase orders, coordinated work schedules with contracted crews, reviewed contractor invoices, and processed invoices for payment.

Work Anticipated Next Period

Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include:

1) Continue with 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.
3) City Biologist staff will use the IMG Rare Plant Monitoring Protocol to perform quantitative monitoring for focal rare plant species.
4) City Biologists will qualitatively monitor invasive plant cover in Areas 1 – 4.

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.

Photo 1.3: Photo point 1 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 1 occurred on October 4th and 6th, 2023.

Photo 1.4: Photo point 1 on March 8, 2024.

Area 2

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.

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.

Photo 2.3: Photo point 2 on March 8, 2024.

Area 3

Photo 3.1: 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 3.2: 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.*

Photo 3.3: Photo point 3 on November 14, 2023. Dethatching of Area 3 occurred on November 1st, 2nd and 3rd, 2023.

Photo 3.4: Photo point 3 on March 8, 2024.

Area 4

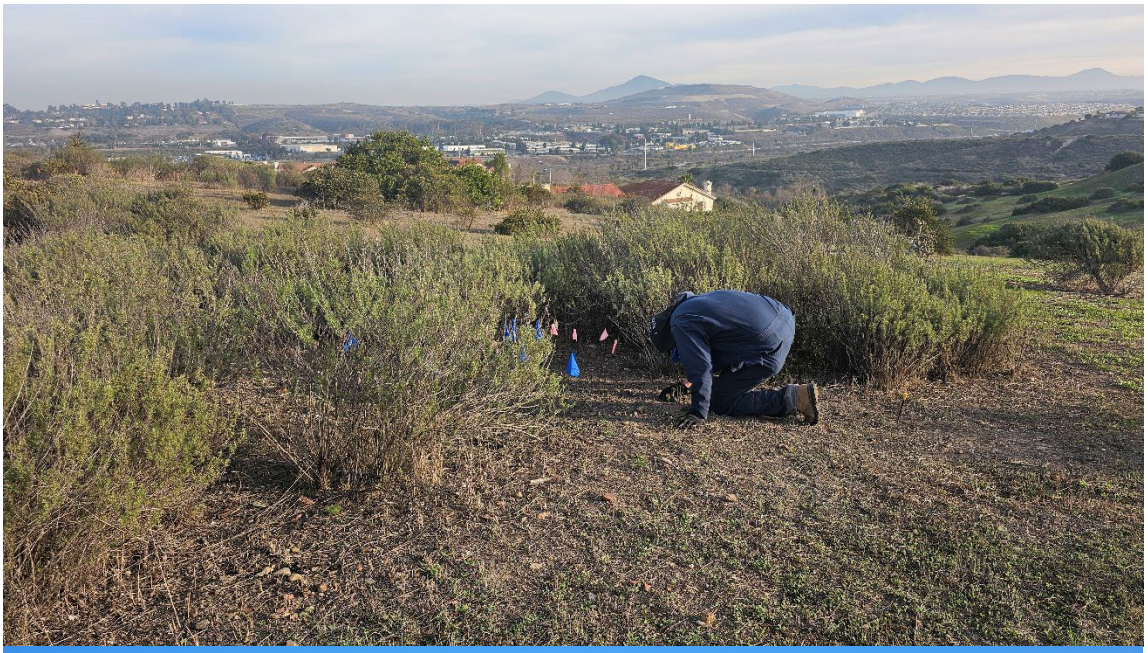
Photo 4.1: Photo point 4 shows baseline conditions for Area 4. Nonnative species cover in Area 4 is estimated at 90%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle, black mustard (*Brassica nigra*), crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), and Mediterranean stork's bill. *Note: previous reports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

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 4.3: 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.*

Photo 4.4: Photo point 4 on March 8, 2024.

Photo 5: City Biologists surveyed sites before crew work and placed pin flags to mark locations of sensitive species.



Photos 6 - 10: Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide treatments and hand weeding around native plants.

SDMMP Project Page

This quarterly report was added to the Dennery Canyon Rare Plant Restoration Project Page on the SDMMP website on 04/22/2024.

Performance Measures

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

Performance Measures_Dennery Ca