

**San Diego Association of Governments  
Dennery Canyon Restoration Project  
City of San Diego  
Quarterly Progress Report  
Reporting Period: 04/01/2025 – 06/30/2025  
Submission Date: 07/18/2025  
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125503**

## **Quarterly Status Report Overview**

The City of San Diego received the Notice to Proceed (NTP) for the Dennergy Canyon Rare Restoration Project on May 2, 2023. This quarterly progress report details work performed from April 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. Work performed during this period included as-needed weed management in Areas 1–4, contract coordination, qualitative site assessments, photo monitoring, and quantitative monitoring of rare plants. Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include continued as-needed dethatching and weed management in Areas 1 – 4, qualitative and monitoring, and coordination with San Diego Wildlife Alliance Native Plant Gene Bank staff on the seed bulking effort 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: 40%

Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and detailed hand-weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight, directing crew work and ensuring avoidance of impacts to sensitive species.

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

Work start date: October 18, 2023.

Percent complete: 40%

Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and detailed hand-weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight, directing crew work and ensuring avoidance of impacts to sensitive species.

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

Work start date: October 25, 2023.

Percent complete: 35%

Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and detailed hand-weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight, directing crew work and ensuring avoidance of impacts to sensitive species.

**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: 40%

Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and detailed hand-weeding around natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf weeds. City Biologist Sara Allen provided crew oversight, directing crew work and ensuring avoidance of impacts to sensitive species.

**Monitoring and Reporting**

Work start date: 05/08/2023

Percent complete: 50%

City biologist Sara Allen performed qualitative monitoring visits to determine the appropriate timing for weed management efforts. Sara continued to

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conduct focused surveys for rare plant seedlings and placed pin flags to mark their locations ahead of the crew's work. Sara also performed Inspect and Manage (IMG) Rare Plant Monitoring and extent mapping for San Diego thornmint (*Acanthomintha ilicifolia*), Otay tarplant (*Deinandra conjugens*), Orcutt's birds-beak (*Dicranostegia orcuttiana*) and San Diego Ambrosia (*Ambrosia pumila*) in the designated restoration and enhancement areas and surrounding habitat following the IMG protocol for monitoring MSP species.

City staff also prepared the quarterly progress report for work performed from October 1, 2024, through January 31, 2024, submitted to SANDAG on July 22, 2024.

#### 5. Administrative

Work start date: 07/01/2023  
Percent complete: 50%

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) City Biologist staff will continue to coordinate with contractors to perform dethatching and targeted herbicide applications as needed to control invasive weed species in Areas 1-4.
- 2) City Biologist staff will continue coordinating with the San Diego Wildlife Alliance Native Plant Gene Bank on the San Diego thorn mint seed bulking effort.
- 3) City Biologist staff will conduct qualitative monitoring of invasive plant cover and occurrences of rare plant species in Areas 1-4.
- 4) City Biologist staff will perform QA/QC of the IMG survey data and submit the data to SDMMP.

#### 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. These activities are now anticipated to start in September 2023.
- 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.

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- 3) In 2023, the Otago 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 Monitoring



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



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

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**Photo 1.5:** Photo point 1 on June 20, 2024.



**Photo 1.6:** Photo point 1 on August 8, 2024

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**Photo 1.7:** Photo point 1 on December 17, 2024.



**Photo 1.8:** Photo point 1 on March 10, 2025

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Photo Point 1  
32.58377, -117.02335 (±12ft)  
06.24.2025 07:59



**Photo 1.9:** Photo point 1 on June 24, 2025

**Area 2: Photo Monitoring**

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 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

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**Photo 2.4:** Photo point 2 on March 8, 2024.



**Photo 2.5:** Photo point 2 on June 20, 2024.

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**Photo 2.6:** Photo point 2 on August 8, 2024.



**Photo 2.7:** Photo point 2 on December 17, 2024

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**Photo 2.8:** Photo point 2 on March 10, 2025.



**Photo 2.9:** Photo point 2 on June 24, 2025.

### Area 3: Photo Monitoring



**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.*

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



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

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**Photo 3.5:** Photo point 3 on June 20, 2024.



**Photo 3.6:** Photo point 3 on August 8, 2024.

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**Photo 3.7:** Photo point 3 on December 17, 2024.



**Photo 3.8:** Photo point 3 on March 10, 2025.

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**Photo 3.9:** Photo point 3 on June 24, 2025

**Area 4: Photo Monitoring**



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

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



**Photo 4.5:** Photo point 4 on June 20, 2024.

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**Photo 4.6:** Photo point 4 on August 8, 2024.



**Photo 4.7:** Photo point 4 on December 17, 2024

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**Photo 4.8:** Photo point 4 on March 10, 2025.



**Photo 4.9:** Photo point 4 on June 24, 2025.

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**Additional Photos from this Reporting Period:**



**Photo 5.1: Flags marking young San Diego ambrosia plants on June 24, 2025.**



**Photos 5.2 & 5.3: San Diego thornmint inside herbivore exclusion cage on May 28, 2025.**

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**Photo 5.4: Otay tarplant flowering on June 24, 2025.**



**Photo 5.5: Orcutt's bird's-beak seedlings observed on May 6, 2025.**

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**Photo 5.6 – 5.9: Contracted crews performed targeted herbicide applications and detailed hand-weeding around rare plants and other natives to reduce non-native annual grasses and broadleaf weeds.**

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**SDMMP Project Page**

This quarterly report was added to the Dennergy Canyon Rare Plant Restoration Project Page on the SDMMP website on 7/18/2025.

**Performance Measures**

Project performance measures are included in the Excel workbook attached.