

**San Diego Association of Governments**  
**West Bernardo Mountain HMA**  
**Enhancement & Restoration**  
**San Dieguito River Park, JPA.**  
**Quarterly Progress Report**  
**Reporting Period: January 1 – March 31, 2024**  
**Submission Date: APRIL 2024**  
**SANDAG Contract Number: S1125508**

## **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- INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL: 90% done year 1**
  - a. Weed growth diligently monitored.
  - b. February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 – sunny south facing areas ready for work otherwise very little weed growth.
  - c. March 1<sup>st</sup> – first herbicide application.
  - d. Entire site treated with glyphosate herbicide. (March 1, 7,11,14, and 15<sup>th</sup>)
    - i. Goal was to finish by March 15<sup>th</sup>
    - ii. The upslope sections of the site are very difficult to access for herbicide spraying.
    - iii. Areas not dethatched are difficult to spray.
  - e. Many invasive weeds in the region bolted after March 15.
  - f. Site was monitored for CAGN and CACW activity. CAGN was detected which was expected because they are abundant in the Lake Hodges area.
  - g. No other weed control work scheduled due to CAGN activity.
  - h. Site will be monitored for opportunities for small scale and targeted weed control.
2. **Task 2- HARVEST, GROW, DELIVER CACTi: 80% done year 1**
  - a. Native West Nursery delivered 400 cacti.
    - i. For use with volunteer groups
    - ii. Stored and watered on site.
  - b. There were some issues at nursery with cactus growing in containers. Possibly due to too much moisture at nursery.
  - c. Adjusted cactus order- 1000 to be delivered in 2024 or early 2025
    - i. By December 2024, cacti will be in containers for approximately 15 months so well rooted. Well rooted cactus is a project goal.
    - ii. Cactus may need to be harvested and delivered to Native West to increase the amount of 2024/25 rooted cactus available if helicopter transportation is arranged.
    - iii. Cactus needs to be harvested and delivered to Native West for 2025 and 2026 plants and SDRP Nursery. TBD.
3. **Task 3 – INSTALL ROOTED CACTUS. 85% done year 1**
  - a. Identified strategies for moving cactus up slope.
    - i. 2 cactus gurneys build and used.
      1. 2 people can carry a maximum of 30 potted cacti
      2. PVC design preferable.
      3. Drawings and photographs to be provided to SD MMP.

**ii. Modular Load Harness**

- 1. “Versamule”**
- 2. 1 strong/fit person can carry maximum 30 potted cacti.**

**iii. Helicopter**

- a. Containers would be built with 2x4 lumber, filled with potted cacti, then moved to planting site.**
- b. Made contact with City of San Diego Fire - TBD**
- c. Other potential assistance possible from:**
  - i. Military**
  - ii. Private**

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.

- Install rooted cacti with volunteers and SDRP staff – April 2024**
- Apply herbicide to targeted invasive plants**
- Collect information from biological monitors working near the site.**
  - USGS**
  - Volunteers**

**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).

**Second bee hive identified.**

**Steepness of the upper section of the restoration site is a difficult place to spray weeds and install container plants.**

**Photographs & Figures**

**SEE BELOW**

**SDMMP Project Page**

**Updated April 22, 2024.**

## **EMP Land Management Grants**

*Quarterly Progress Report Template*

### **Performance Measures**

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



Performance%20Measures\_I



**EMP Land Management Grants**  
*Quarterly Progress Report Template*



**February 2024-** Much of the site was not ready for herbicide treatment. Sunny south facing areas had more weed growth. Although these plants could be sprayed and it would be effective, more weeds would most likely grow after the treatment. The cost of having to re-do the site after the next phase of weed growth is an issue. The March 15<sup>th</sup> (avian nesting) deadline is also an issue. Balancing these issues requires close monitoring and coordination with the herbicide applicators. The issue is not unique to this site so the availability of herbicide applicators is also a third variable to consider as is the skill level of the applicators.



**EMP Land Management Grants**  
*Quarterly Progress Report Template*



**March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024** –This was the first day for herbicide application. The south facing sunny slopes were targeted first because there was more growth of annual invasive plants. This is an area that was dethatched in the fall 2023.



**EMP Land Management Grants**  
*Quarterly Progress Report Template*



**March 1, 2024** – first day of herbicide application by Black Sage Environmental



**EMP Land Management Grants**  
*Quarterly Progress Report Template*



**February 21, 2024** – *Encelia californica* (Bush Sunflower) poking through the thatch. Spraying herbicide in these areas is difficult.





**March 27, 2024** – Cactus delivery. It is important to engage volunteers in this project. Volunteers participated in some of the dethatch work last fall but few tasks are available for them. Cactus was delivered with plans to have SDRP staff and volunteers install cactus at the highest parts of the restoration site and learn from the experience to better prepare for the 2024/25 planting season.



