

**San Diego Association of Governments  
West Bernardo Mountain HMA  
Enhancement & Restoration  
San Dieguito River Park, JPA.  
Quarterly Progress Report  
Reporting Period: **JULY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2024**  
Submission Date: **October 2024**  
SANDAG Contract Number: **S1125508****

## **EMP Land Management Grants**

*Quarterly Progress Report Template*

### **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: 5% done year 2**
  - a. No weed control work occurred, other than monitoring and planning
  - b. Herbicide application will commence this winter.
  - c. No dethatch planned for non-planting areas.
  - d. Coastal sage scrub (CSS) within the restoration site has responded incredibly well to dethatch work and herbicide applications.
    - i. Widespread planting of cacti at this site could be more detrimental than beneficial and ineffective in meeting the goal of creating enough habitat for an additional CACW territory.
    - ii. SDRP proposed to SANDAG that the cactus planting site be moved and they agreed. The new site is called “West Site.” See maps below.
    - iii. The original site will still receive the bulk of the invasive species work and the original project goals will be met.
  
2. **Task 2- HARVEST, GROW, DELIVER CACTI: 5% done year 2**
  - a. As of September 2024, 1500 cacti are available. 400 have been delivered.
  - b. 1000+/- to be delivered October 30, 2024.
  - c. 500 cacti to be delivered in 2025.
  - d. 875 cacti still to be grown.
  
3. **Task 3 – INSTALL ROOTED CACTUS. 5% done year 2**
  - i. West Site: this is the primary planting site. The original site will be planted with approximately 400 container cacti and the remaining 2,375 will be planted at the “West Site”
  - ii. SDRP strategies for moving cacti:
    1. Cacti to be delivered to the North Shore Trail segment of the Coast to Crest Trail at the Boat Dock Kiosk.
    2. Small pick-up truck will transport cacti from kiosk area to the start of the narrower Bernardo Mountain Lake View Trail.
    3. Quad and ATV will transport cacti to the planting site.
    4. Planting site
      - a. Cactus Gurney
      - b. Modular Load Harness (“Versamule”)
      - c. Trash can
  - iii. Installed rooted cacti

## EMP Land Management Grants

### Quarterly Progress Report Template

1. Dethatch planting sites October and November 2024
2. Install plants starting November 2024
3. Volunteer work events
  - a. SDRP weekly volunteers will work on this project 1-2 days per month.
  - b. November 21<sup>st</sup> – University of California San Francisco
  - c. December 11 - Canyon Crest High School
- iv. Criteria for planting.
  1. 6 feet from existing CSS plants.
    - a. Allows for expansion of CSS.
    - b. Gives cactus space to grow and compete with CSS.
  2. 12 feet from existing cactus – so that this space can be expanded by using the existing plant (pad planting).
  3. Install 2 or 4 feet apart depending on location.
  4. Save all excavated soil. Soil is sparse here.
  5. Install potted plant vertically.
  6. Install flush or slightly above grade.
  7. Salvage excavated rock to be used as mulch.
  8. Dig separate adjacent hole if soil is needed to back fill.
  9. No vegetation in planting basin other than potted plant. Important.
  10. Compact soil around installed potted plant.

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.

- **Next work period: October, November, December 2024.**
- **Deliver plants.**
- **Maintain plants.**
- **Install container cacti beginning in November.**
- **Monitor for invasive plant species control.**
- **Harvest cacti to be grown in nurseries.**

Issues to Note

## **EMP Land Management Grants**

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Please provide a brief description of any issue(s) encountered during the reporting period and any steps taken to address the issue(s).

## **Photographs & Figures**

[SEE BELOW](#)

## **SDMMP Project Page**

[Updated OCTOBER 2024](#)

## **Performance Measures**

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

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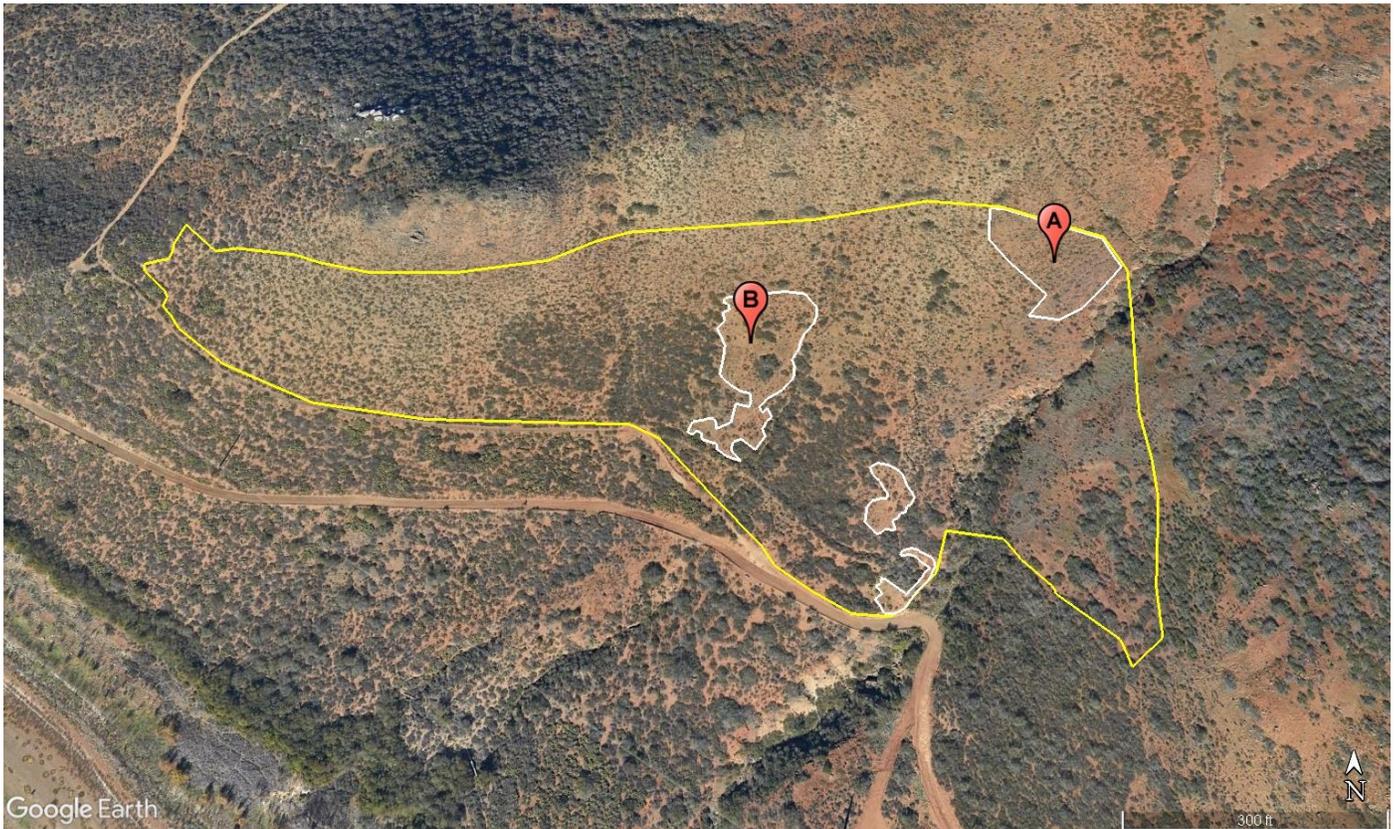
**September 2024-** New cactus planting site called “West Site”. Pictured is an area that will be planted heavily with container cactus.

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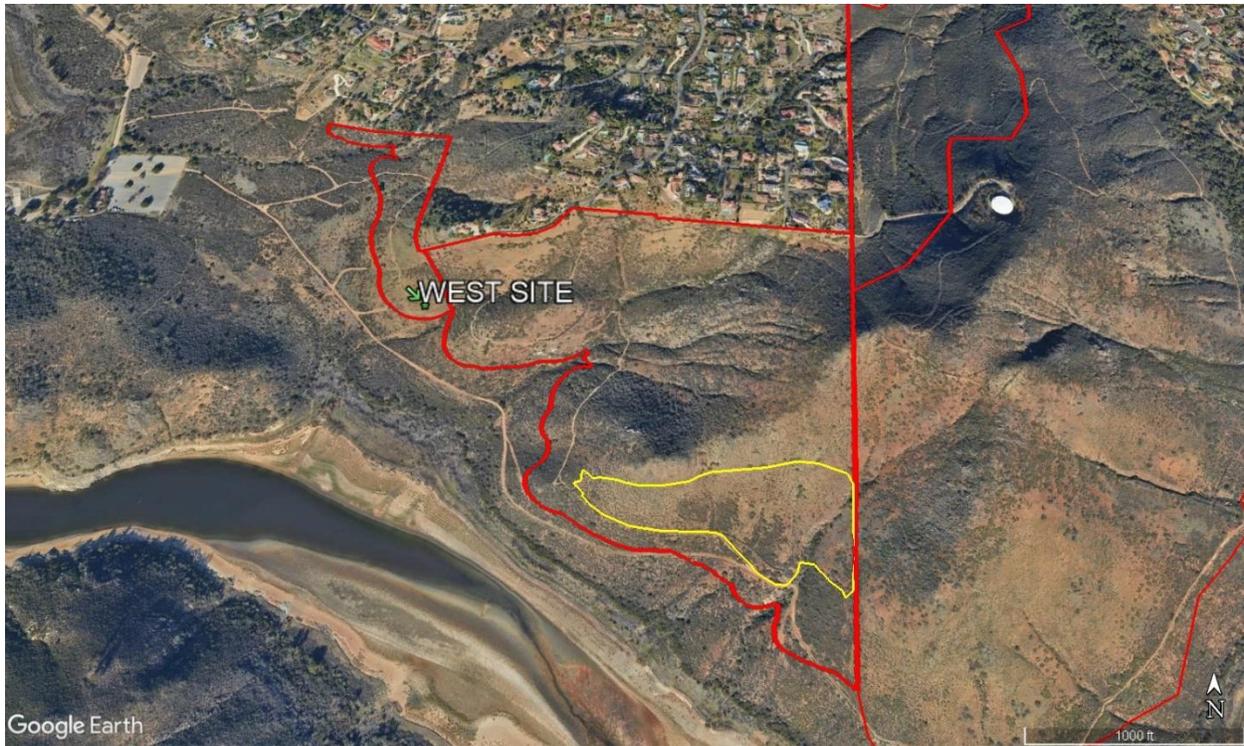
**SEPTEMBER 2024-** Biologist Clark Mahrtdt is looking out over the “West Site”. Clark has been studying Coastal Cactus Wren in the Lake Hodges area since the late 80’s. Clark has been a great resource for San Dieguito River Park and their efforts to help the cactus wren in the area. Clark can be counted on to assist and provide expertise.

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**Original Site:** Yellow boundary will continue to be the focus of the invasive species control work. White Polygons A and B are omitted as planting sites. The remaining two smaller polygons will be planted. Cactus from the A and B sites will be moved to the “West Site”. Areas A and B have benefited from weed control and two consecutive winters with normal rainfall and the coastal sage scrub species are flourishing. Planting activities would damage the CSS recovery. An alternative site for cactus was identified and SDRP worked with SANDAG staff to change the location of the container cactus installation component of the project.

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**West Site** is within the same preserve (Bernardo Mountain) as the original site and in the same general area. An addition benefit is that to the west of the “West Site” is “Hill 506”. Hill 506 once contained occupied cactus scrub habitat but was lost in the 2007 Witch Fire and never restored because of difficult access and other issues.

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**WEST SITE:** There are remnant cacti, coastal sage scrub species, but mostly invasive species at this restoration site. Although cactus will be installed over the entire site. The two areas with the blue dot and the area at the west site label are the spaces where cacti will be planted densely. These new cacti, combined with existing cacti and neighboring coastal sage scrub areas should provide for enough habitat for a coastal cactus wren territory.