

**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, 2025  
Submission Date: April 2025  
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125509**

## **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: 80% done year 2**
  - a. **Frequent monitoring for invasive species control work.**
    - i. **No significant invasive species growth until March.**
    - ii. **Ensure effective treatment.**
  - b. **Two sites to be treated: 15.33 acres.**
    - i. **2.83 acres: West/planting site.**
    - ii. **12.5 acres: Original site.**
  - c. **First herbicide treatment February 25<sup>th</sup>.**
    - i. **West/planting site.**
    - ii. **Plants present but small.**
    - iii. **Preemergent added and applied where no native species in proximity.**
  - d. **March 17<sup>th</sup> herbicide treatment.**
    - i. **West/planting site**
    - ii. **Plants present throughout site.**
    - iii. **No seed present on invasive plants.**
    - iv. **Entire west/planting site treated.**
      1. **Treatment very effective**
        - a. **Ideal timing of applications.**
        - b. **Careful monitoring.**
        - c. **Education of crews.**
        - d. **Dethatched work (3 acres) provided for more efficient herbicide application.**
      2. **Follow up spot treatment scheduled.**
      3. **Hand pulling scheduled.**
  - e. **March 25 and March 27 herbicide treatment**
    - i. **Original site**
    - ii. **Minimal invasive species present in non-targeted areas.**
      1. **Effective treatments in 2024**
      2. **Nominal invasive species growth.**
      3. **Native species occupying space.**
      4. **No herbicide treatments in mule deer grazing area.**
2. **Task 2- HARVEST, GROW, DELIVER CACTI : 85% done year 2**
  - a. **800 cacti to be delivered in November 2025.**
  - b. **575 cacti still to be grown.**
    - i. **Pads scheduled to be harvested.**
    - ii. **Budget needs to be re-evaluated since cost of container plants are more expensive than 2022.**

iii. SDRP will grow cacti to augment commercial nursery production if needed.

**3. Task 3 – INSTALL ROOTED CACTUS (2,775 project total). 100% done year 2**

**a. West Site: primary planting site.**

**i. 1000 cacti installed.**

- 1. 763 installed in November and December 2024.**
- 2. 237 installed in January 2025**

**ii. Existing cacti harvested**

- 1. Pads installed (2025) adjacent to existing cactus.**
- 2. Work will continue.**

**b. Original Site.**

**i. 400 cacti installed in the original site.**

- 1. 150 installed in April 2024 in the upper reaches of the site.**
- 2. 250 installed in December 2024**

**c. Planted cacti showing new growth.**

**4. TASK 4 – Maintain and Monitor**

**a. Watering**

**i. No significant rain until late February and March.**

- 1. Watering installed container cactus became a priority.**
- 2. SDRP watered new plantings in January and February**

**ii. Great deal of planning occurred.**

- 1. January and February watering effort highlighted issues with moving large quantities of water efficiently.**
- 2. Logistics and technique.**

**a. Water source.**

**i. No large (+500 gallons) quantities of water available in the area.**

**ii. Developed system to pump water from Lake Hodges.**

- 1. Coordinating with City of San Diego PUD.**
- 2. Scouted locations.**
- 3. Repaired SDRP pump to draw water from the Lake**
- 4. Tested system.**

**b. Transport water from lake with 2000-gallon water tender.**

**c. Utilize fire hoses then reduced to garden hose.**

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*Quarterly Progress Report Template*

**d. Hand water.**

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: April, May, June 2025.**
- **Monitor.**
- **Water.**
- **Hand pull weeds.**
- **Invasive plant species control – spot treatments at planting site.**
- **Harvest cacti to be grown in nurseries.**

**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).

**Photographs & Figures**

[SEE BELOW](#)

**SDMMP Project Page**

[Updated April 2025](#)

**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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**January 2025-** Container cactus at Native West Nursery to be installed November/December 2025. The rooted cactus is more resilient to pressure from herbivory and drought.

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**March 2025-** Cactus planted in April 2024/last planting season showing new growth.

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**March 25, 2025-** Cactus installed this planting season already showing new growth. SDRP staff and volunteers nurtured the young cactus by hand weeding, repairing of the planting basins, using adjacent rock as mulch, and watering (see below February 18, 2025). This work will continue throughout the spring and early summer months.



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**January 7, 2025:** final plants for the season being installed. Large buffers were established between planting areas and existing native plants. Buffers near existing mature cacti were later back filled with cactus pad cuttings from those mother plants.



**March 13, 2025:** After arrival of winter rains, spray targets became more obvious. Weed control projects were well timed and effective. The planting site was heavily dominated by invasive weeds. Removal of the thatch resulted in more precise and effective herbicide applications. In some areas, native spike moss (*Selaginella cinerascens*) was discovered under the canopy of invasive species thatch. Herbicide applicators could better identify the spike moss when doing treatments. Quail, dove, towhee, and lizards were observed utilizing the dethatched site and evidence of rabbit and deer use seen throughout.



**March 25<sup>th</sup>** – Cactus wren utilizing habitat adjacent to the original project site.

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**March 2025** – Senior Ranger Felipe Franco testing the water pump. Because the facilities at Lake Hodges use well water that is treated on site there are only small quantities available and even less when the Lake is open to the public. To overcome this obstacle, SDRP will pump water directly from the Lake and will be delivered to the site by a 2000-gallon truck.