

**San Diego Association of Governments  
Dennery Canyon Restoration Project  
City of San Diego  
Quarterly Progress Report  
Reporting Period: 07/01/2023 – 09/30/2023  
Submission Date: 10/20/2023  
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 July 1, 2023, through September 30, 2023. Work performed during this period included San Diego thornmint seed collection, contracting coordination, and qualitative site visits to determine timing of activities. All work completed during this reporting period was performed by City staff as an in-kind match; therefore, an invoice is not included with this report. Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include dethatching and weed control in Areas 1-4, qualitative monitoring, and 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)**

Not started; dethatching crews scheduled to start work October 4, 2023.  
*Percent complete: 0%*

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

Not started; dethatching crews scheduled to start work October 4, 2023.  
*Percent complete: 0%*

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

Not started; dethatching crews scheduled to start work October 4, 2023.  
*Percent complete: 0%*

**4. Area 4: San Diego ambrosia, Orcutt's bird'sbeak, and vernal pool restoration and enhancement (2.23 acres)**

Not started; dethatching crews scheduled to start work October 4, 2023.  
*Percent complete: 0%*

**5. Monitoring and Reporting**

Work start date: 05/08/2023  
*Percent complete: 12%*

City staff performed qualitative monitoring visits to determine appropriate timing of dethatching. Many Otay tarplant individuals continued to flower into early September. Dethatching work was scheduled to start in October to give the Otay tarplant more time to senesce and produce seed.

**6. Administrative**

Work start date: 07/01/2023  
*Percent complete: 5%*

City staff prepared and submitted purchase requisitions for dethatching, weed control, and seed bulking work.

### Work Anticipated Next Period

Work anticipated in the next reporting period will include:

- 1) Dethatching in Areas 1-4.
- 2) As-needed targeted herbicide applications to control invasive weed species.
- 3) San Diego Zoo will begin seed bulking for San Diego thornmint.

### 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.
- 2) While conducting baseline monitoring surveys, biologists noted prickly goldenfleece (*Urospermum picroides*) was present in low numbers in Area 1 and

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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) Oat 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:** 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 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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#### Area 2



**Photo 3:** 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 3:** Photo point 2 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 2 is estimated at 80%. Most nonnative species have senesced.

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#### Area 3



**Photo 4:** Photo point 3 shows baseline conditions for Area 3. Nonnative species cover in Area 3 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.



**Photo 5:** Photo point 3 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 3 is estimated at 90%. Most nonnative species have senesced.

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**Area 4**



**Photo 6:** Photo point 4 shows baseline conditions for Area 4. Nonnative species cover in Area 4 is estimated at 85%. The most abundant nonnative species include Tocolote thistle, crown daisy, Italian ryegrass, and slender wild oat.



**Photo 7:** Photo point 4 on September 27, 2023. Nonnative species cover in Area 4 is estimated at 85%. Most nonnative species have senesced.



**Photo 8:** Some Otay tarplant individuals continued to flower into early September.

## **SDMMP Project Page**

This quarterly report was added to the Dennerly Canyon Rare Plant Restoration Project Page on the SDMMP website on 10/20/2023.

## **Performance Measures**

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



Performance  
Measures\_Dennerly Ca

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