

**San Diego Association of Governments
Ocean Beach Estuary Enhancement Project
The San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF)
Quarterly Progress Report
Reporting Period: 7/01/25 – 9/30/25
Submission Date: 10/21/25
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125510**

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 Removal and Habitat Restoration

This quarter, staff advanced habitat restoration by increasing the scope of invasive plant removal across the project area. Together with volunteers, they targeted annual weeds, concentrating work in plots where sensitive native species, like Nuttall's acmispon, salt marsh bird's beak, and coast wooly heads are most abundant. These efforts aim to reduce competition from invasive plants and promote the successful longevity of these rare natives (see photos 1-4).

Photos 1 – 4: Volunteers hand-pulling annual weeds in the project area



Primary non-native annual weeds targeted for removal included Crown daisy (*Glebionis coronaria*), White sweet clover (*Melilotus albus*), European sea rocket (*Cakile maritima*), Russian thistle (*Salsola tragus*), and European sea lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*).

The San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF) hosted seven restoration events this quarter, engaging 164 community volunteers who contributed a combined 447 service hours. Not only was significant progress made in terms

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of reaching restoration goals, but these events served as educational opportunities for kids and adults alike. We raised awareness about the significant ecological value of native species and the negative impacts invasive plants pose on the surrounding ecosystem (see photos 5, 6, 7 and 8).

Photo 5-8: Group photos of the volunteers before and during some of the restoration events.



The removal work completed this quarter is especially impactful helping to ensure that native species have space and resources to grow during the season. These efforts are essential to promoting a more resilient, biodiverse, and functional ecosystem.

In addition, project partners with the San Diego Bird Alliance began a series of fall First Friday events that include a combination of public engagement and restoration. In August and September, volunteers for these events removed trash and invasive sea lavender and replaced damaged signs. Volunteers were able to remove sea lavender (*Limonium duriusculum*) before it went to seed in the Smiley Lagoon area. Volunteers also learned about the sensitive salt marsh bird's beak, which was still blooming in Q3.

Photos 9-10: Volunteers at work during San Diego Bird Alliance events



50% completed.

2. Task 2 - Access Control

We had previously fenced the highest priority areas in the eastern half of the project area to gain some experience about maintenance needs and community reception. Some vandalism was expected, but has so far proved to be manageable through volunteer work parties. With that experience over the first half of this year, we proceeded with purchase of additional fencing to complete adding sand fencing to the previously installed post and rope.

As part of these improvements, 1,631 linear feet of new fencing was installed, and damaged wooden slats along the existing fence were repaired. This project more securely reinforces boundaries and helps protect the sensitive habitat areas of the estuary (see photos 11-14).

San Diego Bird Alliance project partners also held an event to help install additional sand fencing. Together with partners, we purchased all the sand fencing required to complete fencing in entire project area. We also purchased some additional fencing to remain in storage for ongoing maintenance over the remaining portion of the grant.

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Photo 11-14: New fencing was installed, extended, and repaired by volunteers



Photo 15: View of new fencing across project area from the River Trail



88% complete.

3. Task 3 - Community Engagement, Education and Outreach

This quarter, SDRPF staff corresponded with community group leaders to recruit for volunteer events, and assisted in hosting events for the public, including communicating with event leads, having a physical presence at restoration events to build volunteer relationships, and giving an educational talk with a Q&A session for a group of first-generation college students. We hosted a booth at the nearby Point Loma Farmer's Market on 8/23 to help raise awareness of the project and volunteer stewardship opportunities. Education staff coordinated a youth-focused activity booth for events in August and September (see photo 16).

Photo 16: Education booth activities for youth volunteers



In August, SDRPF and the SDBA partnered with the City to host a field trip of the project area as part of the 30x30 California Partnership Summit. Participants received a tour that included discussion of the nearby Climate Resiliency planning being led by the City, as well as discussion of this project and volunteer activity led by SDRPF and SDBA (see photos 18-

In addition, San Diego Bird Alliance partners held one San Diego River Mouth docent program per week at the project site between July and September (except 2 weeks that were cancelled due to staffing or weather). This engaged 11 individual volunteers in 36.5 volunteer hours total.

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Photos 18 – 21: 30x30 California Partnership Summit tour for conservation professionals from across the state



Photos 22: 30x30 California Partnership Summit tour group



71% complete.

4. Task 4 – Monitoring

SDRPF's Research & Restoration interns participated in photomonitoring of the general habitat conditions of the San Diego River Estuary in 16 pre-established locations (see Figure 1). An example of the photomonitoring progression is included here (Figure 2).

SDRPF's staff and Research & Restoration interns also conducted the last IMG rare plant survey of the season for coast wooly heads (*Nemacaulis denudata* var. *denudata*) along with staff from the City of San Diego and the San Diego Bird Alliance on July 9, 2025. The extent of the original occurrence had grown considerably since last year's survey, and additional areas were located and polygons mapped showing that the occurrence is spreading. However, as expected, the number of species counted within our plot was lower than last year, due to a lower rainfall year. This year we counted 1,438 individual plants within our plot, compared to 2024 when we counted 5,458 individual plants within the same sample plot (see photos 23-26).

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Figure 1: Photomonitoring locations along the San Diego River Estuary



Figure 2. Sample of photomonitoring results from Photo Location #2.



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Photos 23-26: Interns/staff count coast wooly heads during rare plant survey



San Diego Bird Alliance organized one railwatching/ternwatching program per week in Q3 (see picture 27 to the right). They coordinated 8 volunteers in 24 hours of service total.

Photo 27: Board from Ternwatching/Railwatching Event

72% complete.



Task 5 - Administration

Project administration this quarter included submitting our ninth invoice and progress report, and working with SANDAG and the San Diego Bird Alliance to ensure compliance with various project requirements. Staff coordinated with the City of San Diego to document and report on their in-kind matching funds. Staff also met with City Rangers and Parks and Rec staff to stay on top of vandalism and unauthorized use of project area.

Project admin also included other correspondence with partners and SANDAG, updating budgets and coordinating timesheets and reports both internally and from partner organizations.

In addition, staff continued to meet with the City of San Diego and San Diego Birding Alliance at least monthly about the permits, collaboration on events, and coordination on dealing with maintenance issues.

71% complete.

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.

As we moved through summer, our primary efforts focused on hosting restoration events and intensifying invasive plant removal, to remove invasive species to create space and less competition for the next germination cycle of the natives once rain returns. We plan to continue this active management and removal of non-native invasive species in the next quarter.

Community meetings were postponed to a future quarter, and we will notify SANDAG as these get scheduled, and coordinate in advance of including any logos, consistent with the grant guidelines.

Monitoring, outreach, and habitat restoration events will continue next quarter.

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).

Nothing to report

Photographs & Figures

Photographs and figures are invaluable! Please include photos in the Quarterly Progress Reports and any figures (if applicable). Both photos and figures may be included throughout the document under corresponding tasks or at the end following the Issues to Note section. Photographs taken at the same place or photographic points (photo-points) can assist SANDAG staff in tracking the project's progress over time.

It is required that Photographs include:

- A before and after comparison sequence from the start to the completion of the project for photo points.
- A brief description of the corresponding tasks, date, and activity in the photograph.
- A copy of each photograph included in the report submitted in a .jpeg or .png file format.

It is required that Figures include:

- A caption with a brief description.

Photos are in document above and also submitted as separate files.

SDMMP Project Page

To receive reimbursement for work conducted within the quarter, submission of Quarterly Progress, Annual, and Final Reports must be added to your project's Project Page on the SDMMP website. Add any necessary photographs to the photo carousel and fill out the photograph information. *Please contact Sarah McCutcheon (smccutcheon@usgs.gov) or Emily Perkins (eperkins@usgs.gov) if you are having trouble accessing or editing your project page.*

Project Performance Measures Instructions

SANDAG will utilize the SANDAG Performance Measures to document compliance with the Project. Grantee's performance will be measured against the Performance Measures (Exhibit D) during the term of the project. More details on Performance Measures and Grant Recovery Plans are outlined in the Grant Agreements.

To access the Project Performance Measures Excel Spreadsheet:

- Simply double-click on the Excel icon located under the *Project Performance Measures* section.
 - An excel sheet will open, please fill out and then click save.
- Once the Excel spreadsheet is saved, please exit Excel and the spreadsheet will automatically update the icon in the Quarterly Progress Report Word document.

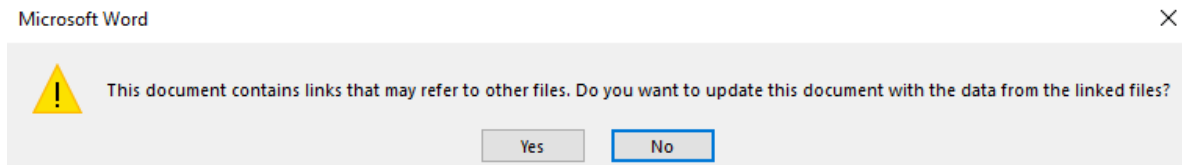
When opening the document with the Project Performance Measures Excel Spreadsheet:

- When you first open the Quarterly Progress Report Template, a warning message will open (image of the warning message below)

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- Click Yes to update the links in the document.



Performance Measures

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