

**San Diego Association of Governments
Ramona Grasslands and Boulder Oaks Preserves
Bullfrog Eradication Project
County of San Diego Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Quarterly Progress Report
Reporting Period: August 19, 2024 – September 30, 2024
Submission Date: January 2025
SANDAG Contract Number: S1125505**

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 - Bullfrog Eradication Program

The first eradication visits were made by the biologists (Nelly Moreno & Kacee Morrell) between August 23 and August 26, 2024. Both Ramona Grasslands and Boulder Oaks were visited during this treatment period. These visits constituted survey numbers 1 & 2 for each property.

Ramona Grasslands

The biologists visited Ramona Grasslands on August 23 and August 26, 2024. A total of 26 bullfrogs (14 adults; 12 juveniles) were eradicated from the Ramona Grasslands property during the first and second site visits. A combination of methods was used during the surveys. The biologists drove around Ponds 1 and 2 with a spotlight to identify eyeshine from bullfrogs. At Pond 3 and Santa Maria Creek, the biologists waded into the water. Bullfrogs in close range were giggered (speared) using a specialized spear. For bullfrogs farther away, a .22 air gun with non-lead pellets was used. Dead frogs and tadpoles were collected using nets and brought to shore for analysis. Bullfrogs were humanely euthanized prior to analysis.

Boulder Oaks

The biologists visited Boulder Oaks on September 27, 2024 and September 30, 2024. A total of 70 bullfrogs (12 adults; 1 juvenile; 57 tadpoles) were eradicated from Boulder Oaks. Pond 1 was the focus of eradication efforts at Boulder Oaks. Pond 2 was inaccessible due to dense reeds. Ponds 3 & 4 did not contain any water during this treatment period.

The biologists walked around Pond 1 with a flashlight to solicit eyeshine. For areas not accessible on foot, an aluminum boat was used to capture bullfrogs. Bullfrogs were either giggered or netted and humanely euthanized prior to analysis.

This task is approximately 7% complete.

2. Task 2 - Silt Fence Exclusion Program

Approximately 1,250 linear feet of silt fence was installed at Ramona Grasslands along the western fence line of Ramona Municipal Water District's Pond 1 from August 19 to August 21, 2024. The purpose of the silt fence is to block bullfrog access to Santa Maria Creek and divert the bullfrogs to Pond 2.

This task is approximately 21% complete.

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3. Task 3 - Monitoring and Evaluation

After capture and euthanasia, the stomach contents of adult and juvenile bullfrogs were examined. The stomach contents of individuals captured at Boulder Oaks and Ramona Grasslands was similar. Contents included crayfish, green sunfish and insect larvae. Stomachs of the individuals at Ramona Grasslands were full; whereas the stomachs of the majority of individuals captured at Boulder Oaks were empty. One captured adult female at Boulder Oaks had a fully formed egg-sac and looked ready to lay her egg-sac.

This task is approximately 12% complete.

4. Task 4 – Reporting

The Year 1, Quarter 1 Progress Report (Progress Report) prepared by Helix Environmental Planning is provided as an attachment to this report.

This task is approximately 8% complete.

5. Task 5 – Project Management

During the reporting period, DPR staff time was used to execute the task order with Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. to perform the field work described in the grant agreement. DPR staff coordinated with Ramona Municipal Water District (RMWD) to execute a right of entry permit to access the District's ponds, install exclusionary fencing and perform eradication efforts, as well as review the first quarter monitoring report. Consultant time was spent coordinating with DPR on task order execution, coordination with RMWD (Tasks 1 & 2) and DPR field staff (Task 2) and internal coordination between the construction team (Tasks 2) and the biological team (Task 1).

This task is approximately 2% complete.

Work Anticipated Next Period

Additional silt fencing will be installed at Ramona Grasslands along the western boundary of Pond 2 to keep bullfrogs from moving into Santa Maria Creek. Fencing will be installed December 23, 24 and 26. Eradication surveys will continue.

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).

During the first visit to Boulder Oaks in August 2024, the biologists were not able to access Pond 2 due to dense vegetation along the edge of the pond. During the September 2024 visit, the biologists focused efforts along the shoreline of Pond 2 due to dense reeds restricted access to the pond.

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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.



Picture 1: Female ready to spawn captured at Boulder Oaks Preserve (Task 1; September 2024).



Picture 2: Adult bullfrog with egg mass captured at Boulder Oaks Preserve (Task 1; September 2024).

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Picture 3: All bullfrogs eradicated from Pond 1 at Boulder Oaks Preserve (Task 1; August 2024).



Picture 4: All bullfrogs eradicated from Boulder Oaks Preserve (Task 1; September 2024).

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Figure 5: Biologist collecting stomach content information at Boulder Oaks (Task 1; August 2024).



Picture 6: All bullfrogs eradicated at Ramona Grasslands (Task 1/August 2024).

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Picture 7: Bullfrogs eradicated from Ramona Grasslands (Task 1/September 2024).



Figure 1. Exclusionary fencing along western fence line at Ramona Grasslands Pond 1.

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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

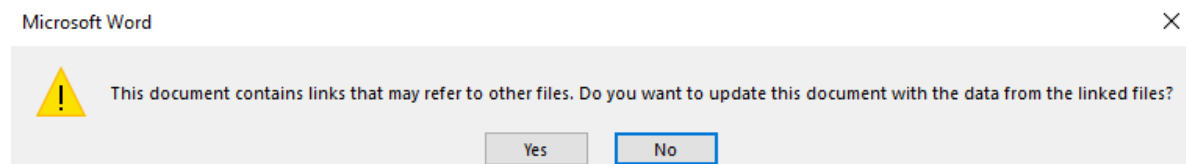
SANDAG will utilize the SANDAG Performance Measures to document compliance with the Project. Grantee's performance will be measured against the Performance Measures (Exhibit D) during the term of the project. More details on Performance Measures and Grant Recovery Plans are outlined in the Grant Agreements.

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)
 - 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.