



**CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE NINTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM
LAND MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM
THREAT REDUCTION STEWARDSHIP GRANT APPLICATION FORM**

Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials (hereafter referred to as "proposal") cannot exceed eight pages.

Applicant Name¹: City of San Diego, Park & Recreation Department, Open Space Division

Address: 202 C Street, 5th Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

Phone and Email Address: 619-235-5262, jwallen@sandiego.gov

Name of Property: Otay Mesa Open Space

General Location: Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa

Jurisdiction: City of San Diego

Total Acres: 280

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: Up to 26

Owner(s) of Property²: City of San Diego

Land manager(s) of property (*include name[s]*): Jason W. Allen, Senior Park Ranger

Brief Project Summary that includes your primary goal and objectives (200-word maximum)

The primary goal is to create, enhance and expand existing Coastal Sage scrub (CSS) habitat surrounding the vernal pools complex and western burrowing owl dens to act as a buffer from invasive plant species and to reduce sediment erosion into the vernal pools. The main objectives to reach these goals are 1) to perform brush removal and invasive weed control within the identified sites, and 2) plant CSS habitat appropriate plants in the upland areas around the vernal pools and within abandoned off-road scars; thereby enhancing existing Western Burrowing Owl foraging habitat. Contracted crews will be hired to perform initial and ongoing brush and weed clearing so that City staff can perform herbicide applications to control the weeds. Contracted labor will also be used to install CCS container plants and native cactus cuttings in the habitat enhancement sites. Contracted crews will also be used to install erosion control materials. Container plants, plant protectors and erosion control materials will be purchased from local or online vendors. City staff will oversee and manage the project.

¹ While collaboration is encouraged in the development of the grant proposal, the proposal must identify one organization as the lead entity that will enter into an Agreement with SANDAG.

² If the applicant is not the landowner, please submit a letter or right-of-entry permit from the land owner granting permission to perform the land management duties as outlined in the proposal. Failure to provide the letter or right-of-entry permit will lead to disqualification of the proposal. **Attached letter or right-of-entry permit (if applicable) does not count toward eight-page maximum.**

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)

- Coastal Sage Scrub habitat will be enhanced and expanded around the vernal pool/western burrowing owl habitat to allow for further foraging areas for the Western Burrowing Owls and act as an invasive weed and sediment buffer for the vernal pools.
- Degraded habitat that is currently dominated by nonnative forbs and grasses will be converted to high quality Coastal Sage Scrub.
- Wildfire impacts will be reduced by replacing flashy annual fuels with over 100 perennial cactus propagules and 500 CSS container plants.
- Intensive dethatching treatments will reduce thatch and thick nonnative brush cover by 95%.
- As needed herbicide treatments will reduce annual weed cover by 75%.

Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project (200-word maximum)

The City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Open Space Division, Open Space Canyons section has a full time Senior Park Ranger and three full time Park Ranger positions with 25 years of combined natural resource management experience. These four Rangers manage and patrol over 3,500 acres of open space areas throughout the City of San Diego geographical boundaries including Navajo Canyon and Chollas Radio Canyon Open Spaces. The Park Ranger staff will coordinate with the contractor to implement the project. The Open Space Canyons Senior Ranger also supervises three full time Pesticide Applicator positions that focus on weed management, herbicide application and habitat restoration. The Open Space Division also has two full time Biologists with 25+ years of combined biological monitoring experience who will evaluate the results. Contracted crews such as Alpha Project, Urban Corps, California Conservation Corps or American Conservation Experience will be used to complete these tasks as they all have experience working with City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Department Park Rangers on these types of projects.

Funding Needs Summary

Budget Item	Requested Funding Amount	Description
Personnel Expenses Staff	\$0	Includes staff time for non-administrative work on the project
Personnel Administrative Expenses	\$0	Includes all staff time to administer the contract
Consultant Expenses	\$75,000	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$5,000	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs ³	\$0	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$80,000	

³ Indirect Costs are only allowable if: (1) applicant has an indirect cost allocation plan audit approved by a qualified independent auditor or (2) the applicant’s proposed method for allocating indirect costs is submitted with the proposal in accordance with [OMB guidelines](#) and approved by SANDAG. Indirect costs will not be reimbursed until one of the two conditions above are satisfied and indirect cost allocation plans must be renewed annually. **The indirect cost methodology included with the application does not count toward eight-page maximum**

PROJECT PROPOSAL

The proposal will include (A) the purpose of the project, (B) the scope of work by tasks, (C) the proposed budget by task, and (D) a schedule for each task. Applicants must clearly identify their proposed tasks in the scope of work, funding requested for each task (please identify staff hours and cost separately from consultant costs), start and end dates of the tasks, and deliverables.

A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority Management Strategic Plan (MSP) species and their habitats. Refer to the MSP for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County.

The Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa vernal pools complex (J16-18) were identified by the adopted *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pools of Southern California* (USFWS 1998) as necessary to stabilize populations of the following endangered and threatened species: *E. aristulatum*, *P. nudiuscula*, *N. fossalis*, *O. californica*, *B. sandiegonensis*, and *S. woottoni*. The Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County (SDMMP) also lists other MSP species historically found onsite at Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa including *D. variagata*, *M. minimus*, *S. hammondii*, and *A. cunicularia*. Otay Mesa/Goat Mesa Open Space has also had recent recorded occurrences of Western Burrowing Owl, including a pair of owls observed using artificial burrows as recently as December 29, 2017.

2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat.

The vernal pools at the Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa complex (J16-18) and surrounding open space have suffered considerable off-road vehicle damage over the years and this damage has resulted in changes in hydrologic, flow patterns, and inundation characteristics that are threatening current populations of endangered and threatened species. Off-road vehicle activity in the Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa area has also contributed to the spread of invasive plants and degraded existing burrowing habitat adjacent to the vernal pools. While off-road activity has been significantly reduced in recent years through frequent ranger patrols and installation of fencing, the off-road scars have been slow to recover and invasive annual plants continue to spread and threaten these sensitive habitats.

The proposed project will enhance and expand existing vernal pool and Western Burrowing Owl habitat and reduce the threat of wildfire and invasive plant conversion by replacing areas of invasive flashy fuels with native CSS species in City of San Diego owned and dedicated/designated Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa Open Space. Contracted crews will be hired to perform brush and invasive weed clearing to remove the dead thatch so that City staff can perform multiple as needed herbicide applications to control the weeds in existing and newly planted cactus patches. Contracted crews will also install CSS container plants in areas that have been slow to recover from off-road damage. This project will build on past projects performed by City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Park Rangers that worked install over 6,000 feet of fencing to protect sensitive vernal pool habitat and restore some of the impacts from the illegal off-road vehicle use.

3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported.

The proposed habitat enhancement areas will be monitored by City Park Ranger or Biologist staff quarterly to evaluate project progress and determine maintenance needs. This includes one pre-project monitoring visit to document baseline conditions. Photo monitoring points will be established at five representative locations within the habitat enhancement areas and photos will be taken quarterly to visually determine the changes. A monitoring form will be completed at each photo point to record a visual estimate of percent cover for native and nonnative vegetation. In addition, the monitor will visually estimate percent survival of container plants from each photo point location.

Success criteria include:

- 1) Percent cover of thatch and dead standing biomass will be reduced by 95% within the enhancement areas.
- 2) Percent cover of weed species will be reduced by 75% within in the enhancement areas.
- 3) Collect and install up to 100 cactus cuttings and 500 container plants in degraded off-road scars.
- 4) At least 60% survival of container plants over 18 months.

Maintenance activities will be scheduled and performed as needed based on monitoring results.

Progress reports will be prepared quarterly following each monitoring visit. These quarterly reports will detail enhancement and/or maintenance activities performed during the reporting period as well as monitoring results, challenges or issues encountered, and recommendations for maintenance activities to be performed in the upcoming quarter. One final report will be prepared 18 months after the Notice to Proceed. The final report will summarize all enhancement, maintenance and monitoring activities performed over the course of the project and will include the results of the final monitoring visit.

4. Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation.

Short-term (18 months) success of this project will be determined based on achievement of the measurable success criteria noted above. These criteria are proven to be achievable as they are based the results and successes of past projects implemented by City of San Diego, Parks and Recreation Park Rangers that also focused on creating and enhancing Coastal Sage Scrub habitat in various open space sites throughout the City of San Diego.

Installation of cactus and container plants and implementation of weed management activities at these locations and at other City of San Diego conserved lands has proven to be successful in reducing flashy fuels and improving overall habitat quality. Furthermore, information provided in the Status Assessment and Conservation Plan for the Western Burrowing Owl in the United States (2003) by USFWS suggests that the best strategy for conservation of Western Burrowing Owl is to enhance and expand habitat by reducing habitat loss and fragmentation. Western Burrowing Owls were observed nesting in Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa in December 2017; therefore, habitat enhancement and expansion in these areas is likely to contribute to successful conservation of this species.

5. Any activities necessary to maintain the proposed project after the 18-month grant period have been identified and funding for those activities has been secured. Please explain what source of funding (if any) has been used to fund this activity in the past and what kind of funding is available to support this work in the future (if needed).

The Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa area is managed by the City of San Diego, Park and Recreation Department, Open Space Division, Open Space Canyons section and currently has a full time Senior Park Ranger and three full time Park

Ranger positions with 25 years of combined natural resource management experience. The Open Space Canyons Senior Ranger also supervises three full time Pesticide Applicator positions that focus on weed management, herbicide application and habitat restoration on conserved Open Space lands. To ensure long term success, routine patrols and monitoring will be conducted by City Park Ranger, Pesticide Applicator and/or City Biologist staff indefinitely to evaluate the success of the project, monitor weeds and any other maintenance issues, and to perform maintenance as needed.

6. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area. Where is the project located? (Attach a map)

The proposed habitat enhancement areas are located on City of San Diego Open Space land in the Spring Canyon/Goat Mesa areas of Otay Mesa. They are within the City of San Diego's Multi-Habitat Planning Area of the City's MSCP or within dedicated or designated Parks and Recreation Department Open Space land and will not be developed. The enhancement areas are within the MSP Management Unit 3. See attached map.

B. Scope of Work by Task

Please break down the proposal into discrete tasks and include a task name, description of each task, quantifiable expected results, and discrete deliverables for each task. *Note: make sure to list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed.*

Exhibit A – Proposed Project Scope of Work

Task No.	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1	Implementation	Thatch/brush removal, install erosion control materials, initial weed control treatments, and cactus and CCS container planting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent cover of thatch and dead standing biomass will be reduced by 95% within the enhancement areas. Percent cover of weed species will be reduced by 75% within in the enhancement areas. Install up to 100 cactus cuttings and 500 CCS container plants in enhancement areas. At least 60% survival of container plants is expected over 18 months.
2	Monitoring	Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Six quarterly monitoring visits will be conducted throughout the 18 month project timeline to evaluate project progress and determine maintenance needs. This includes one pre-project monitoring visit to document baseline conditions.
3	Maintenance	As-needed maintenance (includes follow up weed control, supplemental irrigation, trash removal, access control/ sign installation, and repairs of erosion control materials)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance activities will be scheduled as needed based on qualitative monitoring results. A minimum of three maintenance visits will be conducted.
4	Quarterly Reports	Prepare quarterly reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five progress reports will be prepared quarterly following each monitoring visit. The quarterly reports will detail enhancement and/or maintenance activities performed during the reporting period as well as monitoring results.

5	Final Report	Prepare final report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One final report will be prepared 18 months after the Notice to Proceed. The final report will summarize all enhancement, maintenance and monitoring activities performed over the course of the project and will include the results of the final monitoring visit.
6	Administrative	Project management, consultant coordination and invoice preparation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoices will be submitted quarterly along with quarterly and final reports.

C. Budget by Task

Please include a specific budget for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). *This funding category is intended to fund short-term threat reduction projects in need of one-time funding necessary to fill existing funding gaps for specific tasks and will not cover on-going annual costs within applicant's organization.*

Exhibit B – Proposed Project Budget

Task No.	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Implementation	\$65,000
2	Maintenance	\$15,000
3	Monitoring	\$0
4	Quarterly Reports	\$0
5	Final Report	\$0
6	Administrative	\$0
Subtotal		\$80,000
Indirect Cost (__%)		\$0
TOTAL		\$80,000

D. Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (NTP) (Fall 2018) for each task described in the Scope of Work (Section B above). Please list tasks for quarterly reporting on the status of the grant project and a final report on the outcome of the grant project. You may add or subtract rows as needed. *All tasks must be completed within 18 months of the NTP.*

Exhibit C – Proposed Project Schedule
(Assumes Fall 2018 Notice to Proceed [NTP])

Task No.	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Implementation	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	05/30/2020
2	Maintenance	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	05/30/2020
3	Monitoring	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	05/30/2020
4	Quarterly Reports	"3" Months from NTP	"15" Months	05/30/2020
5	Final Report	"17" Months from NTP	"1" Months	05/30/2020
6	Administrative	"1" Months from NTP	"18" Months	05/30/2020

Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond Fall 2018 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

I do not foresee any problems unless the City Council resolution takes a long time to get approved or the City's Purchasing and Contracting Department is held up approving the Purchase Order for contracted crews to begin work or to purchase the CSS container plants, plant protectors or erosion control supplies. If this was to occur potentially 3 to 6 months of additional time would be needed.

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG's Environmental Mitigation Program (EMP) Land Management Grant Program projects are funded with *TransNet* revenues consistent with the *TransNet* Extension Ordinance adopted by the voters in November 2004 (SANDAG Ordinance 04-01). Although SANDAG Ordinance 04-01 does not require payment of prevailing wages, California law may require that public works projects pay prevailing wages for workers.

Applicant acknowledges that SANDAG has strongly encouraged Applicant to seek legal counsel regarding whether the Proposed Project will require applicant to pay prevailing wages and agrees that SANDAG will have no liability for conducting this analysis. Yes No

Applicant acknowledges that if awarded an EMP Land Management Grant, the grant agreement between SANDAG and the grantee requires grantee's compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and ordinances applicable to the Agreement. Yes No

REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- Yes No The applicant has read and understands the Sample Grant Agreement (Agreement) and Invoice Template (Attachment 4).
- Yes No If the SANDAG Board of Directors approves the proposed project proposal, the proposed applicant agrees to sign and return the Agreement to SANDAG, without exceptions or amendments, within 45 days of receipt.
- Yes No The applicant agrees to comply with SANDAG's Board Policy No. 035, Competitive Grant Program Procedures, which outlines "Use-it-or-lose-it" project milestone and completion deadlines. Board Policy No. 035 is included in the Agreement, and also is on SANDAG's website at the following link: sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- Yes No The applicant understands that 10 percent of all invoices will be retained until the completion of the proposed project.
- Yes No The applicant understands that all invoices must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds and payment will not be made by SANDAG until all documents are satisfactorily submitted.
- Yes No The applicant understands that invoices and reports must be submitted on a quarterly basis within three weeks after the period covering January 1 to March 31; within three weeks after the period covering April 1 to June 30; within three weeks after the period covering July 1 to September 30; and within three weeks after the period covering October 1 to December 31.
- Yes No The applicant understands that the EMP quarterly report template (to be sent to the grantee after NTP is issued) must be used to document quarterly progress and that invoices with errors will be returned to the grantee for correction prior to being processed by SANDAG staff.
- Yes No The applicant understands that the final invoice must be accompanied by written, documented support of the charges for requested reimbursement of grant funds; a final report (prepared in accordance with the final report template to be sent to grantee after NTP is issued); and all outstanding deliverables in order to receive final payment and have retained funds released.
- Yes No The applicant understands that to be considered eligible for funding, a resolution complying with the requirements of Board Policy No. 035, Section 4.1, must be submitted to SANDAG at least *two weeks* prior to the recommendation by the Regional Planning Committee of the list of prioritized project proposals. SANDAG will provide applicants with advance notice of the Regional Planning Committee's anticipated meeting date.
- Yes No The applicant agrees to submit all project data/information to SANDAG in a format compatible with the regional management database.

I have the authorization to submit this proposal (Grant Application Form and required supplementary materials) on behalf of my organization.








Herman D. Parker / Director of Parks and Recreation Department

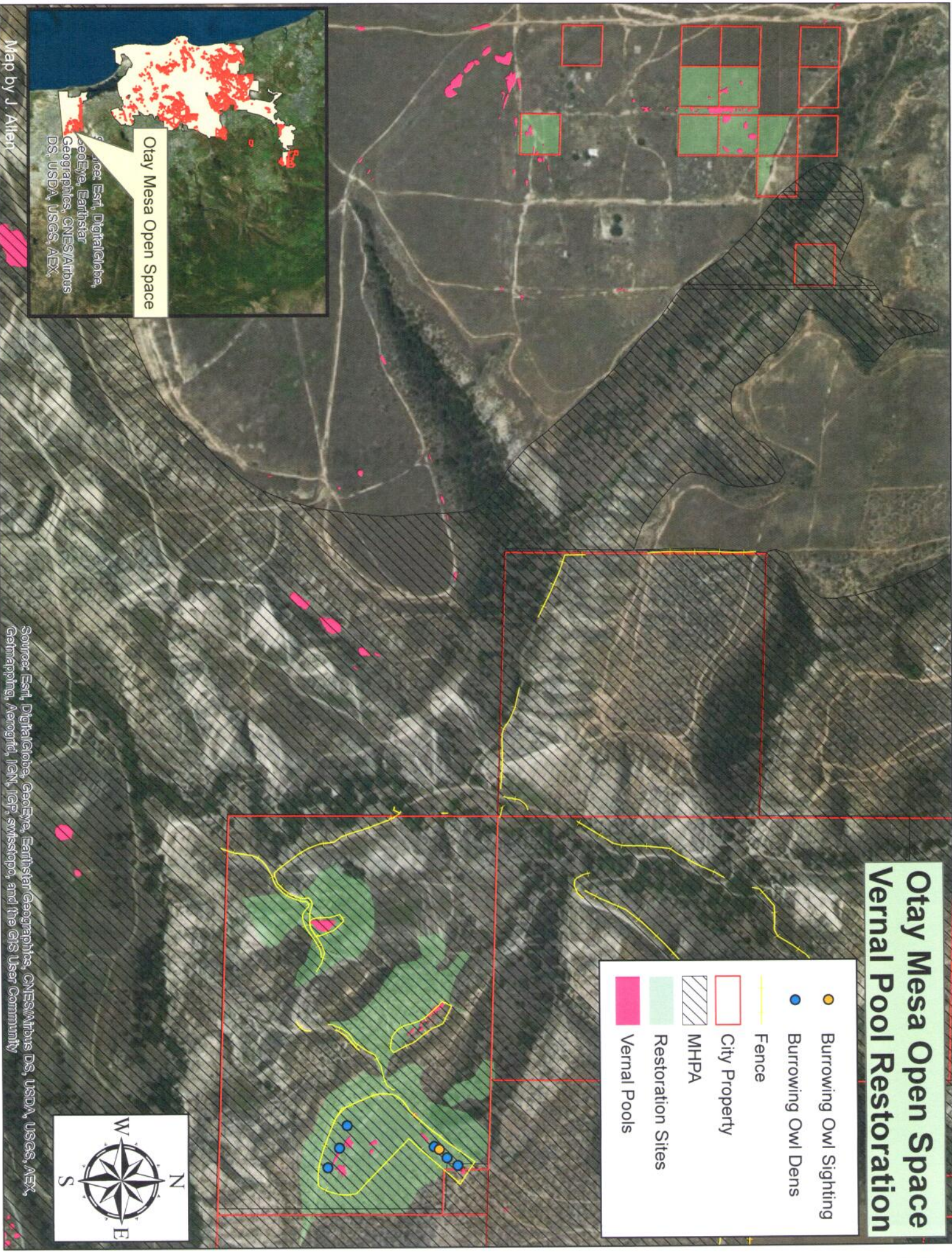
Applicant Name/Title (print or type)


Applicant Signature

1/12/18
Date

Otay Mesa Open Space Vernal Pool Restoration

-  Burrowing Owl Sighting
-  Burrowing Owl Dens
-  Fence
-  City Property
-  MHPA
-  Restoration Sites
-  Vernal Pools



Map by J. Allen



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AEX, Gmapping, AeroGRID, IGN, IGP, swisstopo, and the GIS User Community

