



Development Services Department

Advance Planning Division

June 10, 2016

Ms. Sarah Pierce
SANDAG
401 B Street, Suite 800
San Diego, CA 92101-4231

SUBJECT: Grant Proposal for FY 2016 Land Management Funding

Dear Ms. Pierce:

The City of Chula Vista is pleased to submit the attached grant proposal to the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) requesting your organization's support of a land management program focused on increasing the quality of habitat and improve connectivity for the coastal cactus wren (MSP Category SO [Significant occurrence(s) at risk of loss from MSPA]) along Salt Creek through shrub thinning of up to 6 acres within suitable wren habitat. This program addresses the immediate needs of cactus wren within Salt Creek where loss and degradation of existing wren habitat has occurred due to vegetation succession processes, an increase of invasive plants, unauthorized off-road vehicle use, and drought. Activities included in this short-term program include shrub thinning, pre-implementation focused cactus wren monitoring, and photographic monitoring. The methodologies used in this proposal are similar to those used to successfully restore 27 acres of low-quality cactus wren habitat located in Wolf Canyon, 9 acres in Rice Canyon (EMP Grant #5001130), and 15 acres in lower Salt Creek (EMP Grant #5001970).

The proposed project implements specific SDMMMP MSP MU3 goals and objectives for cactus wren populations by increasing coast cholla patch quality within Salt Creek. The population of coastal cactus wrens within Salt Creek is part of the Otay River genetic cluster which is a core population and high priority for management. This project is consistent with the management efforts and goals and objectives prescribed in SDMMMPs Management Strategic Plan (MSP Vol. 2, Table 2-2.9), the South San Diego County Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Conservation Management Plan, and the ongoing efforts promoted through the ad-hoc "cactus wren recovery team" comprised of representatives from each of the Southern California coastal counties, Wildlife Agencies, and science advisory groups. Shrub thinning locations will be coordinated with SDMMMP/USGS Program Biologist Dr. Kristine Preston.

The City will contribute to the project through the use of in-kind resources, more specifically, through the use of City staff time. City staff will be utilized to implement the proposed project, public outreach, and to administer consultant contracts. A total of \$1,300 of matching funds will be provided.

If you have questions regarding the City's proposal, or require additional information, please contact me at (619) 476-2329.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Goddard
Senior Planner

Enclosure:

- 2016 Grant Application Form (hard copy); electronic copy e-mailed to SANDAG on 06/10/16



CALL FOR PROJECTS FOR THE EIGHTH CYCLE OF THE
TransNet ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION PROGRAM (EMP)
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 (8) pages

Applicant Name1: City of Chula Vista

Address: 276 Fourth Avenue, Chula Vista , CA 91910

Phone and Email Address: (619) 476-2329 / cgoddard@chulavistaca.gov

Name of Property: Otay Ranch Preserve Management Area (PMA)

General Location: Salt Creek (MSP MU3)

Jurisdiction: City of Chula Vista

Total Acres: 2,742 acres (the portion of Otay Ranch PMA within Chula Vista)

Estimated Acres Requiring Management: 6 acres

Owner(s) of Property2: City of Chula Vista

Land manager(s) of property (include name(s)): The Otay Ranch PMA is jointly managed by the City of Chula Vista and County of San Diego as the Preserve/Owner Manger.

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

The goal of the project is to increase the quality of habitat and improve connectivity for the coastal cactus wren (MSP Category SO [Significant occurrence(s) at risk of loss from MSPA]) along Salt Creek through shrub thinning within suitable wren habitat. This program addresses the immediate needs of cactus wren within Salt Creek where loss and degradation of existing wren habitat has occurred due to vegetation succession processes, an increase of invasive plants, unauthorized off-road vehicle use, and drought. Activities included in this short-term program include shrub thinning, pre-implementation focused cactus wren monitoring, and photographic monitoring. The methodologies used in this proposal are similar to those used to successfully restore 27 acres of low-quality cactus wren habitat located in Wolf Canyon, 9 acres in Rice Canyon (EMP Grant #5001130), and 15 acres in lower Salt Creek (EMP Grant #5001970). This project is consistent with the management efforts and goals and objectives prescribed in SDMMPS Management Strategic Plan (MSP Vol. 2, Table 2-2.9) and the South San Diego County Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Conservation and Management Plan, and ongoing efforts promoted through the ad-hoc "cactus wren recovery team" comprised of representatives from the Wildlife Agencies, and science advisory groups.

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 (8) page maximum.

Quantify Expected Results (add bullets as necessary)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thin shrubs within up to 6 acres of suitable habitat for coastal cactus wrens along Salt Creek (Otay Ranch Preserve – Salt Creek Parcels) • Reduce the risk of cactus wren habitat loss from fires • Improve connectivity within an existing avian wildlife corridor by complementing similar coastal cactus wren projects in the vicinity: County of San Diego (EMP Grant), City of Chula Vista (EMP Grant), Caltrans (Johnson Canyon Mitigation Site)
Brief Description of dedicated staff and/or consultants that would work on Project (200-word maximum)
Chula Vista MSCP staff will administer the overall implementation of the project in accordance with the terms and conditions specified in SANDAG's standard contract. A qualified biological consultant, familiar with the Chula Vista Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) Subarea Plan, Otay Ranch Resource Management Plan, and the SDMMMP MSP will be retained by the City to perform the shrub thinning activities described in Exhibit A of this proposal. To be considered for this project, prospective biological consultants shall demonstrate to City MSCP staff under the direct oversight of the City's Development Services Director that they possess the necessary biological technical services to successfully implement the City's coastal cactus wren shrub thinning project detailed in Exhibit A of this grant proposal.

Funding Needs Summary

Please indicate how much funding is being requested from SANDAG:

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	\$49,972	Includes all costs for consultant services
Other Direct Expenses	\$0	Includes all equipment, supplies, mileage, etc.
Indirect Costs ³	\$0	All indirect charges (e.g., overhead) on the project, if any.
Totals	\$49,972	

*if applicable

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. **Applicants are encouraged to identify phasing and prioritization of tasks in their proposal in case full funding for the project is not available.**

A. Project Purpose

Please describe how the proposed project meets the following criteria:

1. The proposed project addresses a high-priority MSP species and their habitats. Refer to the Management Strategic Plan for Conserved Lands in Western San Diego County (MSP). The City is proposing to implement an 18 month species-specific management program focused on thinning shrubs within up to 6 acres of degraded habitat for the coastal cactus wren, a Covered Species under the City's MSCP Subarea Plan and a listed MSP sensitive species (Category SO). This program

³ Indirect Costs are only allowable if: (1) applicant has an indirect cost allocation 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.

addresses the immediate needs of the coastal cactus wren within Salt Creek where loss and degradation of existing coastal cactus wren habitat has occurred due to vegetation succession processes, an increase of invasive plant species, unauthorized off-road vehicle use, drought, and historical cattle grazing. The proposed project implements specific SDMMP MSP MU3 goals and objectives for cactus wren populations by increasing coast cholla patch quality within Salt Creek. The population of coastal cactus wrens within Salt Creek is part of the Otay River genetic cluster which is a core population and high priority for management. This project is consistent with the management efforts and goals and objectives prescribed in SDMMPs Management Strategic Plan (MSP Vol. 2, Table 2-2.9), the South San Diego County Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Conservation Management Plan, and the ongoing efforts promoted through the ad-hoc "cactus wren recovery team" comprised of representatives from each of the Southern California coastal counties, Wildlife Agencies, and science advisory groups. Shrub thinning locations will be coordinated with SDMMP/USGS Program Biologist Dr. Kristine Preston.

2. The proposed project will address an urgent need and includes actions that will reduce or manage an identified threat. Shrub crowding has been identified as a reason for cactus wren declines in the South San Diego County Coastal Cactus Wren Habitat Conservation Management Plan. In areas where shrub crowding exceeds 25 percent, cactus wrens cease using these areas for their territories. Between 2009 and 2014 there has been a rapid decline in the number of cactus wren territories at Salt Creek. This proposed shrub thinning program will meet the immediate need to reverse the trend of shrub overtopping that has contributed to the decline of wrens at Salt Creek. At Salt Creek, native shrubs such as California sagebrush and lemonadeberry are outcompeting cholla and are dominating areas formerly occupied by coast cholla. These native shrubs may increase the intensity of future fires around coast cholla patches. If fires are of sufficient heat intensity, coast chollas may be killed or severely damaged. If that occurs, recovery of the coast cholla patches may not be possible or will take many years without management intervention. After the 2003 and 2007 wildfires, regional populations of coastal cactus wrens have severely declined due to lack of suitable nesting and foraging habitat. Shrub thinning will remove biomass that will reduce the risk of fire. Selected shrubs will be cut and removed around existing cholla patches of nesting size to reduce fire risk and to increase openings in maritime succulent scrub habitat for use by foraging cactus wren and other wildlife.
3. Success criteria have been identified and will be monitored and reported. The scope of work for this project includes pre-implementation monitoring such as delineation of the areas for shrub thinning both as GIS data/map and in the field. Survey data collected between 2010, 2015, and 2016 will be used to establish baseline conditions for coastal cactus wren. Focused coastal cactus wren surveys will be performed prior to implementation to assess wildlife use of the sites. In addition, repeat photos will be taken prior to implementation and throughout the duration of this short-term program to provide a visual record of changes in the density and distribution of coast cholla patches.

The sites will be monitored and reported on over an 18-month period. Monitoring activities that will be performed over the 18-month program include: pre-implementation focused cactus wren surveys and repeat photographs from the established photo point locations. Monitoring and management data will be submitted to the SC-MTX website portal.

4. Success of the proposed project is likely with clear, measurable, proven results that will promote conservation. The proposed project implements specific SDMMP MSP MU3 goals and objectives for cactus wren populations by increasing coast cholla patch quality within Salt Creek. This will be accomplished through the selective thinning of native shrubs that are directly competing with coast cholla to the detriment of cactus wren populations. Focused surveys for the coastal cactus wren will be conducted prior to implementation to assess wildlife use of the shrub thinning areas. Repeat photographs will be taken to provide a visual record of changes in the density and distribution of coast cholla patches. The consulting biologist will collect the data and will have experience in coastal cactus wren monitoring.

To ensure no negative effects to coastal cactus wren occur, all shrub thinning will be done outside of the breeding season (i.e., February 15th through August 15th). Additionally, the project biologist will clearly flag shrubs intended for removal prior to implementation and will monitor the thinning work to minimize impacts to adjacent sensitive species and vegetation communities.

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. Following the 18-month short-term program, long-term management of the site will be the responsibility of the Otay Ranch Preserve/Owner Manger (POM). Funding for the long-term maintenance is secured through an existing Community Facilities District (CFD).

6. To be eligible for funding, the proposed project must be on lands conserved for native habitat within the MSP area (MSPA). Where is the project located? Attach a map. The proposed project is located within MU3 (see Figure 1). Figure 1 also identifies the location of the areas associated with previous EMP grant efforts relative to the potential shrub thinning locations proposed through this grant proposal. It is important to note that there will be no overlap or duplicative efforts expended between this new proposal and previously approved EMP grants. The combined results of these efforts are essential for the prolongation of the coastal cactus wren populations and would reduce the risk of potential extirpation of this species.

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 #	Task Name	Task Description	Quantifiable Results/Deliverables
1	Field Assessment (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	Prior to implementation, the project biologist shall conduct a field assessment within the project area to confirm areas best suited for shrub thinning. Areas best suited for shrub thinning are areas with high shrub cover located adjacent to existing nesting size coast cholla patches.	The results of the pre-implementation monitoring will be used in the site selection process to thin shrubs from as much cactus wren habitat as possible with the available funding.
2	Photo Monitoring (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	Prior to implementation, permanent photo points will be established at each shrub thinning area to document shrub thinning efforts. Photos will be taken from the established photo points to provide a visual record of changes in the density and distribution of shrubs and coast cholla patches.	The results of the pre-implementation photo monitoring will be used as a visual baseline to compare to the site conditions the end of the shrub thinning program.
3	Cactus Wren Survey (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	Prior to initiating shrub thinning activities, a qualified biologist will determine which habitat patches are occupied by coastal cactus wrens in the specific habitat patches identified for shrub thinning. Locations of wrens and their nests will be recorded using a GPS.	The results of the pre-implementation survey will provide a baseline condition to compare to the cactus wren usage in the future.
4	Shrub Thinning	Based on the results of the pre-implementation monitoring, shrub thinning shall occur in areas dominated by native shrubs where appropriate. Cut material will be piled up and composted on site.	Shrub thinning will remove biomass that will reduce the risk of fire.
5	Photo Monitoring	Photos will be taken from the established photo points after shrub thinning has been completed to provide a visual record of changes in the density and distribution of both native and non-native plants.	Photo monitoring will be used to compare site conditions throughout the duration of the shrub thinning program.
6	Quarterly Reports	Quarterly progress reports will be prepared and submitted to SANDAG to document shrub thinning activities.	Three quarterly progress reports will be submitted that provide a status update for each task performed. The quarterly reports will cover the following periods: January 1 to March 31; April 1 to June 30; July 1 to September 30; October 1 to December 31. The reports will be submitted to SANDAG within three weeks after each period.
7	Final Report	The Final Report will summarize shrub thinning efforts and monitoring results (Final Report will also serve as the fourth quarterly progress report). The report will include future management recommendations.	The Final Report will be prepared summarizing the results of the shrub thinning and monitoring tasks performed. The Final Report will include representative photos of the work performed. Monitoring and management data will be submitted to the SC-MTX website portal.
"n"	City of Chula Vista Administrative	City of Chula Vista Administration tasks will include a variety of coordination and administration tasks to be completed by the City of Chula Vista throughout the duration of the project.	Matching funds will be used to: Update the City's MSCP web page; Participate in local community group meetings; Provide a presentation to the neighboring High Tech High Chula Vista, an environmentally focused charter school located adjacent to Salt Creek Canyon; Oversee the biological contractor; Review and submit quarterly reports; Contract administration/invoice review.

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 #	Task Name	Grant Request
1	Field Assessment (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	\$760
2	Photo Monitoring (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	\$760
3	Cactus Wren Survey (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	\$1,062
4	Shrub Thinning	\$38,552
5	Photo Monitoring	\$760
6	Quarterly Reports	\$2,020
7	Final Report	\$6,058
"n"	City of Chula Vista Administrative	\$1,300
	Sub Total	\$49,972
	Indirect Cost (_%)	\$0
	TOTAL	\$51,272

D. Project Schedule

Please include start and end dates relative to the anticipated Notice to Proceed (assumes winter 2016-2017) 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 Notice to Proceed (NTP).**

Exhibit C - Proposed Project Schedule (Assumes winter 2016-2017 NTP)

Task #	Task Name	Proposed Start Date	Months Needed to Complete Task	Task End Date
1	Field Assessment (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	01/01/2016	1 Month	02/01/2017
2	Photo Monitoring (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	01/01/2016	1 Month	02/01/2017
3	Cactus Wren Survey (Pre-implementation Monitoring)	01/01/2016	1 Month	02/01/2017
4	Shrub Thinning	02/01/2017	13 Months	03/14/2018
5	Photo Monitoring	02/01/2017	16 Months	06/01/2018
6	Quarterly Reports	05/01/2017	15 Months	05/21/2018
7	Final Report	06/01/2018	1 Month	07/01/2018
"n"	City of Chula Vista Administrative	01/01/2016	18 Months	07/01/2018

Note: Please explain why and how much additional time would be needed in the event of any delays due to NTP being provided beyond winter 2016-2017 and/or unexpected weather conditions such as drought that could occur during the proposed project implementation.

NOTICE REGARDING PREVAILING WAGES

SANDAG's 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

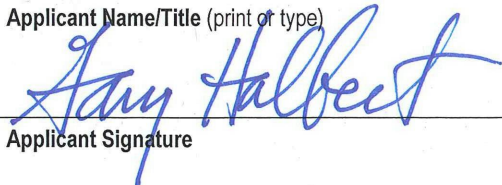
REQUIRED STATEMENTS FROM APPLICANT

- 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 is also on SANDAG's website at the following link: http://www.sandag.org/organization/about/pubs/policy_035.pdf
- Yes No The applicant understands that ten percent (10%) 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.

Gary Halbert, City Manager

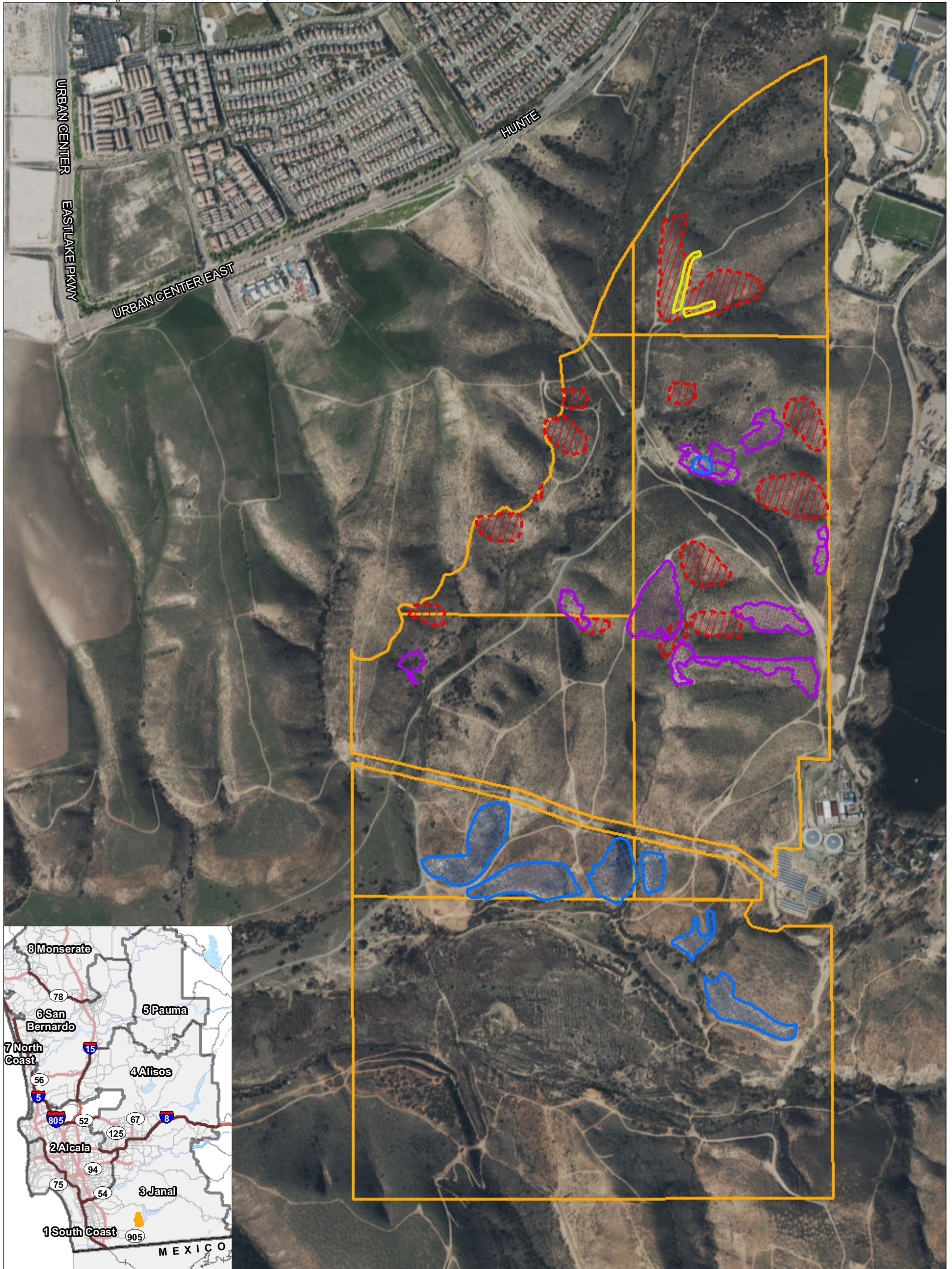
Applicant Name/Title (print or type)




06/09/16


Applicant Signature

Date




 Otay Ranch Preserve – Salt Creek Parcels


Eight Cycle TransNet EMP Grant

 Potential Shrub Thinning Areas: Not Previously Funded by TransNet

Current Efforts Funded by TransNet (Not Part of This Proposal)

 Otay River Valley and Salt Creek Cactus Wren 3 Project (City of Chula Vista EMP Grant 5004731; ending fall 2018)

Previous Efforts Funded by TransNet (Not Part of This Proposal)

 Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Area (City of Chula Vista EMP Grant 5001970; ended summer 2015)

 Cactus Wren Habitat Restoration Area (County of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department EMP Grant; ended summer 2014)

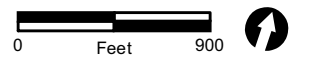


FIGURE 1

Potential Shrub Thinning Areas, Otay Ranch Preserve - Salt Creek Parcels