



**Return of the Natives Restoration Education Project /Watershed Institute
University Corporation at Monterey Bay
100 Campus Center, Seaside, CA 93955**

August 1, 2016

To: Bruce Joab, Coordinator
Environmental Enhancement Fund
CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife
Office of Spill Prevention
1700 K Street, Suite 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

From: Cindy Lopez, Director, Grants and Contracts
Laura Lee Lienk, Director, Return of the Natives

RE: April 1, 2016-June 30 Quarterly and Final Report for Sponsor Award
P1575006

This letter is in regards to the project “RON: Community Based Habitat Restoration on the Ft. Ord Dunes State Park Aids Coastal Species” The report highlights project events related to the following 5 objectives:

Objective #1. Restore 2 acre of dune habitat on the Fort Ord Dunes State Park for wildlife recovery..

Work to date: Restoration Planting—cited below has taken place January through March 2016

Objective #2. Propagate and out plant 2,000 site-specific native dune plants such as two species of buckwheat (Eriogonum latifolium and Eriogonum parvifolium),coyote bush, buckwheat, beach sagewort, mock heather and seaside daisy.

Return of the Natives Planting at Fort Ord Dunes State Park -							
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Winter 2016							
	1/23/2016	3/3/2016	3/15/2016	3/17/2016	3/18/2016	3/31/2016	
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	196	10		1			
<i>Corethrogyne filanginifolia</i>	98	24	51	47			
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>		95	129	196	207	196	
<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>	294	122	149	341	286	294	Total
	588	251	329	585	493	490	2736
	Public staff/Vols.	School	Staff/Vols	Staff/Corp. Vols	School	Public Staff/Vols.	
	7/61	7/65	6/15	6/8	6/54	3/8	
<i>*All plant sizes were either Super Cell or Stubby Cell (Cones)</i>							
Remaining Plants...							
<i>Erigeron glaucus</i>	98						
<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>	196						
	294						

Objective #3. Involve- 220 local school students from Marina and Seaside in native plant propagation and out planting on the FODSP. Students will learn about Return of the Natives, native plants and habitat restoration in their classroom, while sowing native plant seeds and visiting the park on a field trip to plant their natives before winter rains.

School planting events took place on the following dates:

March 3, 2016 Los Arboles Middle School 65 students

March 18, 2016 MLK Elementary School 54 students

Total 119 students

March 11, 2016 which was to include LaMesa and Monte Vista Elementary Schools was cancelled because of heavy rains. Each of these schools was to have brought about 60 students. As a result our total number of students is below our anticipated level.

It should be noted that each of the 8 classrooms who participated (or were rained out) in the field trip received a 45 minute classroom orientation—“Cycle of Habitat Restoration” in the Fall of 2015

To make up for the cancelled student planting on March 11, 2016 RON conducted two additional community volunteer plantings as noted in Objective #4 below.

Objective #4. Annually host one (1) Saturday public planting event in the park with volunteers from the neighboring cities of Marina, Seaside, and Monterey, as well as, the student and staff community from CSU Monterey Bay. 50 volunteers to attend event.

Saturday, Jan 23, 2016 from 10am-1 pm. A wonderful Saturday event. We had 61 volunteers and 7 RON staff in attendance in spite of a stiff wind and one torrential downpour that lasted only 10 minutes. We were able to plant 588 native plants

To make up for the cancelled (due to heavy rains) school field trip, Return of the Natives scheduled addition volunteer planting days to ensure that plants were planted:

Tuesday, March 15, 2016 and Thursday, March 17, 2016 two groups of Return of the Natives' adult volunteers, the RON's DONS (Docents of Native Species) and volunteers from Keurig Green Mt Coffee Roasters 21 people total planted 329 natives

Thursday, March 31, 2016 9:30-12:30 a group of CSUMB student service learners and RON student assistants in what is to be the last planting of the season on the site out-planted 490 natives

Objective #5. Two twenty-five (25) meter square monitoring sites will be established, with 25 randomly selected recently-planted natives marked with pvc stakes).

Two monitoring sites, 25 meter square, were installed in April 2016 on areas planted on 1/23/2016, 3/15/2016 and 3/17/2016. RON staff revisited these sites on 7/7/2016 and found the following survivability.

Plot A 13/16 plants found to be alive for a survivability of 81%

Plot B 24/25 plants found to be alive for a survivability of 96%

We believe that these high rates of survivability may be due to the fact that the plants were planted in crispy dead iceplant. The dead iceplant provides a

windbreak, a mulch to prevent drying, and a barrier preventing establishment of invasive weeds.

Attached to this report, are copies of the data sheets listing plants planted as well as the monitoring data.

Questions regarding contract elements of this project can be addressed to Peggy Rueda, Grants Specialist, [REDACTED].

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura Lee Lienk".

Laura Lee Lienk, RON Director