

Pechanga Environmental Department (PED)

# AUDIE MURPHY RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

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FALL TRIBAL COORDINATION MEETING

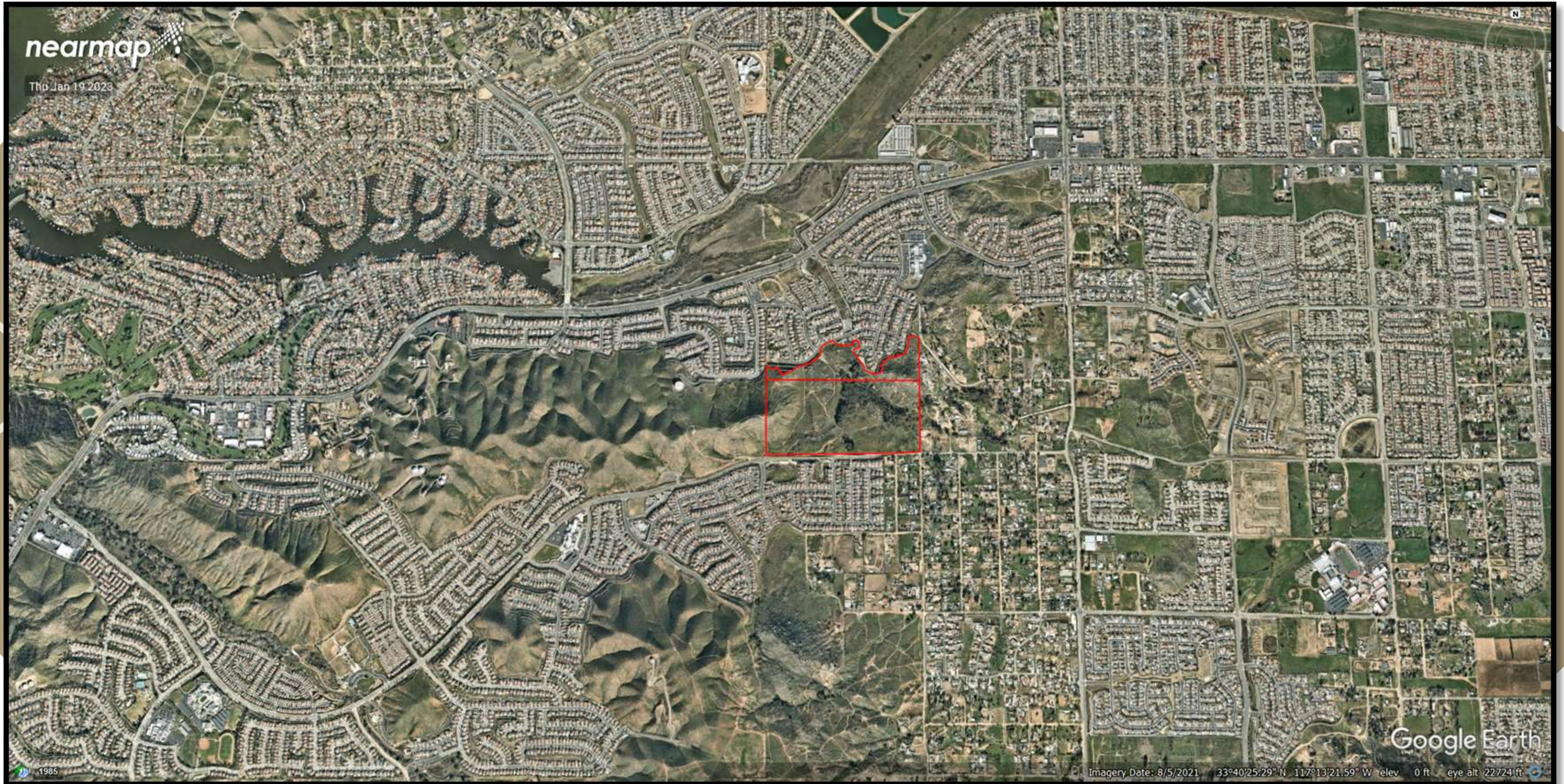


**Grant**  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Tribal Wildlife

**Grantee**  
Pechanga Band of Indians

**November 7th 2024**

# AUDIE MURPHY PROJECT SITE



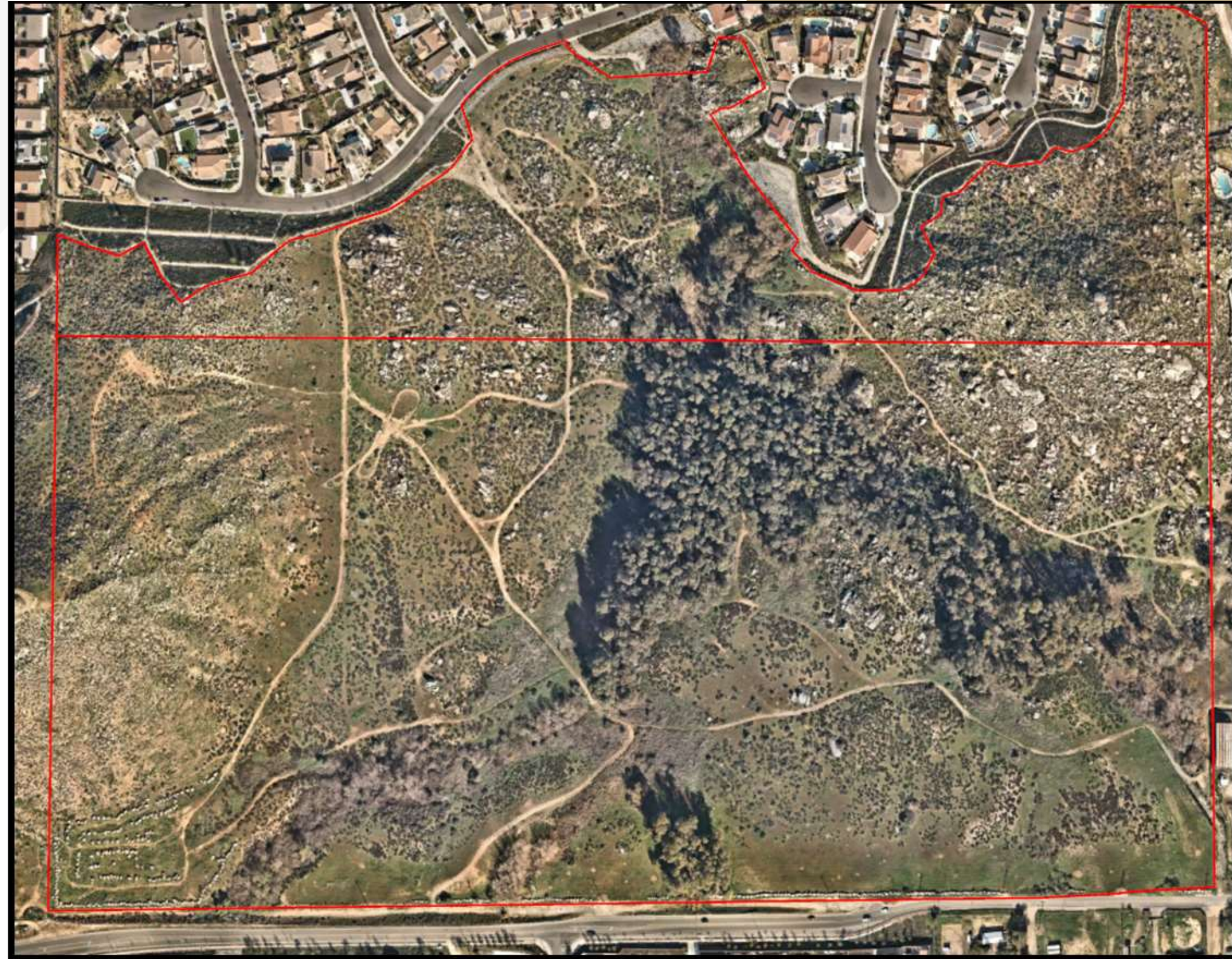
# AUDIE MURPHY PROJECT

## ALL ABOUT PARTNERSHIPS!

- USFWS
- CAL FISH AND WILDLIFE
- SAN DIEGO ZOO WILDLIFE ALLIANCE
- UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

## OVERVIEW OF PROJECT...

- BASELINE ASSESSMENT
  - WESTERN POND TURTLE
  - WESTERN BURROWING OWL
- HABITAT RESTORATION
- INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL
- NATIVE SPECIES PLANTING
- COMMUNITY OUTREACH
- OPPORTUNITIES



# TURTLE

## SOUTHWESTERN POND TURTLE (SWPT) *ACTINEMYS PALLIDA*



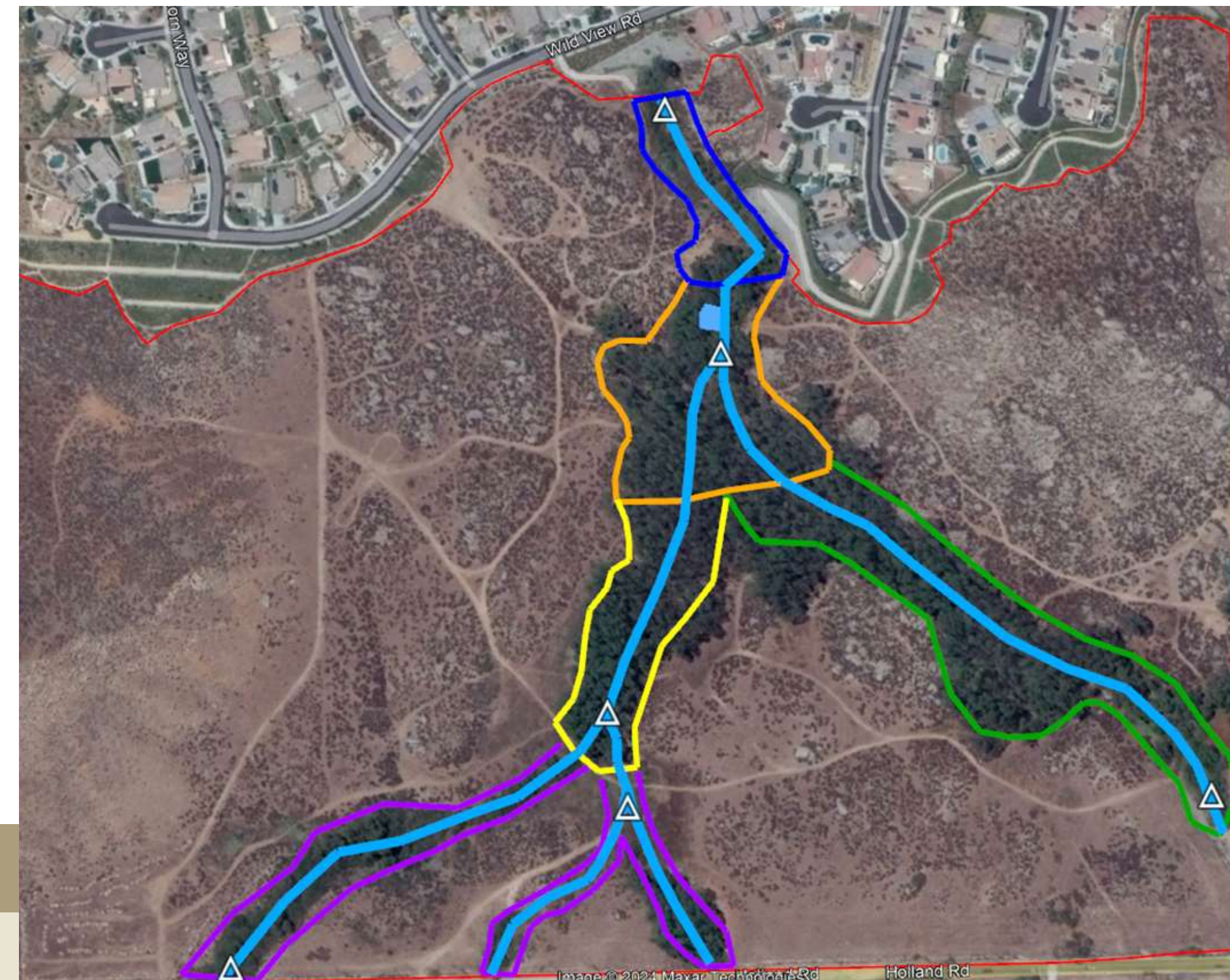
### \* Culturally significant species

### \* Contractor

- Performed protocol-level surveys to locate SWPT and assess habitat suitability
  - The habitat conditions at the site are conducive to supporting the needs of SWPT
  - Has both needed habitats, Wetland and Upland Coastal Shrub
- No SWPT were detected during the surveys.
- Removal of the river red gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is top priority for restoration efforts.



# MAP OF POTENTIAL HABITAT FOR SWPT



- Reach A (1.6 Acres)
- Reach B (3.7 Acres) \*
- Reach C (4.8 Acres) \*
- Reach D ( 2.4 Acres)
- Reach E (2.3 Acres)
- Reach F (1.5 Acres)
- Drainage, Ponding Area

# OWL

## WESTERN BURROWING OWL *ATHENE CUNICULARIA HYPUGAEA*



Image Credit: San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research.

\* Culturally significant species

\* PED conducted extensive field surveys and population monitoring

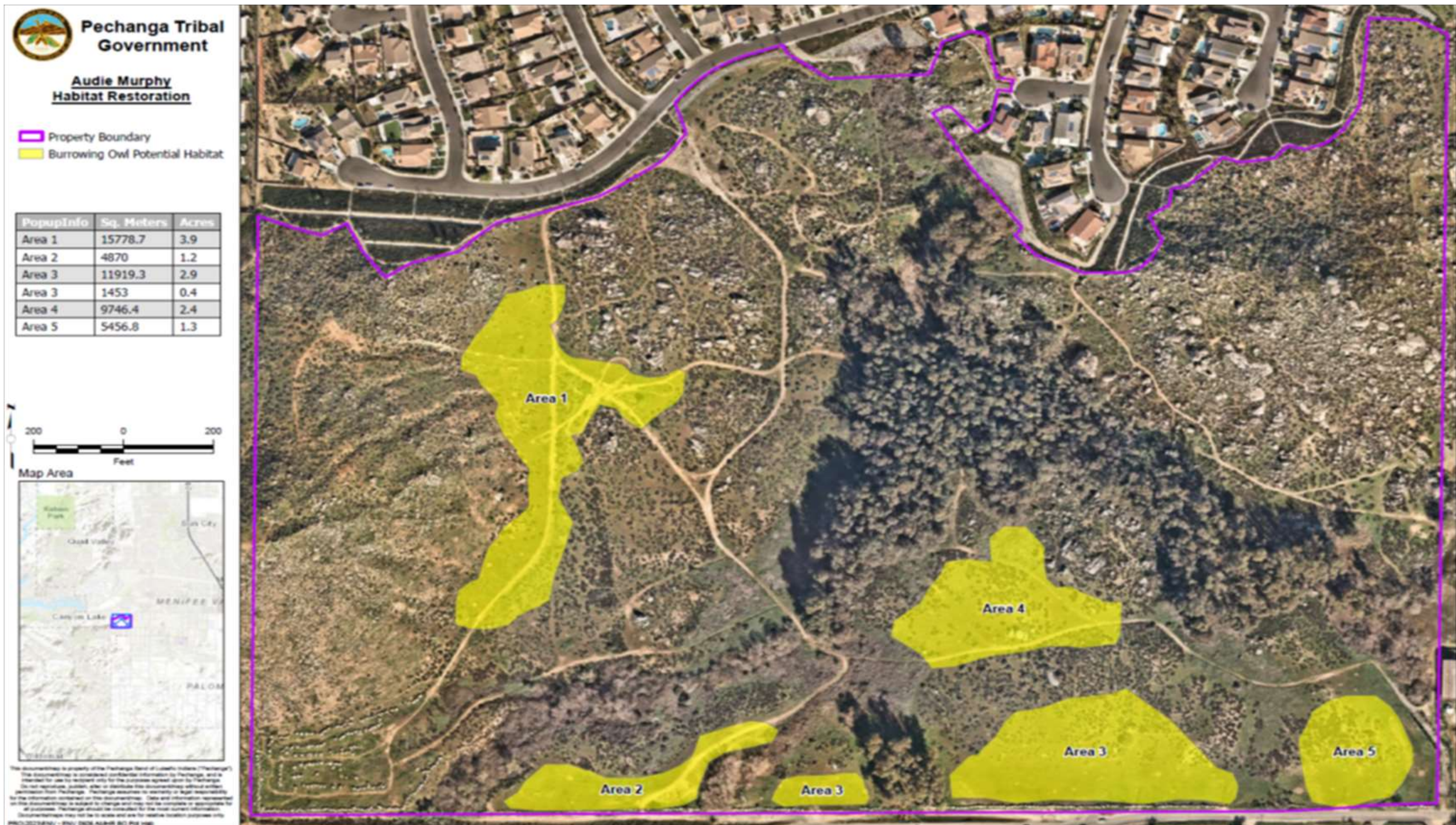
- Significant assistance from the San Diego Zoo Alliance, Conservation Science Burrowing Owl Recovery Program.

\* The habitat conditions at the site are conducive to supporting the needs of BUOW

- Grassland habitat with sandy loam soils with signs of ground disturbance, including evidence of squirrels and other animals.
- No BUOW were detected during surveys
- Current condition would not support BUOW until the removal of the river red gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) is top priority for restoration efforts



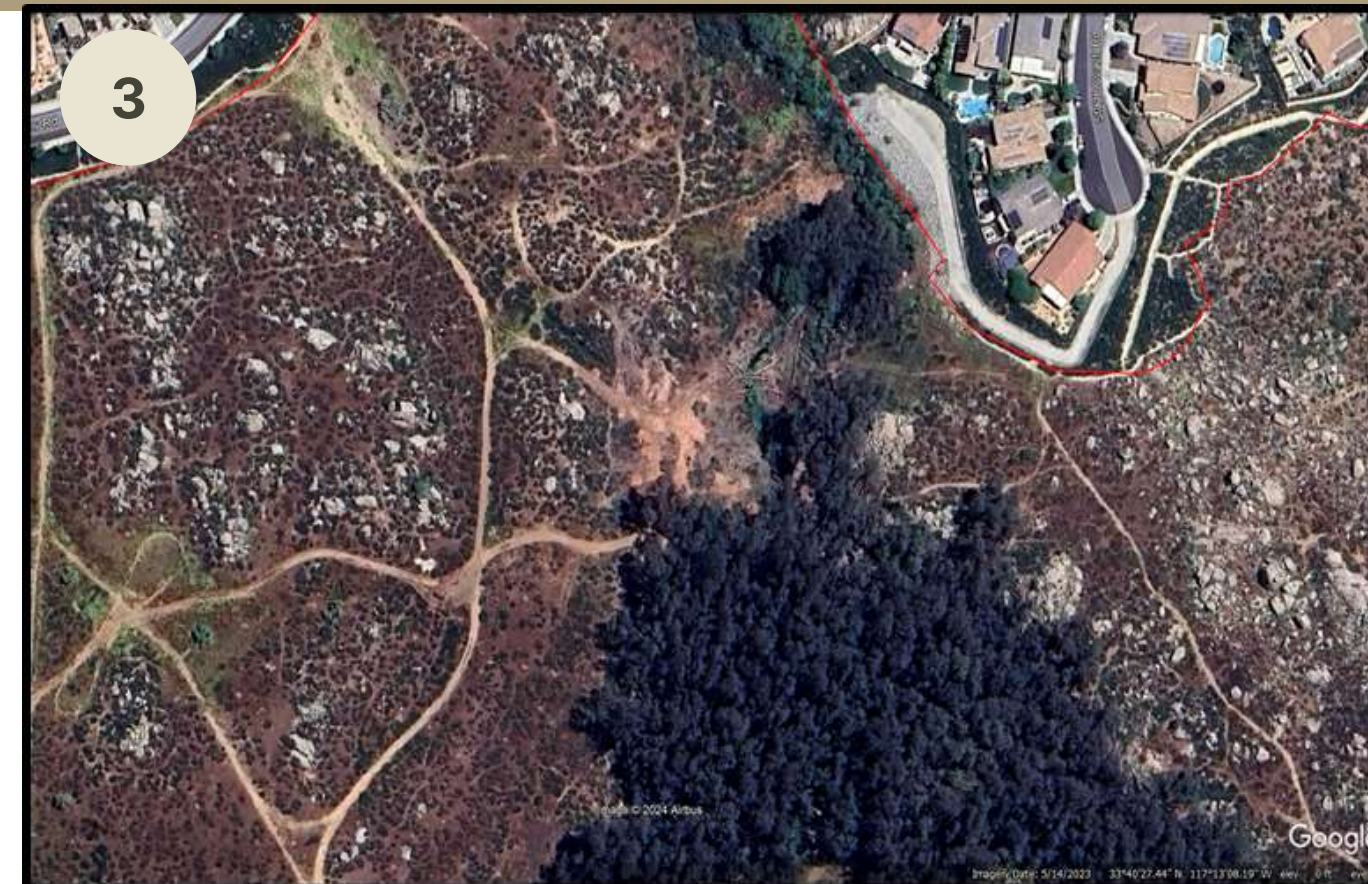
# MAP OF POTENTIAL HABITAT FOR BUOW



# START OF EUCALYPTUS REMOVAL



Only partial removal for this current grant cycle. Approximately 2 acres due to the cost associated with removing large trees.



## Challenges

- Removal of invasive species with limited ground disturbance
- Work area with specialized route

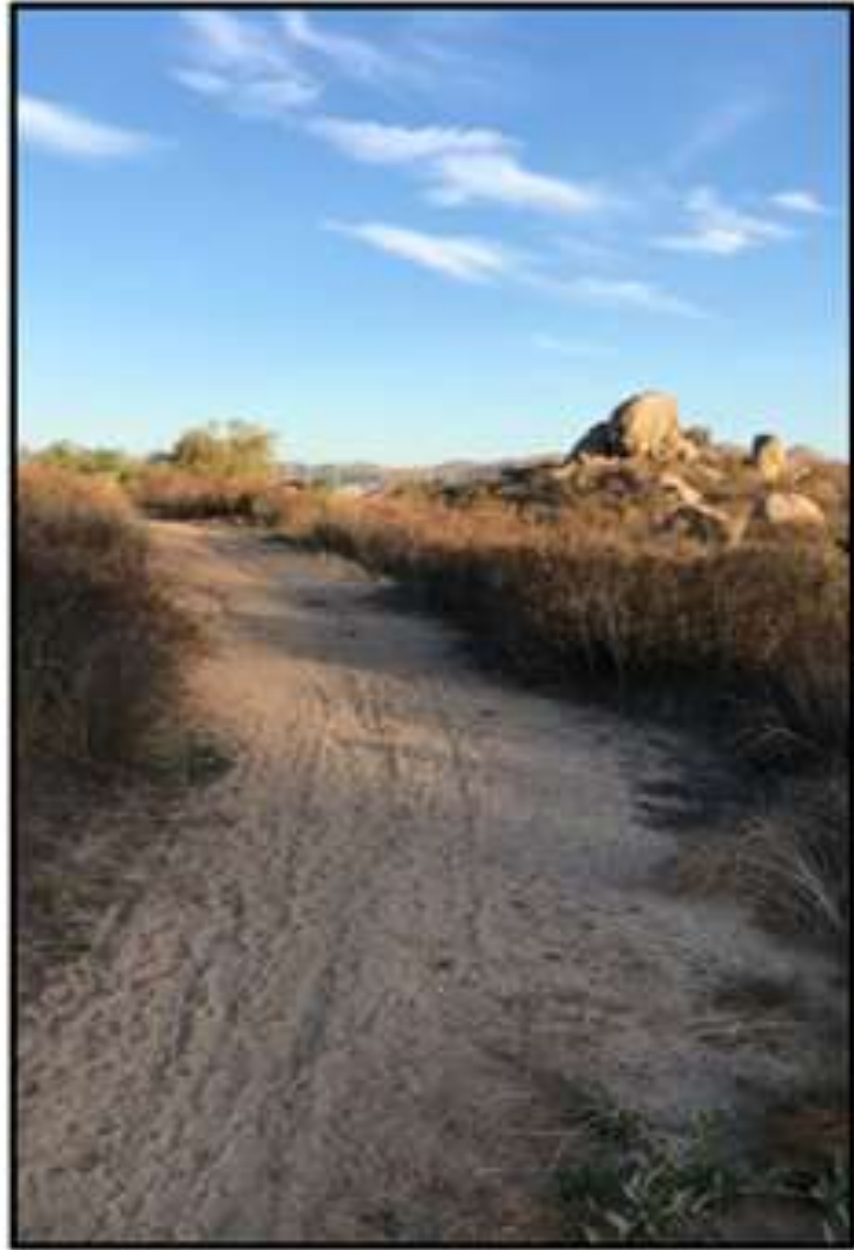


**AERIAL TIMELINE OF THE CURRENT EUCALYPTUS AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL AROUND POTENTIAL SWPT HABITAT**

**1. FEBRUARY 2022 2. JANUARY 2023 3. MAY 2023 4. MARCH 2024**



# DECOMMISSION OF TRAILS



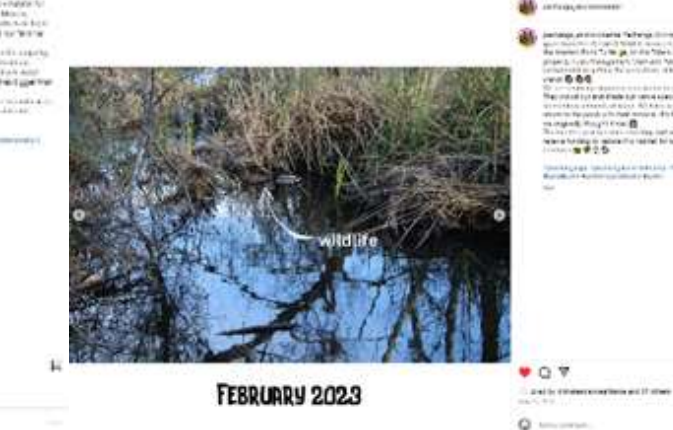
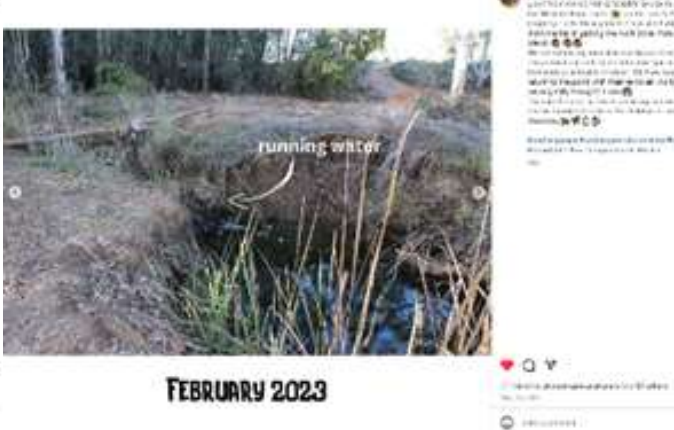
# Restoration Work



Planting of native plants after removal of invasive species.



# Outreach Posts Instagram



# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



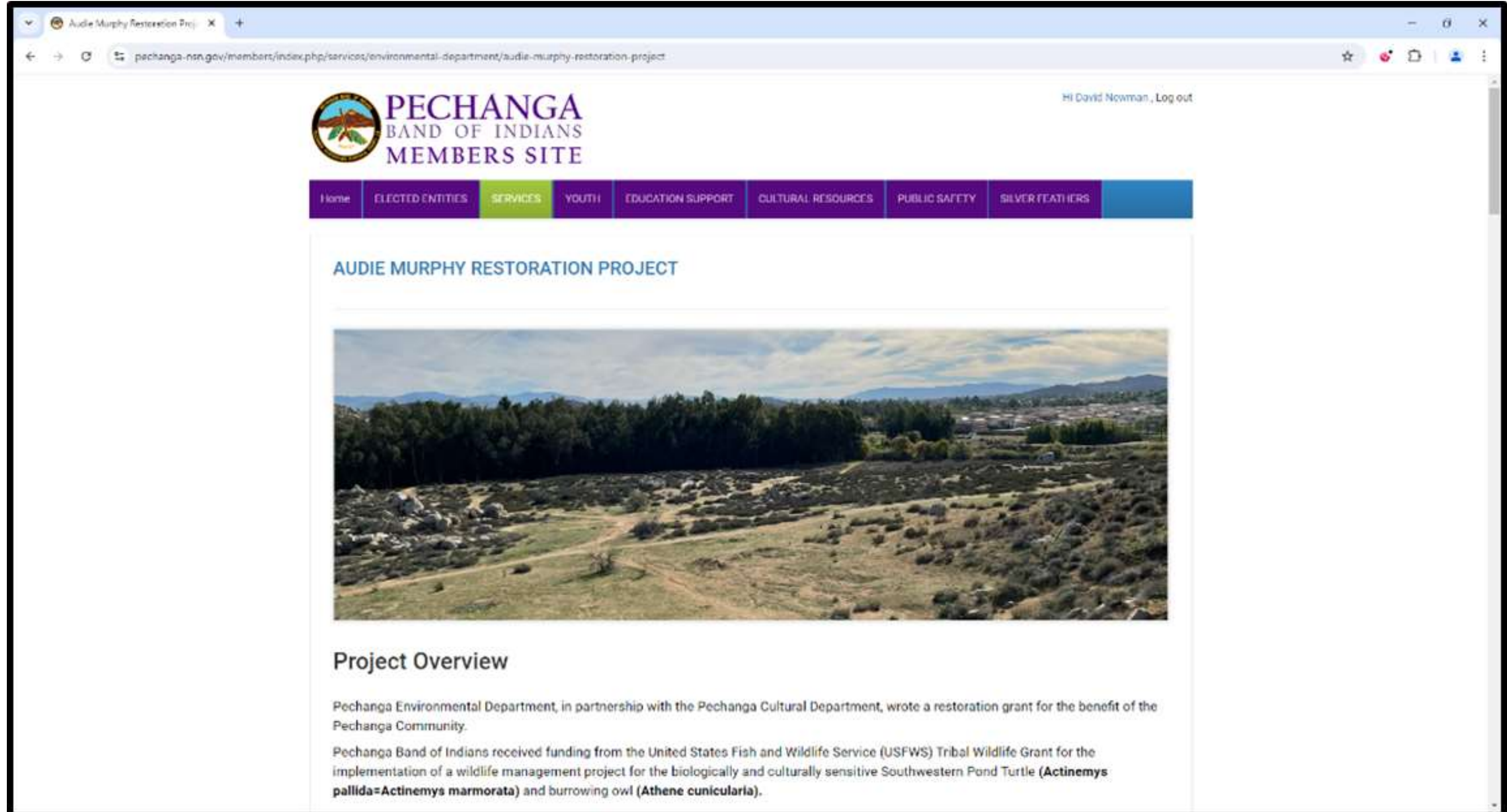


**Collaborated with Pechanga Youth Department on waste removal at the restoration site.**




**Pechanga Tribal Members casting native seeds to help decommission unwanted trails.**

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH



A screenshot of a web browser displaying the Pechanga Band of Indians Members Site. The browser's address bar shows the URL: `pechanga-nsn.gov/members/index.php/services/environmental-department/audie-murphy-restoration-project`. The page header includes the Pechanga Band of Indians logo and the text "PECHANGA BAND OF INDIANS MEMBERS SITE". A navigation menu contains links for Home, ELECTED ENTITIES, SERVICES (highlighted in green), YOUTH, EDUCATION SUPPORT, CULTURAL RESOURCES, PUBLIC SAFETY, and SILVER FEATHERS. In the top right corner, it says "Hi David Newman, Log out".

## AUDIE MURPHY RESTORATION PROJECT



### Project Overview

Pechanga Environmental Department, in partnership with the Pechanga Cultural Department, wrote a restoration grant for the benefit of the Pechanga Community.

Pechanga Band of Indians received funding from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Tribal Wildlife Grant for the implementation of a wildlife management project for the biologically and culturally sensitive Southwestern Pond Turtle (***Actinemys pallida***=***Actinemys marmorata***) and burrowing owl (***Athene cunicularia***).

# PECHANGA FUELS MANAGEMENT CREW



Pechanga Fuels Management Crew removing invasive river red gum eucalyptus (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*).



Pechanga Fuels Management Crew preparing for the removal of Tamarisk (*Tamarix ramosissima*).



# OPPORTUNITIES



## Trespassing

Trespassing continues to be an issue, even with the added signage.



## Illegal Dumping

Ongoing issue of illegal dumping occurring at property. On average, a monthly call to city illegal dump hotline.





# THANK YOU

FOR YOUR ATTENTION

QUESTIONS?

COMMENTS?

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