

the future of Fort Ord

QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

On March 11th the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCVC) site marker dedication ceremony took place on the former Fort Ord. Veterans, their supporters, and local elected representatives joined together to dedicate the site marker. The event also was a call to the community to join efforts honoring those who have served and defended our nation by moving the CCVC forward.

The former Fort Ord Military Reservation was active for nearly a century, and boasts a significant local and national military record. Recognizing this rich history, a group of veterans began a mission to establish a federal Veterans Cemetery on the Central Coast almost 25 years ago.

The 1994 Fort Ord closure made thousands of acres available and created an opportunity to locate a final resting place for veterans and their spouses. In 1997, the Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan formally set aside County/Seaside land for the cemetery. The site, about 81 acres, is located east of General Jim Moore Boulevard and bounded by Parker Flats and Parker Flats Cutoff Roads.

Due to federal regulations (federal cemeteries must be more than 100 miles apart), the US Department of

Veterans Affairs could not establish a National Cemetery at the former Fort Ord. However, it could provide grant funds to design and build the cemetery if the California Department of Veterans Affairs designated the site as a state operated and maintained cemetery.

In 2006, former State Assembly member John Laird sponsored successful legislation to provide for a state cemetery at the former Fort Ord. The legislation included a proviso that an approximate \$3.5 million endowment for maintenance and operations be set up prior to beginning the construction process. A Citizens Advisory Council (CAC) was formed in June 2007 to obtain necessary agreements to propel the project forward.

The Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery Foundation has raised approximately \$150,000 towards the endowment funding. Assembly member Bill Monning recently introduced pending legislation (AB 1757) allowing full facility design and speeds the process by matching phased construction with phased endowment funding, thereby reducing the amount needed to begin building.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

April

15th – 16th: Information Booth –
Sea Otter Classic

22nd: Earth Day Information Booth –
CSU Monterey Bay

28th: Fort Ord Users Working Group

May

12th: ESCA Informal Community
Workshop

26th: Fort Ord Users Working Group

June

23rd: Fort Ord Users Working
Group

26th: Army Open House and
Bus Tour

Group 3 and Group 4 Munitions Response Areas

This year the ESCA RP Team expects to begin work in both Group 3 (Interim Action Ranges (IAR) Munitions Response Area (MRA), Laguna Seca Parking MRA, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA, and Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) MRA) and Group 4 (Future East Garrison MRA).

The Group 3 MRAs are where the Army completed investigation and remedial work prior to the execution of the ESCA contract. The ESCA RP Team has reviewed, analyzed, and documented the Army remedial work and published findings in a Draft Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report currently out for public review. After reviewing data from the IAR MRA, the ESCA RP Team moved the IAR MRA onto a separate investigation track as assessments showed that the IAR Ranges would require more concentrated focus than the rest of Group 3. The Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report documents this decision.

For those who wish to review and comment on the Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report, it is available through the FORA ESCA RP website (www.fora-esca-rp.com) and the Army website at (http://www.fortordcleanup.com/ar_pdfs/AR-ESCA-0249). The review period ends June 10, 2010.

Group 4, Future East Garrison, is adjacent to Barloy Canyon Road in the northeast area of Fort Ord. The Army has completed some investigation work in Future East Garrison. In areas where limited data exists, such as west of Barloy Canyon Road, the ESCA RP Team has proposed additional investigation.

The Draft Final Work Plan for Group 4 is scheduled for a June, 2010 release. A 30-day public review and comment period follows document publication. Once the regulatory agencies approve the Group 4 Final Work Plan, the ESCA RP Team will begin future East Garrison investigation work. ☞

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The September 2008 conceptual draft CCVC Master Plan includes in-ground burial and cremation columbaria, a Wall of Honor, Memorial Hall, non-denominational chapel, military/veteran history museum, amphitheater, and walkways, benches and landscaped areas open to the public.

Combined efforts of the Army, FORA, and the ESCA RP Team have contributed greatly to the cemetery establishment – and especially to setting the site marker. In 2007 CCVC property was transferred from the Army to FORA. In support of the Veterans Cemetery FORA and the ESCA RP Team are working diligently with state and federal regulators toward property transfer to the local jurisdictions with additional site documentation, land surveys, and field efforts not in the original ESCA RP scope.

To obtain more information about the cemetery or make a contribution to this effort, contact the Central Coast State Veterans Cemetery Foundation at P.O. Box 849, Marina CA 93955, send an email to info@ccvcf.com, or visit the Foundation's website at www.ccvcf.com. ☞

Milestone Accomplished for County North

On March 9, 2010 the Environmental Protection Agency and California Department of Toxic Substances Control concurred with the County North Track 1 No Further Action recommendation.

There was measurable positive community support for the County North Track 1 No Further Action recommendation. Of the 51 County North Track 1 No Further Action comments received 49 were supportive.

With the Track 1 No Further Action concurrence in place, FORA has accomplished a major milestone toward reopening the area trails. Eventually this property will be transferred to Monterey County. In the interim, FORA will maintain the limited access and the county sheriff will enforce restrictions still in place. ☞



July

14th: Army Community Involvement
Workshop

15th: Army Technical Review Committee
Meeting


28th: Fort Ord Users Working Group

Spring Signals ESCA Property Biological Monitoring

ESCA RP Team biological monitoring begins with the rainy season. One of the protected species on former Fort Ord is the California Tiger Salamander (CTS). During most of the year, these unusual salamanders live in underground burrows making them virtually impossible to observe. During the rainy season, they migrate to breed in areas where water persists for a few months (i.e., “aquatic features”). Though migration is the best time for observations, the nocturnal migratory habits of CTS means they are rarely seen. As required, aquatic features are monitored.

The rainy season is roughly from October 15th to March 15th. When significant rain events occur, the ESCA RP biologists monitor aquatic features for CTS, consistent with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service requirements. This year, aquatic features that could serve as CTS breeding habitat in Future East Garrison are being monitored to record presence/absence of CTS, water levels and other environmental parameters.

The ESCA RP Team is also conducting vegetation surveys during the April peak flowering period. The sensitive plant surveys include sand gilia and Monterey spineflower and will be conducted in Future East Garrison, Parker Flats, IAR MRAs and other areas where ESCA RP work may begin within the next 12-month period. Later this year, vegetation transect surveys will be established to document overall vegetation by habitat area. These surveys establish initial baseline populations to document recovery in the years following ESCA RP activity disturbance. The ESCA RP Team is also implementing erosion control measures.

The monitoring provides information to aid in protecting sensitive species and their habitats. The survey results will assist the ESCA RP Team to avoid or minimize potential impacts on CTS, sensitive plants, and the natural communities located in habitat areas. The ESCA RP Team field activities and habitat monitoring efforts are closely coordinated with the Army in support of their Habitat Management Plan. 

Questions & Answers

Q: How do I view or obtain copies of ESCA documents?

A: All ESCA documents are filed in the Army's Administrative Record which may be viewed online at www.fortordcleanup.com. ESCA documents are also posted on the FORA ESCA website at www.fora-esca-rp.com. To make an appointment to view documents in person contact the Administrative Record office at: 831- 393-9186 or adminrecord@fortordcleanup.com.

Q: Can I comment on ESCA documents? How will I know if my comments have been read?

A: Any member of the public can submit comments on ESCA documents. When a document is released there is official review and comment periods during which comments may be submitted. FORA will review all public comments and provide a response to each comment. These responses are appended to the appropriate document and become a permanent part of the official record.

Q: What sorts of things should I comment on?

A: You can address any aspect of the document, but these are substantial, technical reports - so a good rule of thumb is to focus your comments on an aspect or section that is of specific interest.

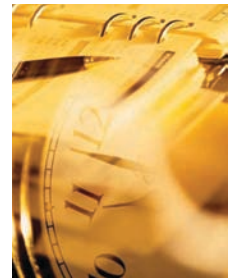
Q: What are the guidelines for submitting comments?

A: Comments must be submitted by close of business the day the comment period ends. If comments are submitted electronically they must be followed up with a signed hard copy. For detailed instructions please visit the ESCA website at www.fora-esca-rp.com. Comments should be submitted to FORA, 100 12th Street, Bldg. 2880, Marina, CA 93933



**FORT ORD REUSE
AUTHORITY (FORA)**
100 12th Street, Bldg. 2880
Marina, CA 93933

To find out more about the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA), or to request that you be added to our database, please send an email to esca@fora.org or visit the ESCA website at <http://fora-esca-rp.com>



2010 Project Document Schedule

- Draft Residential Quality Assurance Pilot Study Report
⊙ Targeted Release: June
- Draft Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, CSUMB MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: August
- Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, CSUMB MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: October
- Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey, Laguna Seca Parking, and MOUT Site MRAs
⊙ Released: April 9, 2010
- Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey, Laguna Seca Parking, and MOUT Site MRAs
⊙ Targeted Release: August
- Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey, Laguna Seca Parking, and MOUT Site MRAs
⊙ Targeted Release: October
- Draft RI/FS Work Plan, Interim Action Ranges MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: July
- Draft Final Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: June
- Final Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: August
- Draft Group 4 RI/FS Report, Future East Garrison MRA
⊙ Targeted Release: November

FORA ESCA RP documents are posted online at <http://fora-esca-rp.com>. Members of the public may also review these documents at the BRAC Office, Building 4463 Gigling Road, Ord Military Community. For viewing hours contact the Administrative Record coordinator at (831) 393-9186.

* The above document timeframes are based upon agency work schedules and therefore subject to change. For the most current information please contact FORA's ESCA hotline at (831) 883-3506 or send an email to esca@fora.org.

FORA ESCA Remediation Program Team



Fort Ord
Reuse
Authority



WESTCLIFFE
ENGINEERS