



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

100 12th Street, Bldg. 2880
Marina, CA 93933

To find out more about the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement, or to request that you be added to our database, please send an email to esca@fora.org or visit the FORA website at www.fora.org

2009 Project Document Schedule



- Draft Final Group 2 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan, CSUMB Off-Campus and Development North MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: January
- Draft Group 3 RI/FS Work Plan, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT, Laguna Seca Parking, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: February
- Draft Group 2 RI/FS Report, CSUMB Off-Campus and Development North MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: March
- Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Work Plan, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT, Laguna Seca Parking, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: May
- Draft Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, CSUMB Off-Campus and Development North
⊙ Targeted release: June
- Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT, Laguna Seca Parking, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: July
- Draft Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA
⊙ Targeted release: October
- Draft Group 2 Proposed Plan, CSUMB Off-Campus and Development North MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: November
- Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT, Laguna Seca Parking, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: November
- Draft Group 3 Proposed Plan, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT, Laguna Seca Parking, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRA's
⊙ Targeted release: November

FORA ESCA RP documents are posted online at www.fortordcleanup.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.

ESCA Remediation Program Team



Fort Ord
Reuse
Authority



WESTCLIFFE
ENGINEERS

THE FORA ESCA REMEDIATION PROGRAM

the future of Fort Ord

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QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COOPERATION AGREEMENT

The Year Ahead

2009 will be a busy year for the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) Remediation Program (RP). The major field activity focus will be in the Parker Flats Munitions Response Area (MRA). Vegetation cutting began in Fall 2008 and is expected to be complete by the end of June 2009. The following investigation and feasibility phase will help the Regulatory Agencies, the Army, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA), and the ESCA RP Team to determine the necessary and best cleanup method(s) to deploy. During the year, FORA will continue providing local community progress updates.

The ESCA RP is comprised of nine munitions response areas (MRA) - divided into four groups, as follows:

- Group 1 consists of Parker Flats and Seaside
- Group 2 includes CSUMB Off-Campus and Development North
- Group 3 is made up of Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Del Rey Oaks/Monterey, and Laguna Seca Parking
- Group 4 consists of Future East Garrison

(A comprehensive ESCA property map to view/download is at: <http://www.fora.org>.)

During 2009, FORA will issue documents to define work for Groups 2, 3, and 4. These documents will consist of the:

- Draft Final Group 2 Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Work Plan
- Draft and Draft Final Group 2 RI/FS Report
- Draft Group 2 Proposed Plan
- Draft and Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Work Plan
- Draft and Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report
- Draft Group 3 Proposed Plan
- Draft Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan

In January 2010 FORA will release the Draft RI/FS Report for Group 1 which will detail the results of the investigation work for the Parker Flats Phase II activities. Please see the 2009 Projected Document Schedule for the anticipated release dates. ☞



OUTREACH



REMEDATION



DOCUMENTATION



CLOSURE

Commitment to Managing Habitat

Major components of the ESCA RP - such as munitions cleanup, trail access and safety, and community involvement - are only some of the concerns voiced by the community. Local citizens are interested in how FORA manages and protects habitat areas affected by the ESCA cleanup. The ESCA RP is firmly committed to meeting or exceeding the US Fish and Wild Life Service (FWS) habitat requirements during ESCA MEC (munitions and explosives of concern) cleanup. The *Installation-Wide Multispecies Habitat Management Plan for Former Fort Ord* and related biological opinions issued by FWS, specify habitat management requirements for the former Fort Ord. These requirements guide how the ESCA RP protects both habitat and listed species.



A primary species of concern is the California Tiger Salamander (CTS). The four ESCA RP qualified field biologists are FWS certified to handle this species if or when encountered. There is minimal likelihood of CTS encounter since the ESCA RP field work is a daytime activity and the species is nocturnal. Encounter risk is further reduced because CTS only migrates after a significant rain. ESCA parcels where the CTS could exist or are within their migratory range have been identified and mapped. In Parker Flats, these areas have also now been staked. Field personnel and supervisors have completed environmental awareness training, including how to implement the requirements of the biological opinions. If field personnel encounter CTS they are trained to respond appropriately.

The ESCA RP Team also monitors some of the annual plant species located on the ESCA parcels. While these plants are easily identifiable during the spring and summer (while they are in bloom),

it becomes more difficult to identify these plants in the fall and winter. During the spring and summer ESCA RP biologists searched Parker Flats habitat areas and mapped discovered populations. This information has been communicated to field crews to guide seed bank preservation if they detect any sub-surface anomalies in these areas. Preserving the seed bank allows species to re-propagate in the next growing season.

An important goal in this process is to preserve mature trees when possible, while not compromising safety or the quality of the munitions removal activities. The ultimate goal of the ESCA RP is to facilitate the removal of munitions for the protection of



FORA will be conducting Parker Flats area field work for most of 2009. To ensure the safety of workers and citizens, certain access restrictions are required. A dedicated Safety Access Corridor system has been adopted to prohibit access for selected areas. FORA has been meeting with local recreational users groups to identify alternate routes through the ESCA properties that allow access to the 7,000 acres of open BLM land on the former Fort Ord.

Information about the Access Corridor system (trail closures and access routes) will be posted on trail markers and kiosks

human health. The *Installation-Wide Multispecies Habitat Management Plan for Former Fort Ord* governs the optimum method of preserving habitat areas while accomplishing the ultimate cleanup goal of the ESCA RP.

Trees in the Parker Flats Phase II area will be impacted as a result of vegetation cutting to gain site and ground surface access to enable munitions investigation and clearance activities. In non-residential development areas—which comprise the majority of the ESCA Parcels—trees greater than 6” in diameter at chest height will be “limbed up” to 5 feet above the ground, smaller trees and shrubs will be cut to allow technicians surface access to investigate with munitions detection equipment. Based upon similar vegetation cutting performed by the Army full re-growth is estimated to take approximately five years.

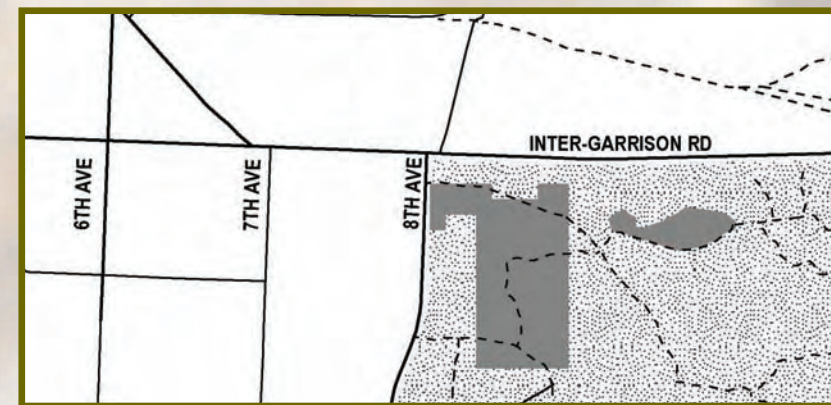
After field remedial activities are completed, monitoring will be conducted for several years in habitat reserve to determine the success of habitat recovery. Monitoring results will be compared against baseline survey data to assess whether recovery and regeneration of the protected habitat and its associated rare plant species are proceeding toward baseline conditions. ❧

SAFETY



Residential Quality Assurance Pilot Study

Another important 2009 component the ESCA RP is the Residential Quality Assurance (RQA) Pilot Study. This study is required in the ESCA grant award and the EPA Administrative Order on Consent. The RQA Pilot Study will investigate and confirm the results of earlier Army MEC field work to determine if further work is required to improve confidence levels sufficiently to permit residential uses. RQA methodology will initially be deployed in two areas: a 17-acre area South of Inter-Garrison and East of 8th Avenue in an area that was set aside for future CSUMB housing near campus and a 18 acre parcel south of Eucalyptus Road. FORA and the regulators are reviewing each step and the resulting data from the RQA Pilot Study to determine whether this process is necessary for all potential residential development.



One location of the RQA Pilot Study (shaded area)

After all data is collected and analyzed it will be presented to regulatory agencies to define the requirements necessary for residential property. This is an important component of the ESCA RP and FORA will be providing further information on the RQA Pilot Study as it evolves. ❧

FIRST !

at 8th Avenue and Gigling, Inter-Garrison Road and Schoonover Drive, and at Parker Flats and Parker Flats Cut-Off. Please work with us and respect these temporary restrictions. Public and worker safety is crucial as we make these areas safe from MEC exposure on a permanent basis. Honoring these restrictions will enable the MEC cleanup work to be completed on schedule and minimize access restriction duration. For further information and current updates on access routes please call the FORA ESCA hotline **831-883-3506**. Maps detailing access routes are also available through FORA via esca@fora.org. ❧

Questions & Answers

Q: Does the FORA ESCA program hold community meetings that are separate from the Army Community Involvement Meetings?

A: *Yes. In 2008 FORA hosted three community meetings. Two were Informal Community Workshop meetings that focused on specific aspects of the ESCA project: the Parker Flats Work Plan and a detailed review of the vegetation cutting. The third meeting offered the community information on the overall ESCA RP and a review of work to date. The Informal Community Workshops are focused on specific topics and designed to engage participants in a discussion about current documents and/or field work. The workshops have proved successful and FORA plans to continue them in 2009.*

Q: During vegetation cutting will all trees have to be removed—specifically the larger trees and how much land will be affected by the more extensive cutting?

A: *Preserving trees is of course beneficial to everyone. Wherever possible FORA will avoid complete removal by trimming trees and using hand held detection devices to identify potential munitions. However in some areas it will be necessary to remove the complete tree to get beneath the root ball. Extensive vegetation cutting is necessary for the Residential Quality Assurance Pilot Study and trees will be removed in this 17 acre area (please see map on this page).*

Q: In future residential areas how far beneath the surface will clearance go?

A: *Munitions detection and clearance will go to the depth detected. For example, if an item is detected four feet below the surface than clearance will be at four feet. FORA will use the results of the RQA Pilot Study to confirm detection and clearance results.*