

### QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

# *Illegal Dumping and Vandalism*

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and the Fort Ord Users Working Group have been working closely with the Monterey County Illegal Dumping Task Force to prevent any further illegal dumping on the former Fort Ord and assist in the cleanup of existing debris.

FORA has also been battling various forms of vandalism to signs that indicate open/closed trails and kiosks that provide maps of the area and list specific enforcement information. These signs and kiosks are placed at trailheads and safety access routes to help protect public and worker safety and while still allowing areas to remain open for recreational use.

Regardless of whether a sign is readable or not due to vandalism, individuals can still be cited if found on a closed

trail — a process also used by BLM for regulating their trails. These illegal activities also slow down the cleanup process on the ESCA properties by diverting resources to replace signs and kiosks and to enforce the restrictions in closed areas. As a result, FORA is asking that anyone who witnesses illegal dumping or vandalism to please contact at the ESCA Hotline: 831-883-3506



FORA's primary objective is the safety of the public and workers. However, we are also committed to maintaining recreational access on the ESCA properties during cleanup. We are aware that vandals comprise a very small percentage of people. Most people, we believe, adhere

to the safety access restrictions in order to enjoy the vast recreational opportunities on the former Fort Ord.

Your continued support is appreciated. ☺



# Upcoming Meetings and Events

| October                                | November                       | December                      | January                                   |
|--|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| 21st: Fort Ord Users Group             | 19th: Fort Ord Users Group     | 10th: ESCA Community Workshop | 13th: Army Community Involvement Workshop |
| 24th: ESCA / BLM Volunteer Cleanup Day | 26th: Thanksgiving Day Holiday | 17th: Fort Ord Users Group    | 14th: Technical Review Committee Meeting  |

# Questions & Answers

**Q:** How can we help curb illegal dumping?

**A:** Please join FORA, the Army and Bureau of Land Management on Saturday, October 24th for cleanup day. For more information contact ESCA Hotline: 831-883-3506.

**Q:** Can our group clean up the illegal dumping ourselves?

**A:** For safety reasons we request that individuals do not initiate illegal dumping cleanup activities by themselves. From time to time FORA will organize cleanup days and would welcome your participation.

**Q:** Who should we call if we see garbage dumped or see illegal dumping in progress?

**A:** If you observe someone illegally dumping, contact the police department immediately (911). Record the license plate number and description of the vehicle and person(s) involved, the date and time of the incident, and the exact location. Do not approach the person(s). If you encounter an illegal dump site by a roadside, please contact the Monterey County Public Works Dept. (831-755-4800).

**Q:** What are the consequences of illegal dumping to recreational users? Will FORA ESCA RP close the trails if illegal dumping continues?

**A:** We have closed and locked a gate at Inter-Garrison Road to stop the illegal dumping in this area. At this time we are not considering closing other gates or trails. However, illegal dumping does divert resources from the cleanup and poses a direct threat to human health and safety.

## Program Update

### Parker Flats MRA

To date approximately 166 acres in the Parker Flats Munitions Response Area (MRA) have undergone munitions investigation. This includes the habitat reserve areas and a portion of the area slated for development. Approximately 200 discarded military munitions and UXO items have been located during this investigation at depths ranging from the ground surface to 1 foot below ground. These finds are consistent with historical data reviews and prior military uses. Once the remaining acres in the Parker Flats MRA have undergone munitions investigation, a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report will be issued that examines collected data and puts forth a range of remedial alternatives. This report will undergo public review and comment.

### Residential Quality Assurance Pilot Study

In order to satisfy regulatory questions regarding potential residual risk related to munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) on land previously cleared of munitions, the FORA ESCA RP Team undertook a Residential Quality Assurance (RQA) Pilot

Study. The objective of the Pilot Study was to determine whether further munitions investigation and clearance would be necessary. The FORA ESCA RP Team, in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), selected two parcels of land for the Pilot Study, approximately 18 acres in the Seaside MRA and approximately 17 acres in the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Off-Campus MRA.

The RQA Pilot Study is intended to establish a process that gains regulatory approval allowing residential use on former military training areas. In order to meet this objective, the FORA ESCA RP Team has employed a range of quality assurance techniques and protocols - reviewed by the US Army with EPA/DTSC oversight. The data collected during the study is under regulatory/Army review. A detailed report will be issued containing the results of the Pilot Study later this year.

### County North MRA

Based upon archival review, data analysis, and site reconnaissance, the FORA ESCA RP Team recommends a No Further Action determination for the County North MRA as defined in the Army's Track 1 Plug-In Process. The County North MRA comprises

approximately 505 acres where prior military training included troop training and bivouac, or camping. Investigations determined that past military munitions training activities included the use of practice or pyrotechnic items. Items found by the Army in these areas were consistent with historical training uses. No evidence of artillery or rocket ranges was found. Further details can be found in the Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com).

### CSUMB Off-Campus MRA

During archival data analysis and evaluation of the completeness of past munitions removal actions, the CSUMB Off-Campus MRA was divided into two sectors. In Sector 1, very few MEC items were reported, which was consistent with the historic military use of the area as troop training. In Sector 2, the majority of MEC was discovered in what are the central and eastern portions of CSUMB Off-Campus MRA. Archival data indicates these areas were used for troop maneuvers with practice land mines and booby traps. Consistent with the historical use of the southwest portion of Sector 2 (navigation training), very little MEC was reported in that area. The entire Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RIFS) Report can be found online at [www.fora-esca-rp.com](http://www.fora-esca-rp.com).

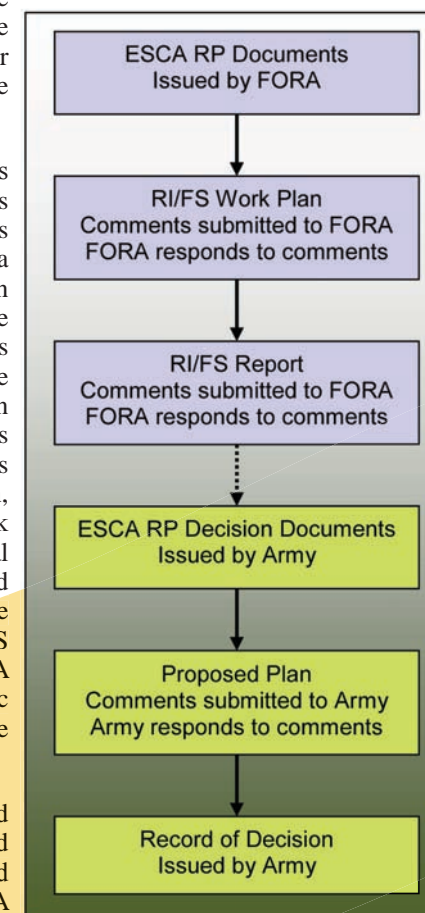
## FORA ESCA RP Documents vs. Army Documents

The documentation process for the cleanup of the former Fort Ord mirrors a process set up by the EPA for Superfund sites. EPA determined that the Army would retain responsibility for the final cleanup of the former Fort Ord and that decision documents in the ESCA process would be issued by the Army. All other ESCA documents would be issued by FORA.

The first step in the process is a Work Plan that outlines the archival research, analyzes previous investigations/data collection, and recommends an investigation approach. Once approved, the process moves to the investigation. Once the investigation stage has been completed, an RI/FS Report is issued. This report documents the results of the investigation, the results of a MEC risk assessment, the remedial options, and the preferred remedial approach. Both the Work Plan and the RI/FS Report are released as FORA ESCA RP documents for public review. Public comments are directed to FORA for response.

Once the RI/FS is accepted a Proposed Plan is prepared which defines the preferred remedial action option. A public hearing is convened giving the community an opportunity to provide comments, including objections, concerns, questions, and support, on the preferred remedial option. Those comments are recorded as part of the permanent administrative record for the former Fort Ord cleanup and for response. Once public and regulatory comments have been addressed and EPA and DTSC concurrence is received, a Record of Decision (ROD) is issued. The ROD documents the final remedy decision.

The Proposed Plan and the ROD for the ESCA properties will be prepared by the FORA ESCA RP Team on behalf of the Army. Public meetings will also be conducted by the FORA ESCA RP Team on behalf of the Army. The Army will issue the documents for review and written comments are sent to the Army.



## Nature Makes Well-Rehearsed Comeback:

*Strong Signs of Vegetation Regeneration Appear*

We've all heard the adage "It's not nice to fool with Mother Nature. Well, vegetation on the former Fort Ord is testament to nature's resiliency.

Earlier this year, the FORA ESCA Team removed vegetation from approximately 227 acres in the Parker Flats MRA. The removal process provided safe access for UXO Technicians to investigate and remove expected MEC. Vegetation was removed by mowing grass, cutting brush and shrubs, uprooting small trees, and trimming mature tree branches. Before vegetation removal, FORA ESCA RP Team biologists documented area sensitive plants where disturbance could be minimized during the MEC removal phase.

The majority of this vegetation removal work occurred during the first 6 months of 2009. Though vegetation removal continues

in the western portion of Parker Flats MRA, significant re-growth has appeared in the eastern portion as can be seen in the accompanying photograph. Army records of vegetation re-growth, where mechanical removal or controlled fire have been deployed, indicate that continual healthy re-growth in Parker Flats will occur over the next few years.

At approximately year 5 the re-grown areas will be similar in density to the original vegetation. Vegetation removal required during the ESCA work is done in accordance with the Biological Opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to the Army.





**FORT ORD REUSE  
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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](mailto:esca@fora.org) or visit the ESCA website at <http://fora-esca-rp.com>



# 2009 / 2010 Project Document Schedule

- Draft Group 2 RI/FS Report, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Off-Campus Munitions Response Area (MRA)  
⊙ Released: September 17, 2009
- Draft Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) Off-Campus MRA  
⊙ Targeted Release: February 2010
- Final Group 3 RI/FS Work Plan, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs  
⊙ Targeted Release: October 2009
- Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs  
⊙ Targeted Release: December 2009
- Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action, Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs  
⊙ Targeted Release: March 2010
- Draft Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA  
⊙ Targeted Release: October 2009
- Draft Final Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA  
⊙ Targeted Release: February 2010

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](mailto:esca@fora.org).

## FORA ESCA Remediation Program Team



Fort Ord  
Reuse  
Authority



WESTCLIFFE  
ENGINEERS