



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **FORA Announces Prevailing Wage Conference/Training November 1, 2016**

On November 1, 2016 at 8:00 a.m. at 920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Marina, California, representatives from the Department of Industrial Relations will be here to provide information about how the state laws apply to Fort Ord. This training and information will be beneficial to developers, contractors, small businesses, attorneys, and others involved in the development process on Fort Ord. The training is provided free of charge and light refreshments will be served. You can register on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's web site. After two years of comprehensive planning, debate, coordination and community participation at several 2015 and 2016 Board meetings, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority ("FORA") Board is actively moving ahead with its program of assistance to its jurisdictions regarding compliance with local prevailing wage requirements. This penultimate decision occurred earlier this year with addition of prevailing wage staff, authorization to purchase special supportive software, and an overall program that is coordinated with the State of California.

Since this past spring, Sheri Damon has been hired to be the local staff member responsible for pulling together the various elements of the FORA Prevailing Wage program and has met individually with the jurisdictions to determine where the program can best aid compliance.

In addition, FORA staff have met with State representatives to understand better how the newly adopted State laws (Senate Bill 854) will be applied at Fort Ord. As a result of these communications, the State Department of Industrial Relations has offered to provide a workshop/training to assist local cities/jurisdictions, contractors, and community members about the new regulations and laws.

Specifically, a special prevailing wage training (as applied to Fort Ord projects) will be conducted at the Carpenters Union Hall at 920 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Marina next month. Since early 2015, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority ("FORA") Board has been wrestling with both application and enforcement of the Master Resolution prevailing wage requirements.

One of the key reasons prevailing wage requirements were added to the original 1996 adopted Master Resolution (and follow on deeds and other agreements) was to help promote the local workforce to enable workers to secure employment on Fort Ord. FORA's Prevailing Wage requirements were adopted as "local" prevailing wage requirements and have different provisions and definitions than those currently found in the state labor code with the passage of Senate Bill 854. The Department of Industrial Relations has begun to review information and prior decisions about the applicability of state public works laws to projects being built on Fort Ord.

FORA Executive Officer Michael Houlemard was asked about the importance of this training at a recent FORA Administrative Committee and stated; "The prevailing wage provisions were adopted by the FORA Board to provide a level playing field for all jurisdictions and to offer a standardized expectation for developers. They remain a Board policy and are meant to both establish the prevailing wage principles and to encourage local employment. We look forward to this training that should offer another opportunity to understand equitable compliance at the former Fort Ord."