



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY RECEIVES \$6.8M FOR MUNITIONS OBLIGATIONS

Congressman Jimmy Panetta announced today that Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) will receive a \$6.8M Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) amendment from the U.S. Army (Army) to pay for munitions removal reporting and related long-term stewardship. The ESCA amendment will fund administrative and regulatory oversight costs for 2 years and Army post-transfer munitions obligations through 2028.

“Under leadership by the FORA-ESCA team, the first phase of this crucial work was completed on-schedule and has become a national model for success in base reuse. That work now enables public and community reuse access to historic Fort Ord lands, and I am more than pleased to announce that the follow-through for the monitoring, oversight and response for these Federal obligations will continue under their guidance,” Panetta noted.

In spring 2005, the FORA Board took a unique step to undertake the Army’s munitions obligations for 3300 acres of historic Fort Ord land. After selecting a team of top munitions removal consultants, FORA entered negotiations with the Army to obtain an Army-funded ESCA for removal of remnant Munitions and Explosives of Concern (MEC) at the former military base. FORA and the Army signed the initial ESCA agreement in early 2007 with funding of approximately \$100M.

The remedial investigation and other field work is now complete under the initial ESCA terms, and the field work is now being confirmed through the regulatory approval process. Once munitions remediation responsibilities receive regulatory approval, the ESCA property will be transferred from FORA to local jurisdictions.

“The ESCA Amendment provides essential funds for regulatory oversight to ensure continued MEC review and FORA administrative costs to achieve project completion, relieves a significant vulnerability for local recovery programs, and provides for appropriate reporting. We appreciate Congressman Panetta’s support and the FORA Board for their confidence in staff through this process,” said Michael Houlemard, FORA’s executive officer.

The ESCA long term obligations include: post-closure/transfer MEC Find Assessments (response to MEC discoveries, coordinating additional investigation and/or follow-up); long term management; MEC education



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and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) awareness training; State-required annual monitoring and reporting; federally required five-year review reporting; and Land Use Control (LUC) Management. The LUC Management work requires FOR A to coordinate MEC safety training and UXO Construction Support by qualified personnel for ground-disturbing activities on the ESCA property as development occurs.

ESCA's are Department of Defense agreements with public entities like FORA that provide funding to conduct remedial activities to meet Federal and State cleanup standards with DOD oversight. ESCA's can allow communities to combine and coordinate cleanup with redevelopment activities to achieve efficiencies. The Army, FORA, Environmental Protection Agency, and Department of Toxic Substances Control agreed to advance funding terms that eliminated mobilization/demobilization delays and other uncertainties that may occur with annual Congressional funding.

Negotiations for the ESCA Amendment began in December 2016 with the Army Base Realignment and Closure Headquarters (BRAC) and included briefings with FORA Board members in both Washington, D.C. and in Monterey. The initial formal negotiations for the ESCA amendment were attended by FORA Board chair and Seaside Mayor Ralph Rubio last February. The negotiations culminated in a series of meetings on the scope of services and pricing of the ESCA Amendment, verified by an Army Independent Government Cost Estimate.

Mayor Rubio stated yesterday "I am pleased that the Army is providing the additional funding under the ESCA to allow FORA to continue their work in support of the cleanup and development of Fort Ord for an additional ten years. The environmental remediation at Fort Ord has been acclaimed to be among the Army's most successful under an ESCA."

When asked about the announcement of the additional funding, DTSC Cleanup Program Branch Chief Charlie Ridenour stated; "DTSC is happy the US Army is funding the long term obligations work that continues the collaborative success achieved in the Fort Ord work. This funding will continue the protections for the health and safety of the Monterey Bay citizens."

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