



## Fort Ord Reuse Authority 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

*The purpose of this report is to outline 2016 Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) legislative tasks. The FORA 2016 Report 's Legislative Agenda defines Board policy, sets legislative, regulatory or federal/state resource allocation positions, and supports the 1997 Base Reuse Plan's (BRP) defined programs and the 2012 BRP Reassessment report's for replacing the former Fort Ord military regional economic contributions with comparable level civilian activity/programs. The Legislative Agenda is meant to assist state and federal agencies/legislative offices regarding property transfer, economic development, environmental remediation, habitat management/conservation, and infrastructure and mitigation funding. The order in which the tasks are presented herein does not imply rank or priority. Each item is considered a "priority" in achieving FORA's objectives.*

### **A. HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN (HCP). Continue/enhance ongoing coordination with federal and state legislative representatives to secure approval of the HCP.**

#### **Issue:**

HCP approval remains critical to former Fort Ord reuse. Alternatives to a base wide HCP are costly and time consuming and do not effectively serve the goal of managing or protecting endangered species.

#### **Benefits:**

HCP approval is essential to protecting habitat and to effectively develop jobs and housing.

#### **Challenges:**

Processing the HCP over the past fifteen years was difficult and costly. Insufficient federal/state agency resources and overlapping regulatory barriers have thwarted the HCP process.

#### **Proposed Position:**

- Support legislative and regulatory coordination, state and federal resources, and strong advocacy to enable speedy reviews and processing.
- Coordinate with Department of Interior/ Bureau of Land Management (BLM), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the 20th Congressional District, the 17th State Senate District and the 29th State Assembly District to finalize a Memorandum Of Understanding between BLM and CDFW regarding habitat management on BLM's Fort Ord National Monument, a required milestone to completing the HCP.

### **B. NATIONAL MONUMENT. Assist in implementing the federal National Landscape Conservation System (Fort Ord National Monument) designation for the former Fort Ord Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Natural Resource Management Area through increased trail access, completion of munitions and explosives removal, and continued advancement of the Fort Ord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).**

**Issue:**

HCP approval and implementation are essential to former Fort Ord reuse and will support the National Monument. Advancing access connects the National Monument to other Monterey Bay venues. State and national funding and further recognition are critical.

**Benefits:**

National attention to the unique flora, fauna, and recreational resources found on the Fort Ord National Monument supports Fort Ord Habitat Management Plan and HCP preservation efforts. The National Monument designation emphasizes the national significance of the BLM's former Fort Ord property to potential donors and other funding sources. As an advocate for the designation, FORA supports BLM's mission and former Fort Ord recreation/tourism, helping improve resource competitiveness.

**Challenges:**

Each year, the local BLM office competes nationally to receive public and private grants and federal appropriations that support its mission.

**Proposed Position:**

- Continue to support and work with the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District to introduce/sponsor funding for former Fort Ord conservation, trails, etc.

**C. ECONOMIC RECOVERY SUPPORT. Support statewide and regional efforts to create local jurisdiction economic recovery base reuse financing.**

**Issue:**

The loss of "redevelopment financing" and other refinancing tools to assist in implementing base closure recovery programs was a heavy blow to FORA's member jurisdictions. Jurisdictional funding has dropped and substitute financial tools to support economic reuse/recovery initiatives are needed.

**Benefits:**

Sufficient funding resources for the reuse and recovery from former Fort Ord closure and other military bases. Funding support for economic development programs, habitat management protection, building removal, or other infrastructure demands associated with the reuse programs.

**Challenges:**

1. Obtaining agreement to use tax or special district funds to create special financing districts to support, targeted economic recovery, affordable housing and/or infrastructure in the climate of limited resources.
2. State funding sources remain unclear.

**Proposed Position:**

Support legislation, activating local agency processes for economic development.

- Support establishment of Military Base Reuse "Recovery Zones."
- Support legislation for incentive based mechanisms to strengthen jurisdictions ability to implement base closure recovery programs.

**D. VETERANS CEMETERY. Continue support for the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC) development on the former Fort Ord.**

**Issue:**

Burial space for California Central Coast veterans is inadequate. The former Fort Ord is both ideally suited and centrally located. A site was set aside/designated in 1990s for a veterans cemetery and the FORA Board of Directors supported through multiple previous actions the establishment of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC). In 2011, the Legislature amended Military and Veterans Code section 1450.1 directing California Department of Veteran Affairs (CDVA), in cooperation with the City of Seaside, County of Monterey, FORA, and surrounding local agencies, to design, develop, and construct the Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord. In January 2013, the FORA Board authorized transfer of the land designated for the CCCVC to CDVA. In August, CDVA submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) for approximately \$6.8 million in grant funding to establish the CCCVC. Senator Bill Monning authored legislation reducing the approximate \$2.6 million funding gap between the federal grant and estimated project costs by \$1 million dollars. Additional State funding efforts reduced the funding gap by another \$1 million. The David and Lucile Packard Foundation provided a \$350,000 loan and \$150,000 in grant funding. Local fundraising efforts produced the remaining portion, allowing State to accept the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) grant funding on October 15, 2013. The federal funds were disbursed to State on September 2014, and construction began in early 2015. Current funding supports CCCVC design, planning, and environmental review and incorporate above ground columbaria, administration and maintenance buildings, a committal shelter, minimal landscaping, and all necessary infrastructure for initial operation. Future expansion requires additional design, planning, and review and includes in-ground gravesites and additional columbaria, as well as other potential ancillary uses.

**Benefits:**

The CCCVC offers final resting places for the region's 50,000 (approx.) veterans.

**Challenges:**

Completion of the cemetery construction will require significant coordination between FORA, the CCCVC Foundation, California Department of General Services (DGS), California Department of Veterans Affairs, US Dept. Of Veterans Affairs, the City of Seaside, the County of Monterey, and other state/federal agencies.

**Proposed Position:**

- Support DGS and CDVA construction efforts.
- Support efforts to sustain priority standing for the CCCVC with CDVA and USDVA.
- Promote continued vigilance and cooperation among the regulatory agencies.
- Coordinate with federal agencies, the City of Seaside, the County of Monterey, the 20th Congressional District, the 17th State Senate District, and the 29th State Assembly District to sustain efforts to generate federal funding and/or status for future CCCVC expansion.

**E. AUGMENTED WATER SUPPLY. Work with local and regional agencies to secure State and Federal funding to augment FORA's water supply capital needs.****Issue:**

The FORA Capital Improvement Program includes approximately \$24M to fund a Regional Water Augmentation necessary to implement the Base Reuse Plan. Securing outside funds to assist this requirement could help the timely implementation of recycled water and/or desalination water facilities and smooth out upfront costs of infrastructure.

**Benefits:**

Development projected under the Base Reuse Plan depends on an augmented water supply. Additional grant funding could reduce FORA and Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) cost to secure water resources and reduce the required hefty capital charges.

**Challenges:**

Scarce funding and competing water projects throughout the region and state. No current federal/state program exists for this funding.

**Proposed Position:**

- Continue to work with MCWD to ensure that they fulfill their contractual obligation to FORA for water resource augmentation.
- Support and coordinate efforts with MCWD, Monterey County Water Resources Agency, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency, other agencies, and FORA jurisdictions to secure funding and/or support other funding mechanisms proposed for this purpose.
- Coordinate potential water bond funding for Monterey Bay region and FORA augmentation needs.

**F. TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS. Work with Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and local jurisdictions to secure transportation funds.**

**Issue:**

The FORA Capital Improvement Program requires capital and monetary mitigations of approximately \$121 million for transportation infrastructure on and proximate to the former Fort Ord. Some of this funding requires a local, or other, match from the appropriate regional or state transportation body to bring individual projects to completion. Roadway infrastructure proximate to the former Fort Ord impacts traffic mitigation measures on the former Fort Ord.

**Benefits:**

The timely installation of required on-site, off-site, and regional roadway improvements supports mitigating development impacts and maintaining and improving levels of service vital to the regional economy.

**Challenges:**

Applying scarce transportation funds to the appropriate projects to optimize transportation system network enhancements. Remaining federal and state programs offering grants or low cost resources are dwindling and increasingly competitive. An adopted HCP is an application requirement for most federal and state transportation grant programs.

- Support and coordinate with TAMC, FORA jurisdictions, and others for state infrastructure bonds, federal authorization or other grant/loan/low cost resources.
- Restart efforts to request amendment to Monterey County Local Coastal Plan (LCP) for safety improvements to Moss Landing/Castroville section of Highway 1.
- Advocate for approved regional improvements to maintain traffic flow and funding for transit improvements and active transportation.
- Continue/enhance ongoing coordination with congressional and state legislative representatives to secure HCP approval.

**G. PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER TRAINING. Work with County of Monterey to assist Monterey Peninsula College (MPC) obtain capital and program funding for its former Fort Ord Public Safety Officer Training Programs.**

**Issue:**

FORA/County agreed to assist MPC in securing program funds in 2003.

**Benefits:**

The Public Safety Officer Training Program is an important component of MPC's Fort Ord reuse efforts and will enhance public safety training at the regional and state levels. Adequate funding is critical.

**Challenges:**

Funds available through the Office of Homeland Security, the Office of Emergency Services, or other sources may be restricted. MPC has yet to accept the property for the former Fort Ord projects.

**Proposed Position:**

- Pursue legislative or other actions to support MPC efforts to secure funding sources.

**H. LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION. Coordinate efforts with other Monterey Bay agency legislative issues.**

**Issue:**

Monterey-Salinas Transit, Transportation Agency for Monterey County, and the County of Monterey have adopted legislative programs, some of which will have Fort Ord reuse impacts.

**Benefits:**

Collaborative funding efforts by agencies involved in the same or interdependent projects will increase the chances to obtain critical funding and also be enhanced by partnering matching funds.

**Challenges:**

State and federal funding is limited and competition for available funds will be keen.

**Proposed Position:**

- Coordinate and support other legislative programs in the Monterey Bay area when they interface with former Fort Ord reuse programs.

**I. ASSURING LONG TERM STEWARDSHIP OF MUNITIONS CLEANUP AREAS.**

**Coordinate with Federal, State and local agencies on post-cleanup stewardship of munitions and explosives ordnance issues/areas.**

**Issue:**

FORA sunsets in June 30, 2020. There will be significant post FORA property management and post-remediation issues that will need to be managed. Those issues require resources, coordination and cooperation which are still being defined.

**Benefits:**

Collaborative resources efforts by agencies involved in the same or interdependent projects will increase the chances to obtain critical funding and also be enhanced by partnering.

**Challenges:**

State and federal funding resources are limited. Federal and State agencies have not funded long term stewardship. In addition local jurisdictions have limited funding for long-term stewardship.

**Proposed Position:**

- Seek federal and state cooperation to assure responsiveness and long-term stewardship for munitions response areas.

**J. LEGISLATIVE COORDINATION REGARDING FORA TRANSITION ISSUES**

**Issue:**

FORA's sunset in 2020 calls for coordination of many items. Specifically a report to State Legislature must be filed in 2018. Working with local agencies such as LAFCO is crucial. Coordination will be beneficial /essential in traversing the long list of issues and reporting requirements.

**Benefits:**

Collaborative efforts will assure effective transition prior to the 2020 sunset.

**Challenges:**

State law requirements contractual obligations, and inter-agency agreements will require intensive and unavoidable legislative multi-agency negotiations.

**Proposed Position:**

- Coordinate and seek support from State Legislature (17<sup>th</sup> State Senate District and 29<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District) to assure post-FORA funding for jurisdictions and reuse obligations.

**K. PREVAILING WAGE COORDINATION**

**Coordinate with 17<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> State Senate Districts and 27<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District to clarify the implementation of the FORA Prevailing Wage Policy and the enforcement provisions of SB-854 with the State Department of Industrial Relations.**

**Issue:**

Ongoing confusion continues with various interpretations of how the FORA Prevailing Wage Policy interfaces with the registration, reporting and enforcement provisions of SB-854.

**Benefits**

FORA has a \$180 million dollar in Capital Improvement Program with a Prevailing Wage Policy. FORA provides statewide monitoring of prevailing wages and has authority to sanction violators.

**Challenges:**

SB 854 is in the first year of implementation and there is little experience within DIR of working Base Reuse Programs.

**Proposed Position:**

Support legislative and regulatory coordination, state and federal resources, and strong advocacy to enable speedy reviews, compliance, enforcement and coordinated decisions.