



Fort Ord Reuse Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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Former Fort Ord Capital Program Approved

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (“FORA”) Board of Directors recently approved its 2012/2013 fiscal year Capital Improvement Program (“CIP”). This CIP calls for completing a habitat conservation plan, designing infrastructure, completing transit improvements, and payments for wildfire response vehicles. FORA has been successfully completing capital improvement projects since the adoption of the first CIP in fiscal year 2001/2002 and also completed some projects in the late 1990s.

When the Fort Ord Army base closed in 1994, a study was conducted to determine what improvements were required in order to convert the former base to civilian uses. The study concluded there were *significant issues* with the existing roads, power, communications and water/wastewater systems. The extensive roadway system did not meet municipal dimensions or safety standards. The water supply system was found to have operational and pipeline deficiencies which resulted in leaks that were visible from aerial viewing. About half of the storage reservoirs and pumping stations required significant repair while roughly 25% of the water transmission pipelines were estimated to need replacement. The existing sewage system also required extensive repairs and approximately 20% replacement of the trunk sewers or force mains. Many of the pipelines were still either clay or cast iron and failing. The four storm drainage discharge outfall structures extending from the beach to beyond the surf line were both obsolete and creating massive canyon-level erosion in the dunes west of Highway 1.

The study results became the basis of the Public Facilities Infrastructure Plan (“PFIP”), which was included as Appendix B to the adopted 1997 Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan. In addition to the previously mentioned roadway, water/wastewater system and storm drainage improvements, the PFIP additionally outlined transit improvements, fire-fighting enhancements and habitat management responsibilities. The improvements are not only required for the effective reuse of the former base, but are also required under State law by the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”). The PFIP became the baseline for FORA’s Capital Improvement Program, which has been annually reviewed for the past 12 years to ensure that required projects meet the regional needs of FORA’s land use jurisdictions¹.

Financing these projects has had barriers. When the PFIP was written (1996/97), it was thought that Fort Ord land development would pay fees to finance the improvements. Fifteen years later, little revenue has been realized through fees. Instead, FORA has secured State and federal grants for much of the program. To date, FORA has received approximately \$70M in grant funds, which have been infused into the local economy through construction contracts with local businesses and suppliers and have assisted in creating local jobs.

The current CIP, covering FY 2012/13 through 2021/22, can be found online at www.fora.org. The document provides details on FORA’s CEQA responsibilities, a history of completed projects, the funding and timing of upcoming projects, and forecasts of expected former Fort Ord development from FORA’s land use jurisdictions.

¹ Cities of Del Rey Oaks, Marina, Monterey and Seaside and Monterey County