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Governor Signs FORA Extension

(SACRAMENTO, CA) – Today, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) sunset extension legislation authored by Assemblymember Bill Monning (D-Carmel), and co-authored by Senators Blakeslee and Cannella and Assemblymember Alejo, was signed into law by Governor Brown.

Assembly Bill (AB) 1614 extends the statutory sunset date of FORA by six years from June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2020, and requires the FORA board to approve and submit a transition plan prior to its dissolution to the Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission.

“Governor Brown’s approval of AB 1614 means that the economic recovery and reuse on the former Fort Ord military base can continue,” stated Assemblymember Monning. “I will continue to engage with FORA and all stakeholders during its remaining years to ensure that both the economic and environmental goals of the area are achieved.”

Outside the reassessment of FORA’s base reuse plan and local planning, there are a number of ongoing and fixed term obligations on the former US Army base, such as the implementation of the Habitat Conservation Plan, the financing of contaminated building deconstruction, and the coordination of the planning and construction of the Central Coast Veterans’ Cemetery, that other local agencies would need to perform but that are not equipped to implement. AB 1614 benefited from the support of Monterey County, its regional cities, the Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club, and veterans’ organizations.

“FORA needs additional years to ensure enforcement of the base reuse plan that was adopted in 1997 as a regional effort to transform the former Fort Ord into an economically thriving and environmentally protected area,” stated Jane Haines, who testified in support of AB 1614 on behalf of the Sierra Club, Ventana Chapter. “Sierra Club has worked proactively with FORA, and we conclude that our goals would be best attained through FORA.”

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Assemblymember Monning was first elected to represent the 27th Assembly District in 2008 and re-elected in 2010. The 27th Assembly District includes portions of Monterey, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. Prior to his election to the Assembly, Assemblymember Monning was a professor at the Monterey College of Law and a Professor of International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution at the Monterey Institute of International Studies.