



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FORA Completes Environmental Mitigations

- *Fire Fighting Equipment Titles Transferred to Jurisdictions*
- *\$98,000 provided to Monterey Salinas Transit for Mini Bus*

The Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan (BRP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identified that FORA, jointly with the local city managers and fire protection agencies involved, should develop a regional program to promote joint operational efficiencies and funding to mitigate wild fire risk. The BRP also noted the need to mitigate transit capital needs to serve the conversion of the former Fort Ord from military to civilian uses.

Early last decade, former Fort Ord Land Use Jurisdictions' Fire Chiefs determined that the addition of wildfire fighting apparatus/vehicles would provide needed wildfire protection and be an effective use of FORA funding. In July 2003, the FORA Board approved the lease-purchase of five fire-fighting engines/equipment: 4x4 capable wildfire fighting vehicles for the Cities of Marina, Monterey, and Seaside, and the Ord Community, and a water tender for the Salinas Rural Fire Protection District. Together these vehicles provided capacity to respond to/fight wildfires in the undeveloped areas of the former Fort Ord.

This coordinated effort between former Fort Ord Land Use Jurisdictions' Public Safety leadership and FORA exemplifies the State Law's intent to foster cooperation in creating a multi-agency approach to the economic recovery from the Fort Ord closure. The lease-purchase contract has been fully satisfied by FORA and at their April 2014 meeting, the FORA Board approved the equipment title transfer to the Cities of Marina, Monterey and Seaside, the Ord Military Community, and the Salinas Valley Rural Fire Protection District to sustain their ongoing wildfire protection support and to supplement existing equipment, enabling increased safety on the former Fort Ord and the local jurisdictions. This action completes the EIR mitigation requirement for supplementing fire protection.

This past year, Monterey Salinas Transit (MST) requested funding for a mini-bus to serve the needs of the region and Fort Ord reuse. The \$98,000 satisfies a key element of mitigating EIR identified transit needs associated with the recovery program. The added bus will provide special service to the Fort Ord and other North Monterey County communities. Hunter Harvath, MST Assistant General Manager for Finance and Administration, was on hand at the April FORA Board meeting to receive the check. He stated the funds would enable MST "to serve places such as the Behavioral Health Center in Marina and the affordable housing being constructed in the Dunes."

FORA Chair Jerry Edelen recently commented that, "The equipment title transfer to member jurisdiction fire departments and supporting cash to MST demonstrates FORA's commitment to the BRP, its EIR, and timely completion of mitigation measures."



Top: Salinas Valley Rural Fire Protection District water tender in use during Parker Flats prescribed burn.
Bottom: Engines purchased for Cities of Marina, Seaside, Monterey, and the Ord Community.