



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

920 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933

Phone: (831) 883-3672 | Fax: (831) 883-3675 | [www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org)

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **COURT RULING: NO CEQA VIOLATION IN KFOR-FORA LAWSUIT**

Contact: Jon Giffen, FORA Legal Counsel

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A recent Monterey County Superior Court decision determined that Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) did not violate the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in granting approval for improvements to South Boundary Road and Gigling Road. A lawsuit filed by Keep Fort Ord Wild (KFOR) alleged that FORA's environmental documentation and subsequent approvals for improvements to these two road areas violated CEQA law.

In 1997, FORA adopted a comprehensive Base Reuse Plan (BRP) addressing land use, transportation, conservation, recreation, and capital improvements in conversion of the former Fort Ord military installation to civilian reuse. Adoption of the BRP involved extensive environmental and public review processes.

South Boundary Road and Gigling Road areas were identified as road improvement projects in the BRP. Specific improvements to these roads were approved by FORA in 2010 following preparation of an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration in 2007. The improvements were again reviewed in 2017 when the FORA Board voted to replace the project engineer and took action to also approve a contract authorizing preparation of final construction contracts for bid to complete the identified road improvements.

In its ruling, the Court found KFOR's lawsuit was barred by the statute of limitations and that KFOR failed to satisfy its burden to show that circumstances had changed enough since the project was approved in 2010 to necessitate further environmental review.

With the Court's final decision now determined, FORA will proceed with scheduled road improvements to South Boundary Road and Gigling Road as previously identified and approved.

Since former Fort Ord officially closed in 1994, FORA has focused on three areas of community interest: education, environment and economic development. Economic reuse includes development of housing and jobs, retail and commercial development, and infrastructure improvements.

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