



Fort Ord Reuse Authority

920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933
Phone: (831) 883-3672 • Fax: (831) 883-3675 • www.fora.org

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (VIAC)

April 25, 2013 at 3 PM
920 2nd Avenue Suite A,
Marina, CA 93933
(FORA Conference Room)

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE**
 - a. Legislative Letters in Support of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery INFORMATION
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:** Members of the audience wishing to address the VIAC on matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee, but not on this agenda, may do so during the Public Comment Period. Public comments are limited to a maximum of three minutes. Public comments on specific agenda items will be heard at the time the matter is under consideration.
5. **APPROVE VIAC MEETING MINUTES: MARCH 28, 2013**
6. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - a. Review of Amended Committee Charge INFORMATION
 - b. Receive Report on FORA Meetings with California Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of General Services INFORMATION
 - c. Status of Cemetery Water briefing for U.S. Army INFORMATION
7. **ITEMS FROM MEMBERS**
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Information about items on this agenda or persons requesting disability related modifications and/or accommodations can contact the Deputy Clerk at: 831-883-3672 * 920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina, CA 93933 by 5:00 p.m. one business day prior to the meeting. Agendas can also be found on the FORA website: www.fora.org.*



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VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (VIAC)

2:00 PM Thursday, March 28, 2013

920 2nd Avenue Suite A, Marina, CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Confirming a quorum, Acting Chair Greg Nakanishi (Chair Edelen was delayed due to flight cancellations) called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m. Sid Williams led the Pledge of Allegiance. The following people, indicated by signatures on the roll sheet, attended:

Committee Members

Tom Griffin, MVAO
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Sid Williams, MCMVAC
Andrew Wynn, US Army POM
James C. Bogan, UVC
Jerry Edelen, FORA Board Chair

Others in attendance

Wes Morrill, MVAO
Nicole Charles, Sen. Monning
Janet Parks, CCVCF
Erica Parker, Asm Mark Stone
Richard Garza, CCVCF
Jack Stewart
Kathleen Lee, Sup. Potter

FORA Staff

Michael Houlemard
Robert Norris
Jonathan Garcia
Crissy Maras

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

a. Santa Cruz VFW Post Resolution in Support of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

The Committee received the Santa Cruz VFW resolution, and a letter from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors supporting a bill related to the CCCVC was distributed.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Jack Stewart asked if the Cemetery Advisory Committee could be represented on the Committee. Staff will research the possibility of adding members and report back at the next meeting.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Review of Committee Charge

The Committee reviewed the Charge and noted modifications: "Veterans Administration/ US Army Clinic" is changed to "Veterans Administration/ Department of Defense Clinic" and "processing these projects and others as assigned" is changed to "processing these projects and others related to veterans or military issues".

The Charge will be taken to the FORA Executive Committee for concurrence and then deemed established.

b. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

i. Receive Report on FORA Meetings with California Department of Veterans Affairs

Executive Officer Houlemard reported that meetings with the CA Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA), CA Department of General Services (CDGS) and CA Department of Finance

(CDF) were held in Sacramento on March 11 to determine how the State could be prepared to accept the transfer of the cemetery parcel. There was also discussion regarding how FORA could contract with the CDVA on behalf of the State for the planning and construction of the cemetery.

Nicole Charles reported that four different State agencies are involved in getting the land transferred from FORA to the State. The meetings allowed these agencies to outline the process toward approval by an August 15th deadline. Congressman Farr has asked that all support this deadline to assure consideration of the capital grant in the current federal fiscal year.

Wes Morrill asked if UXO issues existed on-site. Executive Officer Houlemard responded that the US Environmental Protection Agency and the CA Department of Toxic Substances Control had issued letters declaring the parcel clean and ready for transfer and use as a cemetery. Both Monterey County and the City of Seaside have approved transfer to the State, but Seaside approved by agreement with FORA. The FORA Board will be asked to approve that agreement at their April meeting.

Acting Chair Nakanishi asked about the required \$30K fee for the State to accept the land transfer. Executive Officer Houlemard noted that the fee is for reimbursement of the time required to process the transfer and accept the land. The Cemetery Foundation may be asked to pay the fee, which might be reimbursable as a project cost.

ii. State Burial Claim Reimbursements

The US Department of Veterans Affairs will reimburse the State for burial costs. The CDVA will base the reserve amount on the reimbursement rate.

c. Joint Army/VA Clinic – Status Report

The FORA Board approved the consistency determination this past December. The City of Marina conducted a Request for Proposals and is currently in the selection phase. The clinic is expected to open in about one year.

d. Approve 2013 Meeting Dates

Although the VIAC was originally expected to meet quarterly, some ramping up is anticipated, requiring monthly meetings in the beginning. Monthly meetings on the last Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM were suggested (with the exception of November and December). The Committee reviewed the suggested meeting dates and determined that the start time should change to 3:00 PM to accommodate committee members.

MOTION: Edith Johnsen moved, seconded by Mr. Williams, to approve the suggested meeting dates, changing the start time from 2:00 to 3:00, and choosing December 19th as the preferred December date.

MOTION PASSED: Unanimous

5. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

a. Other items concerning the VIAC or Veteran Community

Ms. Johnsen requested the addition of a columbarium first phase and re-phasing to future agendas in order to think the process through and meet the needs of the community.

Mr. Williams noted that since the metes and bounds had been completed, it would be important to take all of the next steps in a timely way to help ensure the project can be found consistent by the FORA Board.

Mr. Williams provided a copy of the cemetery master plan to the US Army representative. It was anticipated the Army would provide water for the cemetery, in perpetuity, from the Army's allocation. Tom Moore noted that the permanent amount needed (a smaller amount) would be deducted from the Army's water allocation, not the amount necessary for the initial phase/ establishment (larger amount). Chair Edelen said FORA staff would assemble a briefing for the command on the water issue and would research the previous Army agreement related to this request.

Mr. Williams noted a petition being circulated by the Fort Ord Access Alliance asking to designate several hundred acres of Fort Ord land as permanent open space.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: April 25, 2013

*Action minutes prepared by:
Crissy Maras, FORA Grants and Contracts/Records Coordinator.*

SAM FARR
20TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND
DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL ORGANIC CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL AND
TOURISM CAUCUS
CO-CHAIR, HOUSE OCEANS CAUCUS

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April 11, 2013

APR 10 2013

The Honorable Jerry Edelen, Chair
Board of Directors
Fort Ord Reuse Authority
920 2nd Ave, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Chair Edelen,

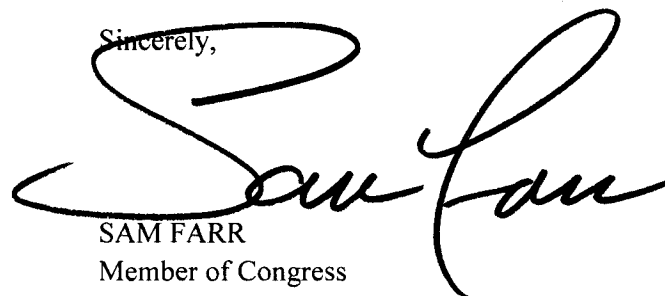
The veterans' community on the Central Coast has been advocating for a State Veterans Cemetery since the former Fort Ord closed in 1993. After more than a decade of work to make this dream a reality, we have reached a point where the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) can transfer the 78-acre cemetery parcel to the State of California.

The State of California is facing a deadline of August 15th for the Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery project to be eligible for consideration in the federal Cemetery Grant Program's upcoming funding cycle. In order to meet this deadline, the FORA Board must approve transfer of the cemetery parcel to the State of California as expeditiously as possible.

As you know, both the Seaside City Council and Monterey County Board of Supervisors each voted unanimously in the past month to support this transfer by FORA. Accordingly, I urge the FORA Board to follow their example and take the necessary steps no later than its April 12, 2013 meeting to facilitate this transfer

I look forward to the eventual success of this crucial project that will help us all achieve our shared goal of offering Central Coast veterans with a final resting place that honors their sacrifice. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



SAM FARR
Member of Congress

SF/sa

COMMITTEES
CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 3
ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW
EDUCATION
HEALTH
JUDICIARY
NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER

California State Senate

SENATOR
BILL MONNING

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



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WEB: <http://sd17.senate.ca.gov/>

April 4, 2013

Jerry Edelen, Chair
Board of Directors
Fort Ord Reuse Authority
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Chair Edelen:

This letter is to respectfully request the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Board of Directors act as soon as possible to advance the funding necessary for the State of California to process and accept the land designated for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

The transfer of the property designated to become the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is required in order for the state to apply for grant funds from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs by August 15, 2013. FORA's willingness to work with the City of Seaside and Monterey County to transfer this land, and to coordinate with the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation for reimbursement of these costs, will enable this deadline to be met.

Local and statewide veterans' organizations, community groups, local agencies, and elected officials have worked together since 1994 to advance the construction of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. The dedication and collaboration of everyone committed to seeing the establishment of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is making this dream become a reality.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William W. Monning".

WILLIAM W. MONNING
Senator, 17th District

WWM:nc

COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY
NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS

Assembly
California Legislature



MARK STONE
CHAIR, HUMAN SERVICES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-NINTH DISTRICT

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April 11, 2013

Jerry Edelen, Chair
Board of Directors
Fort Ord Reuse Authority
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Chair Edelen:

This letter is to respectfully request that the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Board of Directors pursue rapid action to advance the funds necessary for the State of California to accept the transfer of land for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

The designated parcel of land for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery must be transferred to the State prior to the submission of the application for federal grant funding to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. The deadline for that application is August 15, 2013. The California Department of General Services has specified that \$30,000 is needed to complete the land acquisition process from FORA. Continued collaboration between FORA and the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation to arrange for the reimbursement of the land transfer will ensure these costs are funded.

Countless hours have been devoted to the planning of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery by community organizations, veterans' groups, local agencies, and elected officials. The promise to provide a local resting place for the hardworking members of our veteran community is near fulfillment, thanks to the unwavering commitment of so many.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Stone".

Mark Stone
Assemblymember
Twenty-Ninth District