

THE FORA ESCA REMEDIATION PROGRAM

the future of Fort Ord

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QUARTERLY UPDATE ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Happy Trails Trash Pick-up Day

On October 24, 2009 the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) Remediation Program (RP) Team and the U.S. Army co-sponsored the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Lands Make a Difference Day. The summer of 2009 saw a rise in illegal trash dumping near Inter-Garrison Road. The FORA ESCA RP Team conducted trash pickup in the Happy Trails area, which was coordinated with BLM's and the Army's trail maintenance, cleanup, and re-seeding efforts.

40 to 50 volunteers were expected, but we were pleased and overwhelmed when over 200 people arrived early to help pick up trash that Saturday morning. Thanks to our community members hard work and enthusiasm approximately 33 tons of trash was removed - in just three hours!



The combination of: a) BLM's committed staff (who championed the event), b) the organizing efforts of the Monterey County Illegal Dumping Task Force, c) the local dump (the Marina Landfill) - who provided credits for our efforts so we could haul the trash free of charge, d) California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) faculty and students - who came out in full force providing much needed muscle; and e) MORCA, Monterey Search and Rescue Dogs (MSARD), and all the local citizens - who gave up their Saturday morning.

The Public Lands / Make a Difference Day augmented by the Happy Trails Trash Pick Up demonstrates the positive results of community coming together for a common cause. Outdoor enthusiasts from San Francisco,

Big Sur, and Salinas devoted their Saturday to join in this effort. To view the photographs from this day visit our website at www.fora-esca-rp.com. 

OUTREACH



REMEDICATION



DOCUMENTATION



CLOSURE

Upcoming Meetings and Events

January

20th: Fort Ord Users Working Group Meeting

February

17th: Fort Ord Users Working Group Meeting

20th: Army Bus Tour

March

24th: Fort Ord Users Working Group Meeting

Celebrating Community: Informal Community Workshop

Last month the FORA ESCA RP wrapped up 2009 Community Involvement activities with an Informal Community Workshop. The 12/10/09 meeting celebrated community by offering attendees updates on: 1) Parker Flats Munitions Response Area (MRA) field work [vegetation clearance/investigation/documentation/removal], 2) No Further Action recommendation for County North MRA [Draft Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum] and, 3) various program documents.

Field crews in Parker Flats MRA have progressed steadily from east to west, completing work in habitat areas and moving into future development areas west of 8th Avenue and south of Gigling Road. Fieldwork is also underway in the southwestern portion of the Parker Flats MRA between Parker Flats Cut-Off Road and Eucalyptus Road. Weekly fieldwork updates are available thru the FORA ESCA Hotline: 831-883-3506.

Program documents are an integral component of the ESCA RP, documenting and laying out plans for field work, reporting investigative work results and remediation options, formulating a proposed remedial plan, providing a record of that decision, and memorializing site close-out requirements. The ESCA RP will release 5 documents during the first 6 months of this year. A detailed document schedule is on the last page of this newsletter.

The Army received 51 comments to the County North MRA Draft track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum - 96% supported the proposed Track 1 decision. Once, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Toxic and Substances Control (DTSC) have concurred on the Approval Memorandum it will be published. FORA will then begin the process to reopen this area.

The FORA ESCA RP Team acknowledges the great contributions by community groups and individuals during 2009. While many see the focus of our work as field activities and documentation, a key measure of success is the involvement of our community partners and local jurisdictions. Thank you for your time and dedication in 2009 as we all look forward to similar participation and success in 2010. ☺



Community Outreach Highlights from 2009

During 2009, the ESCA RP Team focused on collaborative events within the Community Involvement and Outreach program. The most visible of which was the Happy Trails Trash Pick Up Day, however there are many more events and efforts worth mentioning.

A significant ESCA RP accomplishment was with the collective (and nearly unanimous) community, Army, EPA and DTSC recommendation to issue a No Further Action for County North. The response from community members to review and actively engage in this important issue was a major element in the success. The ESCA RP Team thanks all of those who took the time out of their busy schedules to write and submit comments. Community input is essential to sustaining the ESCA RP as a model responsive program.

In 2009, the ESCA RP website www.fora-esca-rp.com became a resource for community members who are looking for current and more detailed information about our program. If you haven't already, please browse our website for maps of the current work areas, access routes, and field updates. Additionally, the quarterly newsletters and presentations from community meetings are also posted to the website. Comments and suggestions are welcome, please email us at esca@fora.com and we'll do our best to accommodate your request.

Please take the time to visit ESCA RP staff at the many events where we are active, such as the CSUMB Earth Day Fair, Marina Air Faire, Monterey County Fair, Mud Run, and Sea Otter Classic, to name a handful. If you look, you'll see the ESCA RP Team in public settings almost every week. ☺

April

**14th: Army Community
Involvement Workshop**

**15th: Technical Review
Committee Meeting**

FORA ESCA and Community Collaborations

The FORA ESCA RP Team's approach to community involvement embraces and prioritizes collaboration with local citizens and civic groups. As an example, access routes to public lands were identified as an early community concern. FORA worked with local recreationalists and interest groups to identify methods to maintain access to BLM trail areas during ESCA RP field activities. With collaboration and a full exploration of issues, constraints and goals, we were able to develop a creative / workable solution.

Many of the community members, who helped FORA identify and develop these access routes, also were interested in a trail network throughout the former Fort Ord. FORA, who sponsors the Fort Ord Users Working Group, initiated this first step by holding an initial working meeting of participants including; Monterey County, MORCA, MSARD, the CSUMB Cross Country Track program, and local citizens. All are now working together to identify a cohesive trail network. While the decision to initiate and maintain a unified trail system rests with the local jurisdictions and agencies, this first step demonstrates FORA's commitment to sustaining strong community working relationships.

The ESCA Property Emergency Services Providers consists of local fire, police, and rescue workers. This is another collaborative endeavor that FORA established and supported through monthly meetings to coordinate timely ESCA RP information and to outline road closures, security and signage, events and issues impacting local jurisdictions and the ESCA RP. As an example, the Emergency Services Providers provided support during the Happy Trails Trash Pick Up Day and are involved with annual event coordination such as the Sea Otter Classic and the Mud Run.

As the New Year begins, the FORA ESCA RP Team looks forward to prioritizing our community collaboration efforts, continued commitment to established outreach activities, strengthening existing relationships and building new ones. 



Questions & Answers

Q: After the No Further Action recommendation for County North is approved, when will those areas become accessible for recreational use?

A: *Once the No Further Action Approval Memo is published in final format, we anticipate being able to begin the process to open County North for recreational use.*

Q: Where is the most up-to-date information on the ESCA RP?

A: *The FORA ESCA Hotline (831-883-3506) is updated weekly with information on field activities, events, and meetings. The ESCA RP website (www.fora-esca-rp.com) houses all the information on the ESCA RP including links to program documents, an archive of past presentations and newsletters, and maps of current work areas. The ESCA RP also maintains an email distribution list; please email esca@fora.org for more information.*

Q: How often does the ESCA RP hold community meetings and what do they cover?

A: *The FORA ESCA RP holds Informal Community Workshops two to three times a year. Typically these workshops focus on current field activities and updates on document progress. During poster sessions participants have the opportunity to talk to the team members and ask specific questions.*

Q: Does the ESCA RP have regularly scheduled meetings?

A: *Every month The ESCA RP hosts the Fort Ord Users Working Group meetings. Members of this group focus on program aspects that impact recreational uses. As an example, working collaboratively with FORA, the Fort Ord Users Working Group helped to develop the Access Routes allowing people continued access onto hiking and biking trails.*



**FORT ORD REUSE
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To find out more about the Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA), or to request that you be added to our database, please send an email to esca@fora.org or visit the ESCA website at <http://fora-esca-rp.com>



2010 Project Document Schedule

- Final County North Track 1 Plug-In Approval Memorandum
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: January
- Draft Residential Quality Assurance Pilot Study Report
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: February
- Draft Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) MRA
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: August
- Final Group 2 RI/FS Report, CSUMB MRA
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: October
- Draft Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: March
- Draft Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: July
- Final Group 3 RI/FS Report, Interim Action Ranges, MOUT Site, Laguna Seca Parking, and Del Rey Oaks/Monterey MRAs
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: September
- Draft Final Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: May
- Final Group 4 RI/FS Work Plan, Future East Garrison MRA
 - ⊙ Targeted Release: July

FORA ESCA RP documents are posted online at <http://fora-esca-rp.com>. Members of the public may also review these documents at the BRAC Office, Building 4463 Gigling Road, Ord Military Community. For viewing hours contact the Administrative Record coordinator at (831) 393-9186.

* The above document timeframes are based upon agency work schedules and therefore subject to change. For the most current information please contact FORA's ESCA hotline at (831) 883-3506 or send an email to esca@fora.org.

FORA ESCA Remediation Program Team



Fort Ord
Reuse
Authority



WESTCLIFFE
ENGINEERS