



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Trails Symposium Links Economic Reuse With Recreation and Transportation Opportunities

The public is encouraged to attend an exciting symposium providing opportunity to learn about and help plan the future of this region's economic vitality by connecting outdoor recreation, regional trail systems and transit alternatives as part of reuse of the former Fort Ord area.

The Fort Ord Trails Symposium will take place on Thursday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) University Center. The Symposium brings together a group of national urban design leaders and practitioners to present information about communities around the country that are turning investments in bicycle, pedestrian and equestrian infrastructure into economic engines.

The adopted master plan for former Fort Ord, the 1997 Fort Ord Base Reuse Plan, has long envisioned a framework of well-designed gateways, town and village centers, and regional circulation corridors for the region. With significant open space available at former Fort Ord and within many existing county and city areas, outdoor recreation and the enhancement of non-motorized alternatives for recreation and daily transportation is becoming more popular, desirable, and necessary. The Base Reuse Plan calls for creating three major trails along Intergarrison, Fort Ord Dunes State Beach, and Salinas Valley/Seaside, as well as access to the Fort Ord National Monument area now owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Additional trails are envisioned along Monterey Road, Main Garrison, Crescent Avenue and Reservation Road.

The Symposium will focus on creating and linking economics and recreation through planning, networking and regional coordination. Speakers will include nationally-recognized community and economic planning professionals with expertise in economic development, community design, public access, linking assets and communities, and planning of transportation corridors and trails.

Walking and biking trails are not new concepts to Monterey County, and as the former Fort Ord area continues to redevelop over time, the integration of transit and recreation-oriented elements within the new communities, campuses, commercial and land conservation areas will assume even greater opportunity, interest and importance.

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and a number of local cities and developments are already engaged in planning and implementing trail systems for communities and residents. Forward planning efforts for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, to construct a continuous recreation/transit-oriented trail from Wilder State Park in Santa Cruz to Pacific Grove, started several years ago. Additionally, two local grass-roots planning group efforts have created concepts for a Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway and a regional trail linking Big Sur Land Trust lands south of Carmel up through Fort Ord and to the Salinas River.

The Symposium schedule, list of presenters, and meeting location map are posted on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) website at www.fora.org or can be obtained by calling the FORA office at (831) 883-3672.

Persons wishing to attend the Symposium, which includes a working lunch and keynote speaker, are asked to please RSVP by contacting the FORA office no later than Tuesday, January 20 to assure adequate food and space availability.

A separate but related series of public workshops focusing on developing Regional Urban Design Guidelines for the former Fort Ord is planned in February. For more information, visit the FORA website or contact the FORA office.

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