

**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY (FORA)
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT (ESCA) PROGRAM FOR
REMEDICATION OF MUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES OF CONCERN (MEC) ON FORMER FORT
ORD LANDS SCHEDULED FOR REUSE**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. What is the FORA ESCA Program?

A. As a former military base, the Fort Ord area contains a variety of explosives and munitions used during training of soldiers over the decades. FORA's mission is to plan, finance, facilitate, and oversee the economic recovery of the Monterey region from closure of the former Fort Ord military base in 1994.

The FORA 1997 Base Reuse Plan provides for a variety of reuse opportunities on parcels of land previously used by the U.S. Army for development of new jobs and housing, educational facilities, community service programs and facilities, recreation (such as improved beach access, trail systems for hiking and biking, equestrian areas, sports facilities), and environmental conservation, including retaining nearly 2/3 of the former base for habitat preservation and open space.

As part of the base closure process, the Army is required to "clean up" the former Fort Ord to allow reuse by local communities. State and federal standards from the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) govern the remediation/clearance activities. Since closure of the former Fort Ord, the Army has been gradually remediating areas previously used for military housing, services, and training activities.

In 2005, FORA requested permission to expedite the remediation process by contracting with the Army for funds to conduct the remediation by hiring qualified experts to perform the remediation activities. The FORA Board approved moving ahead on that basis in March of 2005. An Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) was signed in March, 2007 between FORA and the Army. The agreement provides dedicated funding from the Army to FORA for munitions remediation activities on approximately 3,500 acres of remaining parcels for reuse by local communities.

The Army will separately continue its work on remediation of inland range parcels previously used for munitions training activities. The Army retains ultimate responsibility for assuring that all state and federal remediation standards are met.

Q. How long is the remediation work on the ESCA parcels expected to take?

A. The remediation work being contracted by FORA on the EDC parcels is expected to take 7 years to complete (as compared to an estimated 10 - 15 years under the Army system).

Q. Is access to the ESCA remediation areas being "closed"? Will any access be available for people who have used these areas for biking, hiking, and equestrian uses since the base was closed?

A. Because of safety and liability issues associated with the remediation activities, state and federal regulators require that the identified ESCA remediation areas be restricted to public access. We are working with the regulators and will need to secure insurance carrier approval. We do not have a final answer yet. Our current plan is to limit access according to the final regulatory requirement for the duration of the remediation process. We anticipate that access to all off-road areas will be restricted but that access on paved roads could be available, except when specific work is being done in specific paved road areas. Signs could be posted to indicate where access is restricted and available, and updated information would be posted on the FORA website. We will continue to pursue possible routing and other options and to work closely with groups and individuals interested in this program.

Q. How can I get updated information about the Remediation Program?

A. Please contact FORA at 100 12th Street, Building 2880, Marina CA 93933; or contact Stan Cook, ESCA Program Manager at FORA by calling (831) 883-3672, ext. 113; or, send email to esca@fora.org. We appreciate community comments and will respond to all questions and concerns.

