

FACT SHEET: AB 1614
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FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY: SUNSET DATE EXTENSION

PROPOSED BILL

Extend the statutory sunset date of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) from June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2020.

Requires the FORA board to submit and approve a transition plan 18 months before inoperability of FORA to the Monterey County Local Agency Formation Commission.

BACKGROUND

Since its establishment in 1917, the Fort Ord Military Base has been an integral part of the Monterey Bay region's economy. When the base was closed in 1994, the California State Legislature established FORA to complete the planning, financing, and management of the former Fort Ord facility as described in the 1997 Reuse Plan developed by FORA.

FORA is comprised of representatives from every Monterey Bay regional government entity and includes major stakeholders affected by former Fort Ord reuse. Since the closure of the base, FORA has maintained broad local community participation and has held ongoing meetings to discuss, plan, and implement the region's vision for economic recovery.

To complete the reuse effort, FORA has undertaken crucial munitions and explosives removal obligations, funded the crucial Fort Ord Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) program process, constructed regional roadways and made transit improvements, and financed the deconstruction of contaminated buildings.

NEED FOR LEGISLATION

FORA's June 30, 2014 sunset date, which anticipated that 80% of the reuse recovery plan would be completed, cannot be achieved due to unforeseen circumstances. The biggest unforeseen problem that was encountered was a

regional community interest lawsuit against the Army regarding its munitions removal processing which delayed property transfers for five years. This caused the delay of early project approvals and resulted in all of the reuse projects being subjected to the economic recession of the past decade. Other factors contributing to the goals of FORA's recovery not being met were that the scope of the munitions and explosives remediation was greater and more costly than anticipated, and that federal and state HCP approval delays precluded progress.

These factors, along with the complexities associated with multi-jurisdictional oversight, have resulted in nine years of unavoidable delays. As a consequence, Fort Ord reuse is currently 17-20% complete – not nearly the expected 80%.

If FORA is not extended, its work must be performed by other local agencies who are not equipped to fulfill ongoing and fixed term obligations on Fort Ord such as munitions and explosives removal, HCP implementation, financing contaminated building deconstruction, and coordinate planning and construction of the Central Coast Veteran's Cemetery. These entities also lack the regional authority that prompted the Legislature to create FORA, and would most likely result in work being either delayed or not being performed.

There remains a need for a broad regional authority to oversee the reuse of the former Fort Ord Military Base. Extending FORA's sunset date allows local collaboration to continue to implement the FORA recovery program, and to enhance the economy and quality of life in the Monterey Bay community and the California Central Coast.

SUPPORT

Fort Ord Reuse Authority (Sponsor)

American Legion-Department of California
AMVETS-Department of California
California Association of County Veterans
Service Officers
California State Commanders Veterans Council
California State University, Monterey Bay
Carmel-by-the-Sea
Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation
Chancellor George Blumenthal, UCSC
Congressman Sam Farr, 17th District of CA
Monterey County
Monterey County Business Council
Monterey County Hospitality Association
Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce
Monterey Peninsula College
Monterey/Santa Cruz Counties Building and
Construction Trades Council
Pacific Grove
Salinas
Sand City
Santa Cruz, City
Seaside
Transportation Agency for Monterey County
Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club
Vietnam Veterans of America-California State
Council
Watsonville

OPPOSITION

Fort Ord Rec Users
Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse
Keep Fort Ord Wild
LandWatch Monterey County – unless amended
Preston and Abrams Parks Tenants Association