



# FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Michael Houlemard, Executive Officer

For Immediate Release: July 10, 2013

### **FORA Accepts County Registrar's Verification of Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative**

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) announced today that it has accepted the County of Monterey Registrar's verification of signatures submitted by the proponents of the Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative. On June 17, 2013, FORA received 28,484 petition signatures from proponents of the Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative for the purpose of qualifying the initiative for an election.

Employing a random sampling technique as permitted by law, the County Registrar of Voters selected three percent of the petitions (or 855 petitions) for verification. On July 9, 2013, FORA Executive Officer Michael Houlemard was informed by the County that of the 855 signature sample, 656 signatures (76.7 percent) were deemed valid. The County Registrar's office has projected the number of valid petition signatures to be 21,847, or 130 percent of the signatures required to find the petition sufficient. Since this is more than 110 percent of the signatures required, a "full count" verification of each signature is not necessary.

On May 29, 2013, FORA adopted a resolution seeking assistance from the Monterey County Registrar of Voters regarding potential elections. Subsequently, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors authorized the Registrar of Voters to provide assistance to FORA, including verification of petition signatures. Following the formalization of the agreement between FORA and the County, both proposed initiatives were transferred to the County for signature verification.

On June 24, 2013, FORA Executive Officer Michael Houlemard was informed by the County that a sampling of signatures provided by the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, Open Space Preservation, and Economic Revitalization Initiative indicated the initiative had obtained 121.5 percent of the signatures required to qualify the initiative for placement on the ballot. In his capacity as FORA Elections Official, Executive Officer Michael Houlemard reviewed and accepted the County's determination.

"Both proposed initiatives have likely qualified for placement on the ballot. The Board plans to consider this item on July 12<sup>th</sup>," stated FORA Chair and Del Rey Oaks Mayor Jerry Edelen.

Although the results of the County's signature verification for the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, Open Space Preservation, and Economic Revitalization Initiative and the Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative have been accepted by FORA Elections Official Michael Houlemard, the California Elections Code requires the results to be certified at a meeting of FORA's legislative body. Executive Officer Houlemard will perform this certification at the July 12<sup>th</sup> FORA Board meeting, which will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the Carpenters Union Hall at 910 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Marina, CA.

Information regarding the proposed ballot measures and agenda materials for the July 12<sup>th</sup> FORA Board meeting are available on the FORA website at [www.fora.org](http://www.fora.org).



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## Acceptance and Documentation for the Record

On June 17, 2013, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) received 28,484 signatures from proponents of the "Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative." The Fort Ord Reuse Authority contracted with the County of Monterey Elections Department to validate the signatures.

On July 9, 2013, I was informed that the County found that sufficient signatures were secured to qualify the initiative for an election (see attached). I have reviewed the County's determination and therefore, as FORA Elections Official, I accept the County's determination and will certify the results at the FORA Board meeting of July 12, 2013.

July 10, 2013  
Date

Michael A. Houlemard, Jr.  
Michael A. Houlemard, Jr., Executive Officer

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## Initiative # 1

### Protect Fort Ord Open Space Access Initiative

WHEREAS, pursuant to Government Code section 67659, the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) is deemed a “district” for purposes of initiative and referendum, with the voters of the authority being the voters of Monterey County.

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2013, FORA adopted a Resolution seeking assistance from the Monterey County Registrar of Voters regarding potential elections.

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2013, pursuant to Elections Code section 10002, the Board of Supervisors for the County of Monterey authorized the Monterey County Registrar of Voters to provide assistance to FORA.

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2013, FORA entered into an agreement with the County of Monterey through which the Monterey County Registrar of Voters was employed to provide assistance, including verifying signatures on petitions submitted to FORA.

WHEREAS, On June 17, 2013 the initiative petition was submitted to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority Board and transferred to the Registrar of Voters office for signature verification.

WHEREAS, the petition contained 28,484 signatures for verification.

WHEREAS, Elections Code section 9309 allows for the Registrars office to use a random sampling technique for verification:

- 9309 . (a) Within 30 days from the date of filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, if, from the examination of petitions pursuant to Section 9308, more than 500 signatures have been signed on the petition, the district elections official may use random sampling technique for verification of signatures. The random sample of signatures to be verified shall be drawn in such manner that every signature filed with the elections official shall be given an equal opportunity to be included in the sample. A random sampling shall include an examination of at least 500 or 3 percent of the signatures, whichever is greater.
- (b) If the statistical sampling shows that the number of valid signatures is within 95 to 110 percent of the number of signatures of qualified voters needed to declare the petition sufficient, the district elections official, within 60 days from the date of the filing of the petition, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays, shall examine and verify each signature filed.
- (c) In determining from the records of registration, what number of valid signatures is signed on the petition, the district elections official may use the duplicate file of affidavits maintained, or may check the signatures against facsimiles of voters’ signatures, provided that the method of preparing and displaying the facsimiles complies with law.
- (d) The district elections official shall attach to the petition, a certificate showing the result of this examination, and shall notify the proponents of either the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition.
- (e) If the petition is found insufficient, no action shall betake on the petition. However, the failure to secure sufficient signatures shall not preclude the filing later of an entirely new petition to the same effect.

(f) If the petition is found to be sufficient, the district elections official shall certify the results of the examination to the governing board of the district at the next regular meeting of the board.

WHEREAS, Elections Code section 9310 provides that the minimum number of signatures required for an initiative petition submitted to a District is not less than 10 percent of the voters in the District, and there are 168,245 voters in the District.

WHEREAS, of the 28,484 signatures submitted for verification, three percent (3%) of which amounts to 855, which is larger than the minimum 500 signatures to be verified by the Registrars office in the random sampling.

WHEREAS, of the 855 signatures verified in the random sampling, 656 (76.7%) were deemed valid.

WHEREAS, the projected number of valid signature on said petition is 21,847.

NOW, THEREFORE, this office has determined that the initiative petition submitted to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority Board on June 17, 2013 contains 130 percent of the qualified voters needed.



Claudio Valenzuela  
Assistant Registrar of Voters  
County of Monterey

9<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2013