MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Steve Endsley For Immediate Release: August 24, 2018

FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY RELEASES NOTICE OF PREPARATION FOR PROPOSED NORTHEAST-SOUTHWEST CONNECTOR

The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) has taken an initial step in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process by issuing a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a proposed project called Northeast-Southwest Arterial Connector (formerly known as "Eastside Parkway"). The proposed connector road alignment utilizes significant portions of existing former Fort Ord roadways.

Issuance of the NOP marks the beginning of a CEQA process which will evaluate the proposed project and alternatives. Commencement of the CEQA process is not an endorsement of any particular alignment; it begins a formal evaluation process that provides study of potential environmental impacts, alternatives, and other approaches with respect to the proposed project, as well as opportunity for extensive public comment.

The public is invited to attend the two "charrette" style scoping meetings to discuss the contents of the NOP and potential alternatives to the proposed road. The first meeting will be held in Salinas on Wednesday, September 5, at Monterey County Administrative Office (Monterey Room, 2nd Floor), 168 W. Alisal Street, from 6:00 to 8:30 pm. The second meeting will be held in Seaside on Thursday, September 6, at the Soper Field Community Center, 220 Coe Avenue from 6:00 to 8:30 pm.

A copy of the NOP is posted on the FORA website at http://fora.org/connector or may be obtained by contacting the FORA office at (831) 883-3672. FORA welcomes all comments regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project. All comments will be considered in the preparation of the EIR. Written comments must be submitted by **September 25, 2018**. Please direct your comments to:

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