



## SIERRA CLUB VENTANA CHAPTER

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January 19, 2012

Assembly Member Bill Monning  
27<sup>th</sup> Assembly District  
State Capitol  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0027

Dear Assembly Member Monning;

The Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club very much appreciates your willingness to discuss the future of the Fort Ord Reuse Authority with us and other environmental stakeholders. We believe that these discussions have been very helpful in increasing our mutual understanding of the issues and conditions at play at in developing a new community on the former Fort Ord.

The Sierra Club is willing to support the extension of the sunset date for the Fort Ord Reuse Authority from June 30, 2014 to June 30, 2020. We do, however, have a number of principles that we strongly recommend be incorporated in the extension legislation. These recommended principles are:

1. Of greatest importance to the Sierra Club and to other environmental organizations with whom the FORA Subcommittee has met is to stop the current trend of approving developments for construction on land not previously developed or built upon while the land containing deteriorating barracks and other structures that contain toxic levels of lead and asbestos on the former Ft. Ord remains untouched. The Sierra Club would strongly support an amendment to the placeholder bill to achieve this result.
2. We strongly recommend updating the Base Reuse Plan to address changes that have occurred in the economy and environment since the Base Reuse Plan was adopted in 1997. The Sierra Club would strongly support an amendment to the placeholder bill that would require this type of update.
3. We strongly recommend that the fee to appeal to FORA's Board of Directors the land use decision of a member jurisdiction be reduced from its current amount (\$5,040) to an amount that would be reasonably affordable to the majority of residents in Monterey, Santa Cruz, and San Benito Counties
4. In order for the public to better judge the performance of FORA, we strongly recommend that the State Legislature require FORA to make available to the public a simple, comprehensive annual report that provides at least the following information:
  - a. Annual revenues and cumulative (over the life of FORA) revenues and the source of each amount (land sales, grants, impact fees, etc.) by underlying land use jurisdiction.

*...To explore, enjoy, preserve and protect the nation's forests, waters, wildlife and wilderness...*

- b. Annual and cumulative (over the life of FORA) expenditures and the recipient of each amount by jurisdiction and purpose.
  - c. Annual and cumulative accomplishments across the entire former Fort Ord and existing Ord Military Community with regard to at least the following measures:
    - i. Completion of the Habitat Conservation Plan
    - ii. Removal of abandoned buildings and abandoned infrastructure
    - iii. Scenic viewshed conservation, improvement or destruction
    - iv. Habitat conservation, improvement or destruction
    - v. Open space conservation, improvement or removal
    - vi. Miles of completed and/or maintained hiking, mountain biking and equestrian trails
    - vii. Environmental cleanup and restoration
    - viii. LEED certified construction projects completed
    - ix. Vehicle trip and other carbon load reduction activities.
    - x. Completed construction of roadways
    - xi. Completed construction of dwelling units
    - xii. Completed construction of commercial and retail space
5. We recommend that FORA prepare a transition and termination plan that suggests to LAFCO how the assets and responsibilities of FORA should be transferred to other agencies upon dissolution of FORA and that the State Legislature requires this plan be completed at least two years before the new sunset date for FORA.
6. We recommend that FORA be required to televise its board and committee meetings live on the local public access cable TV channel and via the Internet; and that they provide recorded versions of these meeting via streaming media from the Internet.

In our meetings with you and FORA staff, they have indicated that they support recommendations 2 through 6 in some form or other. Therefore, you should be able to enlist at least partial support from them for inclusion of these recommendations in the legislation.

We thank you for seriously considering our recommendations and attempting to implement them in state law. We look forward to supporting your efforts to do so in the State Legislature and with the Governor.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Moore  
Chair, Subcommittee on Fort Ord