

**Post-Workshop Summary Notes
Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup
Community Involvement Workshop**

October 12, 2005

Stilwell Community Center, Ord Military Community

Facilitator: Ben Strumwasser

The below listed material was provided to workshop attendees:

- An Agenda
- Presentation Slides – Track 2 Parker Flats Munitions Response Area Update
- Presentation Slides – Community Involvement Update
- Presentation Slides – Draft Special Waste Disposal Variance: Monterey Peninsula Landfill
- July 20, 2005 CIW Post-Workshop Summary Notes
- 2005 What Happens Next Calendar
- Notice of Public Comment Period for Draft Special Waste Variance for Monterey Peninsula Landfill
- Fact Sheet – Monterey Peninsula Landfill Draft Special Waste Disposal Variance
- Notice of Public Comment Period: Proposed Draft Closure Plan for Range 36A
- Fact Sheet – Former Fort Ord Draft Closure Plan, Range 36A
- Fact Sheet – Military Munitions Response Program
- Fact Sheet – Fort Ord Community Involvement Significant Activities 2005
- Fact Sheets – Fort Ord NPL/BRAC 1991
- Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Survey
- Fort Ord News – Fall 2005

Agenda Topics

- Track 2 Parker Flats Munitions Response Area Update
- Community Involvement Update
- Draft Special Waste Disposal Variance

Attendees

Ben Strumwasser, Facilitator
Bill Mabey, Techlaw
Bruce Wilcer, MACTEC
Gail Youngblood, BRAC
Roman Racca, DTSC
Dot Lofstrom, DTSC
Chris Prescott, USACE
Sarah Danley
Rachel O' Brien
Bob Schaffer
Melissa Broadston, BRAC

Adrienne Goldsworth, AHTNA
Karen Schkolnick, Monterey County
Tom Hall, Techlaw
Richard E. Bailey
Jonathan Lockhart
Kris Escarda, DTSC
Chris Cora, EPA
Sean Phillip
Marilyn Georgevich
LeVonne Stone, FOEJN
Ed Oberweiser, Fort Ord CAG

Ann McElroy, Monterey County
Peter Kelsall, SHAW
Theresa Juran
Curt Gandy
Ada Hynes
David Eisen, USACE
Ed Ticken, MACTEC

Kristie Reimerz
Norman Bretz
Alex Hoffman
Beth Flynn, MACTEC
Derek Lieberman, BRAC
George Siller, USACE
Grant Himebaugh, CRWQCB

Welcome and Introductions

Ben Strumwasser, facilitator for the meeting, made introductions and gave an overview of the agenda.

Presentation: Track 2 Parker Flats Munitions Response Area Update

Beth Flynn of MACTEC presented an update on the Military Munitions Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Track 2 process. Ms. Flynn began by explaining the different Tracks for the Munitions Response Study:

- Track 0: Areas contain no evidence of munitions and explosives of concern (MEC) and have never been suspected as having been used for munitions-related activities.
- Track 1: MEC were suspected, no further action necessary.
- Track 2: MEC found, removal action complete.
- Track 3: MEC known or suspected, actions not complete.

Ms. Flynn continued with an overview of the types of training practices that occurred in the Parker Flats area from pre-1940s until the base closed. Ms. Flynn also mentioned that a geophysical investigation was completed over the entire site except for paved roads and parking areas. All detected anomalies were investigated and all encountered MEC or munitions debris were removed. In all, over 163,000 excavations were performed on the site. The Draft Track 2 Parker Flats Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study was submitted in February 2005. The comments on the draft were received during the summer of 2005, and the draft final version is expected to be available at the end of October. Components of the Remedial Investigation include background information, a conceptual site model, the nature and extent of Military Munitions, and an evaluation of previous work completed. Ms. Flynn ended her presentation by explaining that the Proposed Plan for the site will be available in February 2006 and there will also be a Public Meeting during the same month. The Record of Decision (ROD) will be completed in July 2006.

During Ms. Flynn's presentation, no questions were asked.

Presentation: Community Involvement Update

Melissa Broadston of the Fort Ord BRAC Office presented an update on the 2005 Community Relations Plan (CRP) and other community outreach activities. Ms. Broadston began with an overview of the 2005 Community Relations Plan and then explained the changes that have taken place in the CRP since it was last published 2001. Ms. Broadston also described the survey that was distributed to the community, how many people completed the survey and

how many local community members and organizations were interviewed regarding their responses to the survey. Next, Ms. Broadston explained that the Draft Community Relations Plan will be issued October 30, 2005. It will be available for a 60-day public comment period. The Draft Final version will be available in early 2006 with a 30-day public comment period. Ms. Broadston gave an overview of 2005 community outreach activities that took place and also mentioned some of the activities scheduled in 2006.

During Ms. Broadston's presentation, the following questions were asked:

- What is the "CSUMB List Server" that was referenced in the presentation? I am a student and do not have any knowledge of a list server.

Ms. Broadston answered that she was not sure if "list server" was the proper name.

Ms. Goldsworth added that she is also a CSUMB student and explained that Ms. Broadston was making reference to the "General News" and "Open Forum" communication boards (where information and news are posted) located on the CSUMB email system and accessible to students.

- Why is a letter with information about Fort Ord not sent to every individual student at CSUMB? There is no reason that students should not be informed about where they live; we should have information sent to our doors.

Ms. Broadston answered that currently, there is information regarding the Fort Ord cleanup posted by the CSUMB Webmaster in different places on the CSUMB webpage including the "news" section.

- If we do not know about the information to begin with, how are we supposed to look for it? When I came to CSUMB, no one informed me that I was coming to a school that has stuff like this [contamination] on it. When I first heard about this [contamination], it scared me.

Ms. Broadston asked how the student making this comment found out about the Fort Ord cleanup.

- The student responded that she found out information through the Environmental Committee at CSUMB.
- Ms. Broadston added that she has been contacted in the past by individual professors from the ESSP department and arranged for environmental cleanup tours/presentations for their classes upon request.
- The student again emphasized that a campus-wide letter should still be sent to every student as the internet is not always reliable.
- Another student added that he also thinks a letter is a great and appropriate course of action.
- Ms. Broadston said that for the last 2 years, a Fort Ort Environmental Cleanup booth is staffed at the "New Student Orientation/Welcome Fair" at CSUMB.
- Ms. Goldsworth also noted that a booth is also staffed at Earth Day at CSUMB each year.
- Mr. Racca suggested that the students in attendance possibly come up with effective mechanisms for information to be distributed to students and then share their ideas with cleanup staff.
- Ms. Broadston mentioned that when an environmental cleanup bulk-mailing is done, the zip codes of 93933 and 93955 are included in the mailing – while the Frederick Park

Apartments receive mail under the 93933 zip code, she is not sure why the on-campus dormitories do not receive mail for the 93955 zip code.

- When I first came to CSUMB, I was told not to drink the water – why shouldn't we drink the water?

Ms. Youngblood answered that the water on Fort Ord is perfectly safe and meets all standards.

- Fort Ord cleanup meetings should be held every month instead of quarterly.

Mr. Strumwasser answered that while the CIW and TRC meetings only happen quarterly, there are many other cleanup activities that happen in-between meetings that are also means for disseminating cleanup information including tours, individual group presentations and open houses. The CIW meetings are only one piece of the community relations program.

Ms. Broadston added that while bus tours are available at the open houses, there are also experts available during poster sessions to discuss all cleanup topics relevant for Fort Ord.

- Isn't the Fort Ord Landfill a corrective action site and not a "municipal landfill?"

Ms. Youngblood answered that the Fort Ord landfills were used to dispose of the municipal waste generated by the families living on Fort Ord, as well as the general waste produced by offices, etc. In addition, updates regarding the Fort Ord Landfill are made on a regular basis. However, it is not a topic on the agenda tonight. Ms. Youngblood further explained that "corrective action" refers to a law in California that allows consolidation of waste, including hazardous waste, into a particular area, with proper protective measures in place so that the public will not be exposed to the material. On Fort Ord, the landfills have been consolidated under a landfill cap. The landfill has been properly closed and continues to be monitored.

Presentation: Draft Special Waste Disposal Variance

Ms. Kris Escarda of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) gave a presentation on the Special Waste Disposal Variance for the Monterey Peninsula Landfill and Recycling Facility. Ms. Escarda began by explaining that the applicant for the variance is the Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD). The proposed item to be disposed of is wood debris containing lead-based paint from the demolition of 573 wooden buildings at the former Fort Ord. The proposed disposal location will be at the Monterey Peninsula Class III (non-hazardous waste) Landfill. The variance determination is based on classification of the waste as special waste, sampling results, the relatively low mobility of lead, conditions outlined in the variance, and landfill construction and operation. Special Waste is waste with contaminant levels below federal hazardous waste regulatory limits, but higher than State of California levels. There is a 30-day public comment period for this disposal variance beginning October 11 and ending November 10, 2005. The document is available at the DTSC Administrative Record and the Fort Ord Administrative Record, as well as at the Seaside Library and CSUMB Library Information Repositories. In addition, a Public Workshop will be held on October 24th, 2005 at Marina City Hall from 7:00pm-9:30pm.

During Ms. Escarda's presentation, the following questions were asked:

- When they are tearing down buildings, will lead and asbestos be in the dust?

Ms. Escarda explained that the proposed variance only applies to the disposal of the buildings into the landfill and not the demolitions, soil impacts or worker safety. However, these issues are addressed by other mechanisms with strict standards.

- I am concerned about lead-based paint contamination in the soil as a result of paint falling off of or being scraped off of buildings on Fort Ord.

Mr. Racca answered that soil sampling takes place after structures that contained lead-based paint, asbestos, or PCB are removed. When the waste from these demolished buildings is being transported, the vehicles are securely covered so that the waste is contained and the vehicles are monitored by a local Air Pollution Control District as they move throughout cities.

- Is there a site mitigation proposal for after the buildings are removed?

Ms. Escarda answered that this question would need to be addressed by FORA or the Army.

Mr. Strumwasser reiterated that this proposal will be the subject of the October 24th Public Meeting.

- You said that the variance is not part of the Fort Ord cleanup, but the reason for the variance is to dispose of waste from the demolitions of buildings on Fort Ord. How can you say this?

Ms. Escarda explained that the proposed variance only applies to waste from these particular demolitions. An alternative to this variance is that the waste would have to be hauled to a hazardous waste landfill out of the area.

- How were the Federal Standards for lead-based paint disposal established?

Ms. Escarda explained that she would have to get a technical answer to this question from a project manager as she is not able to answer it.

- What is the impact on the Marina landfill from this disposal variance? Also, there is only so much space in landfills – will this affect the availability of space at the landfill?

Ms. Escarda answered that the variance only allows this specific waste to be disposed in a specific location of a specific module of the landfill. Additional information will be available at the Pubic Meeting on October 24th, 2005.

Mr. Himebaugh added that at the time this variance was proposed, there were no concerns about the capacity of the landfill.

Ms. Karen Schkolnick, Supervising Environmental Health Specialist from the County of Monterey Department of Health mentioned that the landfill has an approximate 100 year capacity expectancy, even when the waste mentioned in the proposed variance is included.

Ms. Escarda also mentioned that the Closure Plan for Range 36A is currently available for review. Range 36A is an approximate 1.8 acre parcel located east of the center of the 8,000 acre Impact Area. This Range was used as an Open Burn/Open Detonation area by the U.S. Army to

dispose of hazardous waste munitions. See the fact sheet for more information. The public comment period began October 7 and ends November 7, 2005.

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Report

Ms. LeVonne Stone explained that her organization, the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network (FOEJN), is the TAG recipient. It is a community organization that has operated since 1996. It was formed in response to disenfranchised and impacted communities who cannot access information they need. The advisor for FOEJN is Dr. Peter deFur. His job is to review and interpret documents regarding the Fort Ord cleanup process and then assist FOEJN in providing comments to the Army about those documents.

Ms. Ada Hynes explained that the FOEJN Open House will be held in December 5, 2005 – location to be determined. This event will be open to the public. The phone number for FOEJN is (831) 582-0803 and the website address is foejn.org. Ms. Hynes also expressed her concerns about people in this area who have cancer and the lack of an environmental health center on Fort Ord.

Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (CAG) Report

Mr. Curt Gandy, the acting chair of the Fort Ord CAG explained that the CAG meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Oak Knolls Community Center in Monterey from 6:30pm – 8:30pm. The CAG is currently focused on unexploded ordnance, groundwater and drinking water and the Fort Ord landfill.

Open Forum

The following questions and comments were made during the Open Forum period:

- I was recently informed by a friend that ordnance workers are being laid-off because there is no current cleanup work for them. I would like to get an update and really understand what the budget for the cleanup is. I hear people saying that the cleanup is “winding down,” but documents that I read indicate how much more there is to be done.

This question will be addressed as a Closing the Loop item as the information is not available at the meeting.

- I understand that ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) is supposed to have a role in assessing community health issues.

Ms. Broadston answered that correct. When a site is listed as a Superfund Site, ATSDR becomes involved. The first thing ATSDR does is a health assessment for the community as well as research to find out what contamination exists on the site. ATSDR did this on Fort Ord and published a report in 1996. This report is available through the ATSDR website (<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/atsdrhome.html>) and from the Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup website (www.fortordcleanup.com). ATSDR did an additional assessment in 2003 specific to prescribed burning on Fort Ord. This report is also online and available through both websites.

- Are there any explosives that are not of concern on Fort Ord?

Ms. Youngblood answered that MEC, the acronym for Munitions and Explosives of concern is standardized Army terminology. The term MEC cannot be changed.

- Is there a legal requirement for a community health assessment to be conducted on a yearly basis?

Ms. Youngblood answered that she cannot answer that question – it will need to be addressed with Ms. Gwen Eng, the ATSDR representative for Fort Ord. This will also be addressed in Closing the Loop.

- Has there been a health impact assessment for toxic waste dumps?

Ms. Youngblood answered that a report for the Fort Ord landfill indicates that no matter where you live in this area [Monterey], the risk is approximately the same – whether you are upwind or downwind from the Fort Ord landfill. In addition, a landfill gas extraction system has been installed in the Fort Ord landfill.

Mr. Eisen added that testing results consistently show that concentration levels of landfill gases are the same whether you are upwind or downwind. In fact, we are extracting gasses from the landfill and treating them.

- What are the different options for cleaning up the landfill? Why can't the community choose how and who cleans up the landfill?

Mr. Strumwasser indicated that the answer to that question is not simple. For now, the questions will be tabled and can be brought up again and discussed at future meetings where landfill cleanup is a topic on the agenda.

- Why can't ATSDR and the CDC provide doctors to the area to check people for health problems?

This question will be addressed as a Closing the Loop item as the information is not available at the meeting.

BRAC Cleanup Team

Meeting minutes from recent BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) meetings are in the Administrative Record, available at information repositories, and are available online at www.fortordcleanup.com.

Closing the Loop

See above unanswered questions...

What Happens Next

- November – Small Community Group Meetings

Open House

An informal gathering of the attendees was held.

The workshop was closed.