



**Final  
HTW BCT  
Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2021  
Teleconference Meeting**



**Agenda**

Reference the handout titled "HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 1:30 PM, Former Fort Ord, California."

**1. Attendance and Announcements**

Last Name	First Name	Organization	By Phone
Anderson	Thor	Burleson Consulting	X
Balch	Duane	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	X
Bleichner	Randall	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	X
Broadston	Melissa	Chenega for BRAC	X
Clancy	Maeve	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	X
Collins	Bill	U.S. Army BRAC, Fort Ord Office	X
Dillon	Holly	Ahtna Global, LLC (Ahtna)	X
Floyd	Bridget	USACE	X
Gentry	Dana	USACE	X
Gettmann	Kimberly	DTSC	X
Hession	Shaelyn	Ahtna	X
Higgins	Jolie	USACE	X
Kochman	Aaron	Chenega for BRAC	X
Kosowski	Sylvester	Ahtna	X
Lieberman	Derek	Ahtna	X
Meakes	Charity	USACE	X
Nozaki	Chieko	Chenega for BRAC	X
Savage	Tom	USACE	X
Schmidt	Eric	Ahtna	X
Sellinger	Amber	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (CCRWQCB)	X
Soderberg	Sheila	CCRWQCB	X
Valdez	Val	Chenega for BRAC	X
Whipple	Jonathan	USACE	X
Wu	Min	DTSC	X

Bill Collins announced that a media request was received from Associated Press (AP). A briefing of Fort Ord cleanup activities, interview, and tour will be provided.

**2. BCT Minutes Status**

HTW BCT meeting minutes are final through the last meeting in January 2021.

### 3. Community Outreach Update

The handout titled “U.S. Army Community Outreach Update” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- An analysis was completed of the 2019 survey results and 2019-2020 community involvement activities report was sent out as final, after addressing minor corrections from the BCT.
- The 2021 community outreach survey was posted on the Fort Ord Cleanup website, and responses will be accepted through June 30. Approximately 900 mailers were issued to notify community members about the survey.
- The Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting on February 11 was attended by 27 people.
- The USEPA received a call from a potential homeowner asking about cleanup activities and BRAC responded.
- The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) sent a request for removing the firing range restricted zone from the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary in the naval charts. Bill Collins responded, and a letter will be provided from BRAC Headquarters to NOAA stating the restricted zone can be removed because the firing ranges are no longer active.
- The USEPA responses to public comment letters on the National Priorities List (NPL) partial deletion notice were sent to USEPA Headquarters for review two weeks ago. It is expected there will be minor edits and the partial deletion on track to be finalized by the end of May.
- When the Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) 11 Amendment Number 1 is ready to go out, a notice will be published in the Monterey Herald, Salinas Californian, and on the News section on the Fort Ord Cleanup website at [www.fortordcleanup.com](http://www.fortordcleanup.com) to start the public comment period.
- A Nature Walk community event is possible in the fall with COVID precautions in place.
- An interview with Mike Weaver for the per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) preliminary assessment (PA) was in the process to be scheduled. However, Mr. Weaver requested the interview questions ahead of time, and responded to the questions by e-mail instead of conducting a telephone interview.
- The July TRC will cover munitions, prescribed burns and Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement topics.
- Mike Weaver sent comments on the OU2 Landfills Quality Assurance Project Plan and responses to comments were sent to the BCT for review.

### 4. 5<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Review

There was no handout for the 5<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Review. Discussion included:

- This is a new agenda item for the HTW BCT Meetings.
- Charity Meakes with USACE Sacramento District (SPK) is the project lead for the report.
- The report will cover data from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2021.
- Document review is being conducted currently for MMRP and HTW sites.
- Interviews for project personnel will be conducted soon.
- Community surveys will be sent out soon.
- The Draft 5<sup>th</sup> Five-Year Review Report will be sent to the BRAC for review in October. Internal drafts will be reviewed before that without all of the data through September 30, 2021. The Draft to the BCT will be sent in early calendar year 2022.

### 5. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

#### a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring –

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit 2 Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- OU2 groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) data January through March was discussed:
  - Table 1 shows that the OU2 GWTP was online 95 percent (%) of the time in January due to communication issues and 100% of the time in February and March due to improvements to the communications system.
  - Table 2 has analytical results for the OU2 GWTP injection point of compliance samples collected January through April. Analytical results for chemicals of concern (COCs) were either not detected or below the discharge limit. A few estimated low carbon-affinity COCs were detected as expected.
- Key Events were discussed from January through April:
  - In January the construction contractor for the Shea Homes development damaged the OU2 Southwest Injection pipeline on two separate occasions and repaired the pipeline. A total of 6,500 gallons of treated water was discharged at the surface, but infiltrated the ground near the location where it was already being injected.
  - In January a communications failure caused a GWTP shutdown. A new radio tower was installed at the OU2 GWTP in January and a new radio tower was installed at the Western Network in March to improve communications. A chart was shared showing a marked decrease in communication failures from the Western Network after the January improvements to the communications equipment was completed.
  - On March 1, EW-OU2-10-180 shut down due to a motor malfunction.
  - The RORE Innovative Solutions Joint Venture (JV) completed performance testing for Western Network extraction wells EW-OU2-05-A and EW-OU2-06-A and the wells were started on March 22 operating at a higher rate than they were before the transition period.
  - On March 15 EW-OU2-12-A was turned off due to low flow and to prevent pump failure.
  - The week of April 19 redevelopment will be completed at EW-OU2-12-A and EW-OU2-12-180 and a new pump installed at EW-OU2-12-180.
  - In May Sea Haven will complete surface adjustments and survey wells MW-OU2-04-A, MW-OU2-05-AR, MW-OU2-07-A, MW-OU2-07-400, and MW-OU2-84-180.
  - In May failed pumps will be replaced at EW-OU2-02-A, EW-OU2-04-A, and EW-OU2-10-180.
- The First Quarter 2021 groundwater monitoring event was conducted in the first week of March and preliminary results were presented.
  - A-Aquifer results were shared and compared to the Fourth Quarter 2020 event. Results were comparable for most wells.
  - MW-OU2-06-AR trend chart shows an overall increasing COC trend with a recent decrease in the First Quarter 2021. MW-OU2-06-AR is west of the Eastern Extraction Well Network and is captured by the Western Extraction Well Network.
  - MW-OU2-08-A trend chart shows an increase during the First Quarter 2021 event, but not at the historical maximum.
  - MW-OU2-75-A trend chart shows an increase to the historical maximum COC concentrations during the First Quarter 2021 event.
  - Upper 180-Foot Aquifer results were shared and compared to the previous three quarters of trichloroethene (TCE) data. Results were comparable for most wells with a slight decrease in TCE concentrations at several wells during the First Quarter 2021 event.
  - MW-OU2-62-180 trend chart shows seasonal TCE concentrations above and below the ACL with a decreasing overall trend since 2019. This well is on the eastern side of OU2 Landfills Area F.

- Replacement Sea Haven well TCE results (MW-OU2-05-AR and MW-OU2-84-180) were presented and compared with results from the decommissioned wells (MW-OU2-05-A and MW-OU2-07-180R). The replacement wells results were all below COC ACLs.
- The Fourth Quarter 2020 A-Aquifer and Upper 180 Foot Aquifer COC plume maps were shared.

**b. Treated Water Reuse** – treated water was used by Shea Homes for construction dust control purposes. A total of 9,500 gallons were used in January, 1.55 million gallons were used in February, and 1.6 million gallons used in March.

**c. Groundwater Treatment Plant Relocation** – The JV contractor completed performance testing for EW-OU2-05-A and EW-OU2-06-A. A new flow meter transmitter is needed at EW-OU2-02-180R to replace the faulty one installed a couple months ago. The transmitter was shipped from the manufacturer. This is the last remaining item for the JV to do.

**d. Landfills Operations and Maintenance (O&M)** – The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit 2 Landfills Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- A photo of wildflowers on the Landfills was shared.
- The First Quarter 2021 perimeter probe monitoring was completed and there were no issues.
- The First Quarter 2021 Monterey County Department of Health inspection was completed and there were no issues.
- Source testing will be conducted the week of May 24<sup>th</sup> during the Second Quarter 2021 perimeter probe monitoring and sampling event.
- The thermal treatment unit (TTU) was last operated the week of March 17<sup>th</sup> and had a couple shutdowns. Troubleshooting determined a new oxygen sensor needed to be installed. The oxygen sensor was ordered and received today. The oxygen sensor was installed and the TTU will be operated normally next week.
- The TTU influent methane concentration is stable at 37.5% with an overall decreasing trend.

## **6. Sites 2 and 12 (Sites 2/12)**

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Sites 2 and 12 Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The Sites 2/12 handout covers activities for January through March. The Sites 2/12 GWTP was online almost 100% of the time.
- The Soil Vapor Treatment Unit (SVTU) remains offline due to low soil gas COC concentrations below the soil gas cleanup levels (SGCLs).
- Table 2 has analytical results for the Site 2 injection point of compliance samples collected in January, February, and March. COCs were either not detected or below discharge limits.
- Key Events were discussed from January through April:

- There were a couple minor shut downs in January due to communications issues.
- Air stripper maintenance was conducted in February.
- The week of April 19 extraction well EW-12-08-180U will be redeveloped, and an upsized pump will be installed to expedite achieving remedial action objectives.
- The Second Quarter 2021 Soil Gas Monitoring Event will be conducted in mid-May.
- The Second Quarter 2021 Groundwater Monitoring Event will be conducted in June.
- Shea Homes will decommission EW-12-04-180M and EW-12-180U as recommended in the Annual Report due to planned construction in the area. No schedule has been provided for the work.
- The First Quarter 2021 soil gas monitoring event was completed in February and results were presented.
  - Soil gas concentrations are included from the start of the rebound study in the First Quarter 2020 through the First Quarter 2021. The rebound study was completed in the Fourth Quarter 2020.
  - SG-12-04 had TCE detections above the SGCL in the First Quarter 2020 which triggered the restart of the SVTU in the Second Quarter 2020. Concentrations of TCE decreased rapidly and have increased since then. TCE concentrations have increased again but remain below the SGCL and are in shallow probes not affecting groundwater COC concentrations. The TCE concentrations will continue to be monitored.
  - SG-12-01 in the parking lot for Party City had tetrachloroethene (PCE) concentrations decrease rapidly after the SVTU was online in 2015 and has remained below the SGCL.
  - SG-12-02 is not within the SVTU treatment area and has persistent PCE concentrations in the shallow probes, but has an overall declining COC trend.
  - SG-12-06 in the Bed Bath & Beyond parking lot has PCE concentrations that have stayed below the SGCL after SVTU treatment.
  - A map of the Fourth Quarter 2020 soil gas probe data was shared.
- The First Quarter 2021 groundwater monitoring event was conducted in the first week of March and preliminary results were shared.
  - The last five quarters of data were shown and all wells were below aquifer cleanup levels (ACLs), except for PCE at extraction well EW-12-08-180U.
  - The Fourth Quarter 2020 groundwater plume map was shared, showing a decreased PCE plume area.
  - The trend chart for EW-12-08-180U shows that it used to have PCE concentrations ranging between 10 and 20 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g/L}$ ) varying seasonally. In the past couple quarters though, PCE concentrations have decreased below 10  $\mu\text{g/L}$  and are approaching the ACL of 5  $\mu\text{g/L}$ .
  - The trend chart for MW-12-20-180U located north of EW-12-08-180U shows that it has been below the PCE ACL for over a year now.

## 7. Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP)

a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring – The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The First Quarter 2021 groundwater monitoring event was conducted in the first week of March and preliminary results were shared.
  - The OUCTP A-Aquifer data was generally consistent with previous events.
    - Carbon tetrachloride (CT) concentrations at MW-BW-58-A, located in Enhanced In Situ Bioremediation (EISB) Deployment Area 3A, decreased below the ACL in the Fourth Quarter 2020.

- MW-BW-26-A in EISB Deployment Area 2A has had persistent CT concentrations above the ACL. EW-BW-129-A and EW-BW-140-A were added to the monitoring schedule to monitor for CT in the area. CT concentrations at EW-BW-129-A are above the ACL and increased above the ACL at EW-BW-140-A during the First Quarter 2021 event. This area will be monitored closely and potential future EISB deployment in the area may be considered.
- CT concentrations at MW-BW-75-A, located in the City of Marina downgradient area, has been increasing over the past few years. This area is downgradient of the EISB Pilot Study area, which was an effective treatment, but began after some CT mass had already migrated downgradient past the treatment area.
- The Fourth Quarter 2020 CT plume map for the A-Aquifer was presented.
- The OUCTP Upper 180-Foot Aquifer CT concentrations are consistent with previous monitoring events.
  - CT concentrations at upgradient well MP-BW-46-170 increased during the First Quarter 2021 event but are less than the historical maximum. Monitoring was added at wells MW-BW-21-180 and MW-BW-43-180 and a third upgradient well is recommended for monitoring.
  - CT concentrations at MW-OU2-64-180 in the southern plume area also increased during the First Quarter 2021 event but are in the historical range.
  - The Fourth Quarter 2020 CT plume map for the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer was presented.
- The OUCTP Lower 180-Foot Aquifer CT and TCE concentrations are consistent with previous monitoring events.
  - MP-BW-49-316 had an increasing CT concentration trend the past couple of years.
  - MW-BW-59-180 TCE concentrations have always been above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) but have been consistent with little seasonal variation. This well is located downgradient of a discontinuity in the Intermediate 180-Foot Aquitard and the potential TCE source in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer indicated by MW-OU2-62-180 in the OU2 plume.
  - The Fourth Quarter 2020 CT/TCE plume map for the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer was presented.
  - A new Upper 180-Foot Aquifer extraction well is recommended to reduce the amount of CT migrating from the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer to the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer through the discontinuity in the aquitard.

b. TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer – will be addressed in the next Five Year Review Report.

## **8. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Preliminary Assessment” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The PFAS Public Fact Sheet was completed and posted online.
- The table on the handout shows all the former Fort Ord sites being evaluated for the PA and the status.
- The PA Narrative Report is being completed and will be sent for internal Army review soon and is listed on the deliverable schedule.
- File searches for all of the sites were completed.

- All of the interviews were completed. Approximately a dozen interviews were conducted. A phone interview was supposed to be conducted with community member and Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (FOCAG) chair Mike Weaver; however, the Mr. Weaver answered the interview questions by e-mail.
- Site reconnaissance has been completed for all the sites and is described below.
  - A preliminary drive-by at Hangars 524 and 527 was completed and the buildings are now occupied by a tech start-up developing an air taxi business that does not want to allow visitors inside the buildings. However, the information needed for the PA was received.
  - Photos of the sites visited since January were shared.
  - Site 10 fire drill area in the Main Garrison next to the Presidio of Monterey (POM) Fire Station used to be a burn pit during Fire Prevention Week to practice putting out fires and aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) was used. Site 10 was remediated for total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) in soil by excavation and backfill with clean soil and is now overgrown with ice plant.
  - Site 16 DOL Maintenance Yard used to service heavy equipment and vehicles, but is now California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) dorms with drainage still going to Pete's Pond and Pete's Pond Extension.
  - Site 22 Building 4492 Auto Craft Shop which is now CSUMB Building 37. In the foreground of the photo is the old wash rack and location of the former oil/water separator that was removed. Inspected for AFFF storage or fire suppression but there is no fire suppression system at all, and only wall-mounted fire extinguishers.
  - Site 34 Hangars 507, 524, 510, and 533 and fueling buildings 501, 502, and 503. Retired POM Fire Department Chief Riso had stated there was an accidental discharge of foam from a fire suppression system in one of the hangars.
    - Hangar 507 picture of 1979 deluge water based system, not foam and no indication of an external foam tank. Sprinkler system is a permanently open, dry pipe deluge system which fills the pipe with water only with fire alarm activation.
    - Hangar 510 picture of wet pipe fire suppression system with a closed sprinkler and thermo-activated valve opens at a certain temperature. Was previously a deluge system that was changed to wet pipe.
    - Hangar 524 picture of 1961 deluge system is water based.
    - Hangar 527 picture of wet pipe fire suppression system. Was previously a deluge system that was changed to wet pipe.
    - Hangar 533 picture of 1963 deluge system.
    - Site 34 old fueling islands are visible on the ground in the pictures. Buildings 501 and 503 were demolished, but building 502 still remains.
  - Site 36 Sewage Treatment Plant evaporation ponds, which were over-excavated in the 1990s and are now overgrown with vegetation.
  - Site 40 West Helicopter Defueling Area on the west end of the runway north of Hangar 533 where defueling occurred. Observed a fire hydrant in the area not near any structures.
  - Site 40A East Helicopter Defueling Area was established at this location once helicopter parking aprons were built across from the FAAF Fire & Rescue Station. There is a drainage swale to the north.
  - FAAF Fire & Rescue Station now operated by the City of Marina and staffed fulltime.

- Main Garrison Fire Station Building 4400 was built in 1953. The training tower was built in 1957. Building 4403 was built in 1983.

## 9. Basewide Range Assessment (BRA) and Lead Evaluation Status

There was no handout for the BRA and Lead Evaluation Status. Discussion included:

### a. BRA –

The Comprehensive BRA Report is scheduled to be final before the new munitions contract begins and is being led by Jolie Higgins with USACE.

### b. Lead Evaluation at HA 18D and HA 23D –

- On hold pending further guidance on which blood lead cleanup level to use in the site-specific risk assessment model.

c. Habitat Restoration – The handout titled “Site 39 Inland Ranges Habitat Restoration Status Update” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- The planting season started at the end of December and completed in mid-March. Approximately 7,307 plants were installed at eight different historic areas (HAs). Majority of the plants fulfill Site Specific Restoration Plan (SSRP) prescriptions. Some plantings are to fill in a lack of species richness or vegetative cover using adaptive management. Timing of planting season was as good as possible, given the small amount of precipitation this season. Precipitation this season was approximately 42% of normal.
- Plant propagation target for this year is 3,677 plants for the same eight HAs. There is a mix of SSRP prescriptions and adaptive management. This is the last big year for installing plants, after this all SSRP prescriptions will be fulfilled, since it is the 10<sup>th</sup> year.
- Minor erosion control activities were conducted, including minor rill collapsing and smoothing with seeding. The sites have been stable with no major erosion issues observed due to more vegetation cover at the sites.
- Spring monitoring season preparations are underway. It is almost time for the first event, monitoring for sand gilia and will begin next week. Monitoring activities will be conducted over the next two months.
- The Annual Habitat meeting with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will be held on April 29 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. Topics will include 2020 activities completed, remaining activities to be done, and success criteria comparison for all HAs.

## 10. Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Schedule

a. Status Update – The FFA schedule is provided to the agencies with the upcoming primary documents with the month the Draft and Draft Final versions will be issued. Draft versions have a 60-day review period, and Draft Final versions have a 30-day review period. The upcoming Fifth Five Year Review Report would be the next and only primary document and is listed on the document schedule with the Draft being issued for BRAC review in late 2021 and for BCT review in early 2022.

b. Document Schedule – The handout titled “14 April 2021 BCT Deliverable Schedule” was reviewed, and near-term documents were identified.

- A lot of routine documents are coming up including Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPP), Quarterly Reports, and Annual Reports.
- The Sites 2/12 Site Closure Exit Strategy, OU2 GWTP Evaluation and Optimization Report, OU2 GWTP Operations and Maintenance Manual, and PFAS PA will be issued soon.



- The Landfills QAPP Revision 5 responses to community comments were sent for BCT review. Amber Sellinger with the CCRWQCB submitted comments and Min Wu with DTSC has no comments. Maeve Clancy with the USEPA will review and send any comments today.

### **11. Action Items**

The handout titled “HTW BCT 2021 Action Items” was reviewed.

- Action Item #1: still waiting to hear about blood lead level guidance from the Army.
- Action Item #2: USACE Sacramento District will do the Five-Year Review, with Charity Meakes as the lead, and will discuss TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer.
- No new action items were added.

### **12. Calendar Update**

The calendar was reviewed for upcoming HTW BCT meeting dates:

- The AP interview and tour will be conducted on April 28.
- The Annual Habitat meeting is on April 29.
- There will be no HTW BCT meetings in May or June.
- The next HTW BCT is July 14 at 1:30 pm.