



**DRAFT**  
**Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW)**  
**Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)**  
**Cleanup Team (BCT)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**July 25, 2025**



BRAC Conference Room and Microsoft Teams Teleconference  
 Former Fort Ord, California

**Agenda**

Reference the handout titled “HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Friday, July 25, 2025, at 10:00 AM, Former Fort Ord, California.”

**1. Attendance and Announcements**

Last Name	First Name	Organization	In-Person	Remote
Anderson	Thor	Harris Environmental	x	
Bascomb	Dawn	DTSC		x
Carter	Sommer	Ahtna		x
Cervantes	Christina	Chenega for BRAC		x
Corr	Erin	USACE	x	
Dillon	Holly	Ahtna Global, LLC (Ahtna)		x
Facchini	Hudson	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Faulkner	David	DTSC		x
Fong	Yvonne	USEPA		x
Gomez	Joseph	USACE		x
Gutierrez	Alberto	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)	x	
Henson	Alex	Ahtna	x	
Hession	Shaelyn	Ahtna		x
Johnson	Nikita	USACE		x
Kellett	MC	USACE	x	
Kowalski	Bart	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Lam	Nancy	USACE		x
Leary	Brett	DTSC	x	
Lewis	Deb	USACE	x	
Lieberman	Derek	Ahtna	x	
Lippa	Antonio	Ahtna	x	
Lobo	Joelle	U.S. Army BRAC, Fort Ord Office	x	
Mauck	Andrew	Ahtna	x	
No	Jason	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Nozaki	Chieko	JBW Federal for BRAC	x	

Last Name	First Name	Organization	In-Person	Remote
O'Meara	Kelly	Ahtna		x
Savage	Tom	USACE	x	
Schmidt	Eric	Ahtna	x	
Sellinger	Amber	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (CCRWQCB)		x
Steckling	Karyn	CCRWQCB		x
Stiebel	Cary	PIE Services	x	
Weisenfeld	Greg	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Valdez	Val	Chenega for BRAC		x

Joelle Lobo from BRAC made the following announcements:

- The Community Involvement Workshop is tomorrow, July 26. Two buses will be running for a tour to the OU2 Landfills and Groundwater Treatment Plant, and to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Area B Unit A where a prescribed burn is planned.
- Yvonne Fong with the USEPA is filling in today for Maeve Clancy, who was not able to join.
- Stephanie Santiago with the U.S. Army DCS, G-9 BRAC is out on maternity leave and Erin Mauer will be filling in for her.

## 2. BCT Minutes Status

The May HTW BCT meeting minutes are in internal review and a draft should be received soon for review.

## 3. Community Outreach Update

The handout titled "U.S. Army Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Community Outreach Update" was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- Jason No with Chenega for BRAC presented details for recent and upcoming events.
- Recent activities highlighted include:
  - On May 10, a guided nature walk was held.
  - On May 13-15, community members were notified of the Fort Ord Cleanup public information meeting regarding the prescribed burn program via mailed letters, emails, and published advertisements in local newspapers (Monterey Herald and Monterey Weekly)
  - On May 15, a community inquiry requested information on Laguna Seca events and the prescribed burn.
  - On May 15, a community inquiry informed that the Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network (FOEJN) has an updated email address.
  - On May 15, a community inquiry addressed the Finding of Suitability to Transfer 12 Amendment #2 update.
  - On May 15 and May 19, a community inquiry requests having a public information meeting.
  - On May 19, a response was given to a FOCAG inquiry regarding comments letters.
  - On May 20, A Fort Ord Cleanup public information meeting regarding the prescribed burn program was held at the Marina Library
  - On May 23, information kiosks were updated.

- On May 30, a response was given to a FOCAG inquiry regarding document library number.
- On May 30, information kiosk update – weekly trail and road closure map update.
- On May 30, emails were sent to local organizations about prescribed burn updates.
- On June 2, the distribution of Prescribed Burn information cards began.
- On June 6, a news post on website about weekly trail and road closures was published.
- On June 6, 13, and 20, information kiosk update – weekly trail and road closure map update.
- On June 24 and 26-27, the 2025 Prescribed burn announcement press release initiated including mailed letters to community members, news posts on website, and published advertisements in local newspapers (Monterey Herald, Monterey Weekly, and Salinas Californian).
- On June 27, July 3, and July 11, information kiosk update – weekly trail and road closure map update.
- On July 11, a community inquiry requested information regarding fuel-break cutting.
- On July 15, 16, and 17, the CIW was announced to community members through email, mailed letters, and published advertisements in local newspapers (Monterey Herald and Monterey Weekly).
- On July 17, a community inquiry requested cleanup information near the Marina Dunes area.
- On July 18, information kiosk update – weekly trail and road closure map update
- On July 21, CIW bus tour sign-ups initiated.
- On July 24, a munitions response detonation occurred. It was noted that LeVonne Stone was notified prior to the activity. No other community inquiries occurred.
- A local STEM educator contacted the BRAC office to clarify if attending the CIW event was available and asked several questions relating to the cleanup activities at former Fort Ord.
- Upcoming activities highlighted included:
  - On July 26, the CIW and Open House will take place.
  - On August 29, there will be an information table at the Monterey County Fair.
- Karyn Steckling with the CCRWQCB shared that she can attend the CIW meeting.
- Karyn also shared that she gave a presentation at a board meeting on June 19<sup>th</sup> regarding the Fort Ord project. Karyn shared questions from board members including if community outreach events would include information in languages other than English. Jason No responded that there is always some information offered in Spanish and other languages can be accommodated.
- Karyn also noted that Board member Harlin inquired about the PFAS investigation timeline. Specifically, the Board was curious why investigations had begun in 2015 and then paused. Karyn had responded to the Board that the former Fort Ord Team was ahead of the curve on PFAS (an emerging contaminant at the time) and wanted to sample PFAS as part of a pending site closure (OU1).

#### **4. Habitat Restoration**

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

- Thor Anderson with Harris presented details on the handout.
- A majority of spring monitoring is completed including photo points, HMP annuals, vegetative cover, and species richness surveys at all Phase 1 restoration sites.
- Also monitored at HAs 38 and 44.

- Caretaking activities included:
  - Continued removing invasive tree species.
  - Continued removal of ice plant, French broom, and pampas grass.

## 5. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring – The handout titled “Operable Unit 2 Data and Status” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- Table 1 shows that the OU2 groundwater treatment plant (GWTP) was online 100 percent (%) of the time from April to May with a flow rate of approximately 860 gallons per minute (gpm). The GWTP was online 92% of the time in June with a flow rate of approximately 800 gpm. Since treatment began over 10 billion gallons of water has been treated and over 1,000 pounds of COCs have been removed.
- Table 2 shows that 1,500 gallons of treated water was used in May and a total of 4.4 million gallons has been used since October 2016.
- Recent and upcoming key events were discussed as listed in the handout.
- Injection sampling that occurred over the reporting period did not exceed discharge limits.
- Groundwater data was shared from the Second Quarter 2025 groundwater monitoring program (GWMP) at OU2. Data was highlighted with increased concentration compared to the previous event. Trend charts were shared for select Hydraulic Zones 5 and 8 wells (MW-OU2-05-AR, MW-OU2-06-AR, MW-OU2-07-A), including COCs above their aquifer cleanup levels (ACLs) at MW-OU2-75-A and MW-OU2-08-A.
- Karyn asked about the requested five days’ notice before well decommissioning activities occurred. Holly responded that a notice was given in an email along with the FOCAG RTCs.
- Karyn asked for a high level explanation of use of the treated water. Derek Leiberman with Ahtna, responded that there is an Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) to the OU2 Record of Decision (ROD) that specifies treated water use. In the past, treated water was used during construction purposes, quarterly groundwater monitoring events, and for dust control at the OU2 Landfills, inside the fence line. Thor added that treated water was used for irrigation for three years at the restoration sites. Derek added that was several years ago.
- Karyn asked if the treated water use was being reported or tracked. Derek stated that in the past, the treated water use has only been reported in the BCT meetings. Erin Corr with USACE asked if the reporting was for specific locations or general use. Derek responded that it was for specific locations, but it has been several years.
- Karyn asked where the last construction location was. Derek responded that construction has not been a use for treated water in several years. Derek added that the last construction project was one of the Dunes development areas, open space park, and that treated water was used for grading, approximately 3-4 years ago. Karyn recommended having a more accurate tracking of reporting the treated water use locations and quantity to possibly monitor any PFAS contaminated water spreading.
- Karyn asked about the plume map and Table 4 and whether or not there is a migration of mass south and east. She wanted to know if there was a clear understanding of what mass, if any, is spilling over the edge of the SVA. Derek responded in agreement that there is migration east and added that there is potential for source control of TCE. Derek added that this contaminant migration will be connected to the PFAS RI and that the PFAS data collected will aid in defining the source of TCE.

- David Faulkner with DTSC inquired about the increase in contaminants in the Upper 180 Aquifer southern lobe. David asked if we need to reconsider the remedy to address these increases in TCE concentration. Derek responded that in his opinion, the plume is being sufficiently captured in the Upper 180 Aquifer. Derek added that there is a potential for there to be “bubbles” of TCE that are released intermittently from the landfill because refuse in the landfill was placed at differing times and breaks down and migrates at different times. Derek added that the SVA is also dense clay and some of the contaminants will get bound to this clay and then back diffuse at different times. Derek noted that the seasonal agricultural pumping in the Salinas Valley will create fluctuations as water is pulled towards the agricultural wells.
- David noted that MW-OU2-08-A does not appear to behave seasonally. Derek agreed because the A-Aquifer does not exhibit the same seasonal influence as the lower aquifers which are impacted by agricultural pumping. David inquired if there is anything we can do to address striking increases. Derek responded that some contaminant mass had moved beyond the current extraction well network before it was installed and noted that the Army is working on model optimization to better understand plume behavior.
- David inquired about plume shifting and combining. Derek responded that this may be the case but that there should be minimal if any additional groundwater contamination from the Landfill. Derek added that the remedy for the landfills is in place to prevent additional contamination, and there is no ongoing source of contamination.
- David inquired that there still seems to be intermittent movement of contamination. Derek agreed and responded that the operation of the GWTS changes the plume dynamics and increases groundwater gradients in one direction or another.
- David inquired if there are additional measures that are appropriate to show the degree of movement of these plumes and inform current and additional monitoring and concern for vapor intrusion at overlying buildings. Derek responded that the potential for vapor intrusion in this area has been addressed previously and that we collect data on a quarterly basis and the annual reports include several recommendations to address the contamination. Erin added that recommendations are items that are to be generally considered, but that not all recommendations can be addressed immediately. There is a prioritization of recommendations and actions.
- Karyn inquired about recommendations for additional extraction wells for hydrologic zone 5 and prioritization for this work. Joelle responded that it is still in consideration and evaluated in conjunction with the project as a whole. Erin added that the agencies are always welcome to give us feedback on the list of priorities.

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

- Eric Schmidt with Ahtna presented key events were for recent Second Quarter 2025 events and planned Third Quarter 2025 events as shown in the handout.
- Events discussed included:
  - The Monterey County Department of Health (MCDH) second quarterly inspection was completed on May 1.
  - Landfill mowing will be conducted at a later date to be determined.
  - The MCHD Third Quarter 2025 inspection will be scheduled.
- A summary of the thermal treatment unit (TTU) operations was presented. So far, in 2025, the TTU has operated for 666 hours and removed approximately 53,893 pounds of methane.

- The methane concentration at the TTU influent was last measured at 33.6%. Generally, the amount of methane removed from the Landfills decreases over time as the Landfills age. Area D concentrations were very low (close to zero).
- The TTU extraction schedule will be adjusted to reduce operational hours due to the decrease in methane, with a schedule of one week on and two weeks off and analyze the change in trends.
- Eric discussed the methane concentration anomalies at the Area D extraction points. He noted that condensate water, which could have contributed to the lower methane concentrations, was removed from the system.
- Karyn requested that the table on slide 3 show consistent formatting for the data units. Eric replied that the table will be modified to meet the request.

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

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

- Shaelyn Hession with Ahtna presented operation and sampling data of the GWTP and SVETS.
- The GWTP operated 76.7% of the time in April, 77.4% of the time in May, and 75.3% of the time in June.
  - The GWTP pulse pumping operational schedule is online for three weeks and offline for one week.
  - The concentrations of COCs in treated water injection samples from April through June were below the discharge limits.
- Recent and upcoming key events were discussed as listed in the handout.
- Groundwater tetrachloroethene (PCE) results were discussed including Second Quarter 2025 GWMP data and some preliminary Third Quarter 2025 results at EW-12-08-180U. The COC concentration trend charts for EW-12-08-180U, MW-12-20-180U, and MW-12-24-180U were shared.
- Groundwater trichloroethene (TCE) results were discussed including Second Quarter 2025 GWMP data. The COC concentration trend charts for MW-02-13-180M and MW-12-14-180M were shared.
- The SVETS was restarted on June 18, 2025 due to SG-12-04 concentrations approaching the screening level. No concentrations exceeded their soil gas cleanup levels (SGCLs).
- The Second Quarter 2025 Soil Gas Monitoring Program (SGMP) data were presented; an exceedance of the screening level was seen at SG-12-02-10 however there is an overall downward trend; concentrations at the SG-12-04 probe cluster were starting to approach the screening level so a decision was made to turn on the SVETS. Time concentration plots were presented for SG-12-04 and SG-12-02.
- Additional soil gas sampling results in the southern Site 12 area for the First and Second Quarters 2025 were presented and discussed. All results were below the screening and trigger levels. A Soil Gas Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Addendum is in progress to further assess the concentrations in the southern area.
- Karyn asked if southern SVE wells VE-12-01 and VE-12-03 are online. Shaelyn responded that only the northern SVE wells VE-12-06 through VE-12-09 are operational. Karyn inquired if they are not on because their previous results were not over the ACL. Shaelyn responded that it is because the results could bias the data for the sampling planned in the southern area by lowering the concentrations.
- Karyn asked if there has been a discussion to start a more frequent cycle/pulse operation for the SVETS similar to the GWTS.

- Shaelyn responded that there is not a plan to pulse operate the SVETS and it would not be beneficial due to the short time it takes for concentrations to decrease when online and the long time it takes for there to be a rise in concentration when offline.
- Derek added that this operational schedule has not been considered and that operation of SVETS is based on QAPP decision rules and protection of groundwater. The recent trigger levels developed for the southern area to operate the SVETS are lower than SGCLs and were used to operate the SVETS in the north. The trend shows an increase in concentrations at SG-12-04 to the trigger level typically occurs in less than a year after the SVETS is shut down.
- Karyn inquired about if a concentration exceeded a soil gas screening level (SG-SL) and how that changes the monitoring schedule. Derek responded that the SGCL determines how/when to operate the SVETS according to the QAPP and the SG-SL is tied to monitoring frequency.
- David inquired about potential indoor air exposure given the significant amount of construction and development in the area and as soil gas is built up overtime before the SVETS is operated. Derek responded that in the southern plume near the new structures, there has never been concentrations near those higher levels. Derek added that annual reports show there has not been high concentrations in the southern area, though in the northern part of the site, an increasing trend is observed and as a result the SVETS is operated. Derek added the Soil Gas QAPP Addendum will have data quality objectives and decisions that would include decision rules for additional soil gas probes, sub-slab sampling, and indoor air monitoring.
- David referenced a memo he sent last month that there is a disagreement regarding indoor air sampling in the rest of the site and believes that due to development since the last monitoring event, the rest of the site should be evaluated. He also stated that it has been a decade since any indoor air sampling was completed, and that DTSC believes it is appropriate to sample again. Erin responded that the concern is acknowledged and the Soil Gas QAPP Addendum will address these issues with trigger level criteria for indoor air sampling.

## 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:

- Holly Dillon with Ahtna discussed recent and upcoming key events were discussed as listed in the handout.
- No vinyl chloride was detected in A-Aquifer monitoring wells in the Second Quarter 2025 monitoring event.
- Table 1 shows the A-Aquifer wells. Increased concentrations were observed at four locations.
- Table 2 shows Upper 180-Foot Aquifer wells and no notable increases in CT concentrations.
- Table 3 shows the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer wells with one notable increase in CT concentration and one notable increase in TCE concentration. Trend charts for supply wells and upgradient monitoring wells were presented showing that CT is below the ACL.
- Amber Sellinger with CCRWQCB requested that the J flags on slide 7 be modified. Derek responded that the map insets are from the previous quarter. Holly added that the maps are not updated with the most recent data. Derek apologized for the confusion and confirmed with Amber that the J flags will be included in the second quarter maps.
- Karyn asked about the depths of station 1 and 2 for MW-BW-80-A. Holly noted that station 1 is 44 feet below ground surface (ft bgs) and station 2 is 49 ft bgs. Typically, the wells in Hydraulic Zone 5 are sampled at two stations, the shallowest saturated station, and the highest concentration station, it just so happens at MW-BW-80-A these two stations are adjacent to each other.

b. TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer – TCE is not a COC for the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer, but it is being monitored to assess any potential impact on the downgradient drinking water supply wells. Additional discussion included:

- Only one well (MW-BW-59-180) indicates concentrations of TCE above the ACL. The concentration of TCE increased during the Second Quarter 2025 GWMP event but is within the normal seasonal trend for the well.

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

The handout titled “Summary of Fort Ord Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Working Group (FOPWG) Activities” was reviewed. Additional discussion included:

- Erin presented that we had our last FOPWG meeting July 9 and any other meetings will be coordinated on an ad hoc basis and likely there will be nothing to discuss until the Draft PFAS RI QAPP is issued for review.
- The PFAS RI QAPP will need to go through extensive review and may be available to the agencies in early October.

## 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 in internal review.

b. Lead Evaluation at HA 18D and HA 23D – The Lead ESD is in internal review.

c. Explanations of Significant Differences – The Lower 180-Foot Aquifer TCE ESD is in internal review.

## 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 of primary documents have a 60-day review period, and Draft Final versions of primary documents have a 30-day review period.

b. Document Schedule – The handout titled “Former Fort Ord HTW Document Schedule” was reviewed, near-term documents were identified. Additional discussion included:

- All regulatory agencies have submitted comments on PFAS fact sheet.
- The Draft Sites 2/12 Annual Report is in review.
- The Draft EW-OU2-13-180 Construction Completion Report is in review.
- Erin announced that in August we will start a new contracting phase. Documents schedule will be affected and switch from having multiple QAPPs to one all-encompassing Basewide QAPP. Quarterly reports will be turned into smaller data reports. Annual Reports will be staggered and a couple sites will have more quarters in the annual to get on the new schedule. Agencies will start to see these changes reflected in approximately 6-12 months. In general, there will be less updates and less documentation to review.
- Karyn asked when will the Basewide QAPP be in review. Erin responded that it is not known at this time and that contracting still has to progress.
- Karyn asked about the staggered report submittals and whether they will be covered in the document update. Erin stated that it does not state so yet, but it will. Some reports will cover more quarters than normal in the first year. After the first year the process will become more normal (annual reports will cover 4 quarters).

## 11. Action Items

The handout titled “HTW BCT 2025 Action Items” was reviewed.

- Karyn asked if the review time for the Basewide QAPP can be adjusted accordingly to budget for the time it deserves. Joelle responded that the intent is to have it be an equivalent time to review, just condensed into a single document. Karyn noted that CCRWQCB documents staff time per site and so was unsure how to charge review time for the Basewide QAPP. CCRWQCB staff will discuss offline.

## 12. Calendar Update

The calendar was reviewed for upcoming HTW BCT meetings and community event dates:

- The next HTW BCT meeting is scheduled for September 18 at 10:00am.
- David and Alberto with DTSC announced their upcoming vacation time.
- The date for the December BCT meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 11 at 10:00am. Karyn responded that she would connect with Amber because they may have a Board meeting that day. Karyn will let the BCT know if they have a problem with December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## HTW Governing Document References

The latest QAPPs in use and decision documents, including Records of Decision (RODs) and Explanations of Significant Differences (ESDs) are listed below. These are typically final documents not currently being reviewed. These documents can be used as references for site COCs, ACLs, monitoring, remedies, and project decision criteria. Fort Ord document numbers given below.

- **Current QAPPs:**
  - Landfill Gas Revision 9: Final [OU2-702Y](#) (February 2025).
  - Soil Gas Revision 9: Final [BW-2792Y](#) (December 2024).
  - Groundwater Revision 12: Final [BW-2785Z](#) (August 2024).
  - **Decision Documents:**
  - OU2:
    - ROD: [OU2-480](#) (1994).
    - ESD No. 1: [OU2-406](#) (1995).
    - ESD No. 2: [OU2-458](#) (1996).
    - ESD No. 3: [OU2-523](#) (1997).
    - ESD No. 4: [OU2-656](#) (2006).
  - Sites 2/12:
    - ROD: [RI-025](#) (1997).
    - ESD: [BW-2794](#) (2016).
  - OUCTP:
    - ROD: [OUCTP-0021D](#) (2007).
  - Site 39:
    - ROD: [RI-025](#) (1997).
    - ROD Amendment: [RI-041E](#) (2009).