



**Final
Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW)
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
Cleanup Team (BCT)
Meeting Minutes
May 8, 2026**



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

Agenda

Reference the handout titled "HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Friday, May 8, 2026, 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	
Arthur	Jennifer	Ahtna		x
Bascomb	Dawn	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)		x
Carter	Sommer	Ahtna		x
Cervantes	Christina	Chenega for U.S. Army Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC), Fort Ord Office		x
Clancy	Maeve	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA)	x	
Corr	Erin	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)	x	
Facchini	Hudson	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Faulkner	David	DTSC		x
Gutierrez	Alberto	DTSC	x	
Hibbits	Betsy	USACE	x	
Kowalski	Bart	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Lieberman	Derek	Ahtna	x	
Lippa	Antonio	Ahtna	x	
Lobo	Joelle	U.S. Army BRAC, Fort Ord Office	x	
Mauck	Andrew	Ahtna	x	
Martinez	April	USACE	x	
No	Jason	Chenega for BRAC		x
Nozaki	Chieko	JBW Federal for BRAC	x	
Numazu	Jane	DTSC	x	
O'Meara	Kelly	Ahtna	x	
Schmidt	Eric	Ahtna	x	
Sellinger	Amber	Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB)		x
Stiebel	Cary	JBW Federal for BRAC	x	

Last Name	First Name	Organization	In-Person	Remote
Valdez	Val	Chenega for BRAC		x
Weisenfeld	Greg	Chenega for BRAC	x	

Joelle Lobo Announcements – Guided Nature Walk on May 9. There is a new section chief for USACE Sacramento District project management, Sean McNeil.

Alberto Guterrez announced that Brett Leary has taken a new position as a DTSC subject matter expert for munitions. Alberto is now DTSC Project Manager for HTW and munitions response at the former Fort Ord. Jane Numazu is the DTSC Project Manager for the Fort Ord Munitions Environmental Services Cooperative Agreement (ESCA) and Fort Ord Dunes State Park and Monterey County land use covenants.

2. BCT Minutes Status

December BCT meeting minutes have been finalized and February BCT meeting minutes have been sent out to the regulatory agencies for review.

3. Community Outreach Update

The handout titled “U.S. Army Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Community Outreach Update” was reviewed by Chieko Nozaki. Chieko presented details for long-term actions, recent activities, and upcoming activities. Additional discussion included:

- Joelle Lobo announced that the contract has been awarded for the 6th Five-Year Review (FYR). A meeting will be scheduled with the regulatory agencies in June. Joelle stated that the draft FYR report is expected in March 2027. Jane Numazu noted she would like to be included in the distribution and communications for the FYR.
- Recent activities included Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting on February 24; participation in California Wildlife Day on March 29 and Earth Day events in April; safety presentations to local schools; and detonation outreach. Community Outreach fielded several community inquiries. A 7-day public comment period in Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) 11 Amendment No.2 was held from April 23-30 with no comments received by the Army.
- Upcoming events include the Guided Nature Walk in the Impact Area Munitions Response Area (MRA) on May 9, Community Involvement Workshop (CIW) with an open house and bus tours on July 25, and TRC meeting on July 28.
- Maeve Clancy announced that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) is on track to release its public health re-evaluation for drinking water at Fort Ord by the end of the federal fiscal year. Joelle noted that the information in the evaluation is based on data from 1985 to 1994 and not reflective of current drinking water quality.
- Amber Sellinger stated that, during the last BCT meeting, Karyn Steckling of CCRWQCB had mentioned a public inquiry that was sent to the CCRWQCB and DTSC and that there would be a response. The public member had concerns regarding impacts from Fort Ord to the Seaside Basin and also related to the water recycling project (Monterey One Water). The CCRWQCB will respond the week of May 11 and the BCT will be copied on that communication.
- Maeve noted that the USEPA received a veteran inquiry and it was shared with Joelle and Jason.

4. Habitat Restoration

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

- The 15th Annual Former Fort Ord Habitat Restoration and Monitoring Meeting was held on April 9, 2026. The Draft 2025 Annual Fort Ord Habitat Restoration Report is in progress and includes

ten Phase 1 sites in their final year 13 of monitoring. These sites are on track to meet success criteria.

- In 2026, HA 19 is in its final year of monitoring.
- Erosion control activities are ongoing, including broadcasting seed mixes, installing straw wattles, installing coir fabric, and repairing erosion rills.

5. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring –

The handout titled “Operable Unit 2 Data and Status” was reviewed by Derek Lieberman. Additional discussion included:

- Several upcoming key events and future key events were reviewed, including multiple maintenance tasks for wells that were temporarily offline. The GWTP had 100 percent operability in February and March.
- The First Quarter 2026 groundwater monitoring program (GWMP) chemical of concern (COC) plume maps and data tables were presented and discussed.
- Time-concentration charts for specific wells were presented and discussed.
- Adding MW-BW-11-A, currently used only for groundwater elevation measurements, back into the quarterly GWMP was recommended.
- Jane Numazu asked what contributes to the increasing concentration trend for MW-OU2-05-AR. Derek noted that westward groundwater flow from the OU2 Landfills is likely to contribute to an increase in concentration.
- Jane asked if seasonal and directional variation is observed and if the impact is negligible. Derek noted that seasonal and directional variation is not observed significantly in the A-Aquifer, but this is observed in the deeper aquifers due to agricultural pumping in the Salinas Valley.
- MW-OU2-28-180 is being tracked at the downgradient extent of the OU2 plume in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer. This well shows strong seasonal variation for trichloroethene (TCE) concentrations and groundwater elevations connected to seasonal agricultural pumping in the Salinas Valley.
 - Jane asked if there was directional changes at this well. Derek stated there was a slight directional change and the biggest effect is typically observed in the 3rd quarterly monitoring event.
 - Jane asked if the effect on the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer was negligible. Derek said that he would not say it was negligible but, as far as plume migration goes, there has not been much of an impact there partly because of the way the Army has its extraction well network set up, which is doing a good job of containing the plume in the Upper 180-Foot Aquifer. Historically, it is apparent that TCE did migrate through the discontinuity in the Intermediate 180-Foot Aquitard and get into the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer.

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

- Eric presented First and Second Quarter 2026 key events and planned Second Quarter 2026 activities.
- Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) quarterly inspections (completed March 6 and April 29).
- Source testing the Thermal Treatment Unit (TTU).
- Quarterly landfill gas probe monitoring was conducted between April 27 and 29.
- Eric reviewed operational data for the TTU.

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

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

- Derek presented Sites 2/12 recent and future key events including a pump failure at EW-12-05-180M. Operational data were presented for the Sites 2/12 GWTP and soil vapor treatment unit (SVTU) for February–March. The current GWTP pulse pumping regime is operational for four weeks and offline for one week. The SVTU is currently offline.
- Derek presented tetrachloroethene (PCE) and TCE groundwater sampling data, time-concentration charts, and plume maps.
- Derek presented the soil gas monitoring plume map.
- The additional soil gas sampling of the Jetty Street area is complete and the Draft Soil Gas QAPP Addendum is in progress.
- Maeve asked Derek to point out which soil gas monitoring probe cluster is closest to the residences. Derek showed Maeve the location of SG-12-24 and stated that no significant concentrations of PCE or TCE were observed at that probe cluster during the four quarters of monitoring.
- Maeve and Jane asked for clarification on specific probe locations and potential impact of vapor intrusion. Derek provided a brief history of contamination in the area and noted that there is currently no evidence of potential vapor intrusion.
- Erin Corr noted that the Soil Gas QAPP Addendum will provide clarification on the Army’s approach to potential vapor intrusion impacts given that there is a soil vapor extraction and treatment system (SVETS) in place.
- Maeve provided additional history and David Faulkner asked how cleanup levels were developed and expressed interest in indoor air sampling being performed in the area.
- Derek and Erin provided clarification that the cleanup levels were based on previous investigations and specific calculations using Henry’s Law (what concentrations of PCE and TCE in soil gas would result in groundwater concentrations at the Aquifer Cleanup Level [ACL]), and that the resulting number was reduced to 75% of that value as a trigger for operating the SVETS. David asked how the value of 75% was derived. Derek stated that the value was somewhat arbitrary to identify a number that was achievable, but less than the calculated value. Erin reminded David that residential use scenario was not a concern at the time and the regulatory agencies will have an opportunity to comment on the Soil Gas QAPP Addendum.
- Maeve stated that USEPA would like to see in the FYR an evaluation of whether there were any other Fort Ord parcels that were transferred early on after base closure with deed restrictions that could have a similar issue as the Jetty Street area to ensure protectiveness is being maintained. Maeve said that this can be fairly common at sites.

7. Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP)

The handout titled “Former Fort Ord Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume Data and Status” was reviewed by Derek Lieberman. Additional discussion included:

- Derek presented recent and future key events.
- Derek presented First Quarter 2026 OUCTP sampling data, time-concentration charts, and plume maps.
- David asked for well sampling data and was provided previous values and data qualifiers for specific wells that experienced an increase in concentration.
- Andrew Mauck provided the concentration of carbon tetrachloride at MW-BW-32-A (0.5 ug/L) that was measured during the Fourth Quarter GWMP event.

- Jane asked if the supply wells are sampled. Derek noted that the supply wells are sampled quarterly by the Army and by the Marina Coast Water District (MCWD). Jane asked for the depth of the supply wells. Derek noted the supply wells are approximately 600 feet deep and are cross screened in the Lower 180-Foot and 400-Foot Aquifers.
- TCE has been detected in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer above the Maximum Contaminant Level in one monitoring well. The data show concentrations are on a declining trend since 2019. The Army has submitted for regulatory agency review a draft Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) that will add TCE as a COC to the OUCTP Lower 180-Foot Aquifer remedy.

8. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

No handout was provided for review. Erin Corr noted that comments have been received from the regulatory agencies on the draft PFAS RI QAPP, except for DTSC.

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 Draft Final Comprehensive BRA Report is under development by the Army. Chieko Nozaki discussed the new information in the report that would be related to Unit 5.

b. Lead Evaluation at HA 18D and HA 23D – The Draft Lead Explanation of Significant Differences (ESD) is under development by the Army.

c. Explanation of Significant Differences – The Draft TCE ESD is currently issued for regulatory agency review.

Maeve asked about the lead-in-soil issue at a Monterey County parcel in East Garrison. Joelle noted that a contract acquisition for soil sampling is in progress. Maeve provided some site history and noted the intended recreational use for an area. The Army had previously remediated and met the required cleanup level for lead in soil.

10. Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) Schedule

a. Status Update – The FFA schedule is provided to the regulatory agencies with a list of 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.

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

- Derek noted that the Draft Final Sites 2/12 Upper 180-Foot Aquifer Monitoring Well Installation Work Plan already received no further comments from the CCRWQCB and requested review prioritization from USEPA and DTSC.
- BCT discussed the process for coordinating the regulatory agency comments that could result in additional activities beyond the scope of the work plan.
- There was discussion about the appropriate process for requesting extensions for review and comment periods.

11. Action Items

The handout titled “HTW BCT 2026 Action Items” was reviewed by Erin Corr.

12. Calendar Update

The calendar was reviewed for upcoming HTW BCT meeting dates and community events:

- The Guided Nature Walk is scheduled for May 9.

- The July HTW BCT meeting is scheduled for July 24.
- The July CIW is scheduled for July 25.
- The September HTW BCT meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 17.

HTW Governing Document References

The latest QAPPs in use and decision documents, including Records of Decision (RODs) and 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 10: Final [OU2-702BB](#) (February 2026).
 - Soil Gas Revision 9: Final [BW-2792Y](#) (December 2024).
 - Groundwater Revision 12: Final [BW-2785Z](#) (August 2024).
 - Groundwater Revision 11, Addendum No. 2, OUCTP Upper 180-Foot Aquifer Extraction Well Installation: Final [BW-2928B](#) (May 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).