



Final
Hazardous and Toxic Waste (HTW)
Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)
Cleanup Team (BCT)
Meeting Minutes
July 9, 2026



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

Agenda

Reference the handout titled "HTW BRAC Cleanup Team Meeting Agenda, Thursday, July 9, 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
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
Dillon	Holly	Ahtna		x
Eley	Don	California Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB)	x	
Facchini	Hudson	Chenega for BRAC	x	
Faulkner	David	California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)		x
Fujita	Samantha	USACE		x
Gutierrez	Alberto	DTSC	x	
Hession	Shaelyn	Ahtna		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
No	Jason	Chenega for BRAC		x
Nozaki	Chieko	JBW Federal for BRAC	x	
Numazu	Jane	DTSC		x
O'Meara	Kelly	Ahtna		x
Santiago	Stephanie	U.S. Army BRAC		x
Savage	Tom	USACE		x
Schmidt	Eric	Ahtna	x	

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

Joelle Lobo made a few announcements:

- The nature walk was completed in May and thanks to those who participated.
- A Community Involvement Workshop (CIW) with bus tours to the Impact Area, Operable Unit 2 (OU2) Landfills and Groundwater Treatment Plant (GWTP), and Fort Ord National Monument is scheduled for July 25.
- The 6th Five-Year Review (FYR) is underway. There was a meeting with the regulatory agency partners on July 1 to discuss structure, format, content, and schedule for the FYR report. Site inspections are being scheduled and a draft FYR report is scheduled to go to the regulatory agencies in March 2027.
- The Draft Soil Gas (SG) Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Addendum for sampling in the Jetty Street area has been sent for review. Joelle noted that the regulatory agencies can request a meeting if they want to discuss the QAPP Addendum and site tours could also be coordinated for the regulatory agencies if requested. Site tours may also be coordinated at the same time as the next HTW BCT meeting in September.

2. BCT Minutes Status

HTW BCT meeting minutes are final through the February 2026 HTW BCT meeting. The May HTW BCT meeting minutes are in internal review.

3. Community Outreach Update

The handout titled “U.S. Army Fort Ord Environmental Cleanup Community Outreach Update” was reviewed by Jason No. Jason presented details for long-term actions, recent activities, and upcoming activities. Additional discussion included:

- Long-term actions underway include analysis of the 2025 Community Survey results and interviews, which is ongoing.
- Recent activities conducted include:
 - April 28: Guided Nature Walk sign-ups began.
 - April 28 and 30 media inquiries by a Monterey County Weekly journalist who was planning to attend the Guided Nature Walk and wrote an article about the upcoming event.
 - May 7: The Guided Nature Walk was advertised in a local newspaper in the upcoming events section.
 - May 9: The Guided Nature Walk was conducted with 74 participants. Photographs of the event were included.
 - May 14: Community Outreach fielded an inquiry from a researcher requesting access to the Impact Area Munitions Response Area.
 - June 1: Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) inquired about the administrative process for installing an injection well within the Prohibition Zone of the Special Groundwater Protection Zone. MCWD will send more information to Army Community Outreach.
 - June 24 and 26: The upcoming CIW was advertised via the U.S. Postal Service and email.
- Upcoming activities discussed include:
 - July 16 and 19: advertisements for the CIW will be published in local newspapers.
 - July 25: the CIW will be held and will include bus tours.

- July 28: a Technical Review Committee (TRC) meeting will be held. The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) plans to attend the CIW and TRC meeting to provide information and answer questions.
 - August: outreach for the 6th FYR will be conducted.
 - September 4: an information booth will be staffed at the Monterey County Fair.
- Responses to comments from the Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (FOCAG) on documents are in progress.
- Jane Numazu inquired if the newspaper notices for the upcoming CIW will be in English and Spanish. Jason responded that the notices will be in English but will include a sentence in Spanish to contact the Army Community Outreach office for information. Jane commented that those who only speak Spanish would have to take an extra step to obtain the information.

4. Habitat Restoration

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

- Spring and summer 2026 surveys are complete, including habitat management plan (HMP) annuals, vegetative cover, species richness assessments, and photo points.
- In 2026, one site, HA 19, is in its 13th and final year of monitoring. Photos of HA 19 from 2013 and 2026 were shared to show the progress of habitat restoration in 13 years. HA 19 is the first big site worked on and is 14 acres. Meeting the success criteria for the site looks promising.
- Erosion control activities are ongoing, including broadcasting seed mixes, installing straw wattles, installing coir fabric, and repairing rills.
- Weed management is being conducted along with removing invasive pine trees within and adjacent to restoration sites.

5. Operable Unit 2 (OU2)

a. Groundwater Remedy/Monitoring –

The handout titled “Operable Unit 2 Data and Status” was reviewed by Holly Dillon. 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 April and May. Two power outages resulted in the GWTP being operated in low flow for a total of 14 hours.
- The Second Quarter 2026 GWMP chemical of concern (COC) plume maps and data tables were presented and discussed.
- The Third Quarter 2026 GWMP event is scheduled for August.
- April-May 2026 OU2 treated water did not exceed discharge limits.
- Time-concentration charts for specific wells were presented and discussed.
- In discussing the time-concentration graph and figure for MW-OU2-07-A, Don Eley asked if this well is within the area to be addressed by the pump and treat remedy. Joelle confirmed that it is.
- Don asked if an action would be triggered if a COC concentration goes over the aquifer cleanup level (ACL). Joelle responded that the remedy is continued pump and treat, monitoring, and optimization as needed. Derek Lieberman added that the groundwater treatment system (GWTS) is in place and remediating COC plumes and the extraction well networks are shown on slide 2. Data from the quarterly GWMP are used to track the COC plumes and could indicate where adjustments in the operations of the GWTS are needed to optimize plume capture. All of

this is described in the annual reports that are prepared for each groundwater remedy at the former Fort Ord.

- Don asked how long these systems have been going. Derek responded that the OU2 system has been in operation since 1995. Don asked where the data are being stored. Derek said the data is on the Army's database and is also uploaded to the State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database, which the public has access to. Maeve Clancy noted that Fort Ord reports are publicly available on the Army's Fort Ord Cleanup website.
- Don asked if there are graphs available showing COC mass removed by the pump and treat system. Derek responded that charts are available in the annual and quarterly reports and the handout on slide 1 also shows the quantity of COC mass removed.
- Don inquired about system optimization and if there was a cost-benefit analysis on the energy expended for the remedy. Derek noted that there are large COC plume areas with relatively low concentrations and the GWTS therefore covers a large area but is optimized by adjusting extraction well operations. Erin Corr stated that this is the remedy that is defined in the OU2 Record of Decision (ROD) and the Army believes the remedy is effective.
- Don asked why there were no COC detections from 2023 to 2024 at MW-OU2-08-A. Derek said this is because the COC source is the OU2 Landfills where waste was disposed of from the mid-1950s to the mid-1980s; therefore, it is not a continuous source of contamination to groundwater and there were intermittent releases of contaminants over time. Derek added that passive diffusion bags (PDBs) are used for sampling, and they are not always deployed at the same depth in the well each quarter. Sometimes "reprofiling" of a well will happen where PDBs are placed at all stations in the saturated screen interval to determine the depth of the highest COC concentrations in the well.
- Don asked additional questions about the conceptual site model (CSM) for OU2. Don asked about the stratification in the well casing and well screen interval lengths. He stated that, once COCs [e.g., tetrachloroethene [PCE], trichloroethene [TCE], cis-1,2-dichloroethene, vinyl chloride, carbon tetrachloride] are in the dissolved-phase, like what is currently detected in groundwater at the former Fort Ord, the COC plume is going to go where the groundwater goes [i.e., if in the dissolved phase, COC transport is not density-driven]. Derek said there is some variation in COC concentrations and higher concentrations are typically observed at depth. There was a discussion about the OU2 source and the effect of total organic carbon, which is not really present in the dune sands at the former Fort Ord.

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:

- Monterey County Health Department quarterly inspections were completed on April 29.
- Thermal treatment unit (TTU) source testing was completed on April 29.
- The Second Quarter 2026 perimeter landfill gas probe monitoring was conducted April 27-29.
- The TTU has operated for 260 hours and removed 21,496 pounds of methane so far this year, which averages approximately 805 pounds of methane removed every week. The most recent mixed methane reading was 35.3 percent at the TTU influent.
- Methane time-concentration charts were presented and discussed.
- Don Eley asked if there is coordination between the Army and the local air resources district about the TTU performance. Eric said that a TTU source test is conducted annually, which meets the substantive requirements of Monterey Bay Air Resources District regulations.
- David Faulkner asked if there have been considerations about sea-level rise in preparation for the upcoming predicted super El Niño event in the 2026-2027 winter season and how sea-level rise could affect the former Fort Ord remedies. Joelle Lobo noted that sea-level rise

considerations have been discussed as a potential topic for the 6th FYR and Maeve Clancy is helping to find appropriate guidance. Maeve noted that her research is still ongoing, but she has not identified any requirement to include sea-level rise considerations in the FYR. Don Eley said he could  an example of language used from the Vandenberg Space Force Base project.

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. Operational data were presented for the Sites 2/12 GWTP and soil vapor treatment unit (SVTU) for April and May. The current GWTP pulse pumping regime is operational for four weeks and offline for one week. The SVTU is currently offline.
- Groundwater extraction well EW-12-05-180M went offline in January due to a failed pump motor; pump replacement was completed in June and the well is operational.
- The First Quarter 2026 GWMP and soil gas monitoring program (SGMP) events were completed in February and laboratory analytical data were received. The Third Quarter 2026 GWMP and SGMP events are scheduled to be conducted in August.
- PCE concentrations at the site are above the ACL at one operating extraction well, EW-12-08-180U. The well is sampled upon startup of the GWTP and before it is shut down during each pulse pumping cycle to monitor the effectiveness of the pulse pumping.
- Don Eley asked if there is a drinking water source nearby. Derek replied that this area is within the Prohibition Zone of the Special Groundwater Protection Zone and the Monterey County Health Department will not issue any permits for drinking water wells in this area.
- Derek reviewed TCE data for monitoring wells MW-02-13-180M and MW-12-14-180M. David Faulkner asked if there is a reason for the spike in TCE concentration at MW-02-13-180M (in Fourth Quarter 2022) and if resampling was done. Derek said there are triggers for resampling depending on the analytical results, such as revising the sampling frequency from annual to quarterly, resample in the next GWMP event, or resample the well immediately. In this case, MW-02-13-180M remained on a quarterly monitoring schedule because there were no risk factors requiring immediate resampling.
- Derek discussed the CSM and multiple sources of contamination at Sites 2/12, such as waste disposal in the Lower Meadow area.
- On slide 7, which shows the Second Quarter 2026 GWMP results, Don asked if indoor air testing was done in this area. Derek replied yes.
- David asked if any indoor air sampling was done in the building adjacent to soil gas probe cluster SG-12-04. Derek said yes; a Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA) was completed in 2013-2014 when soil gas concentrations were higher and there was not a risk found, and the soil vapor extraction and treatment system (SVETS) has operated since then. Maeve said the screening levels at the time of indoor air sampling could be compared to current regulations for the purposes of the 6th FYR. Don suggested forgoing a round of quarterly soil gas sampling and using those resources for an indoor air monitoring event instead. Erin responded that there is no QAPP that covers indoor air sampling in those buildings. Maeve agreed that more indoor air data would be beneficial; however, it would be easier to look at the completed HHRA, update it with current screening levels, and include the comparison in the 6th FYR. David agreed that this would be a good first step.

- On slide 12, which shows the Second Quarter 2026 SGMP results, David asked where the residential units are located and noted that TCE concentrations are above the residential action level of 200 µg/m³ for TCE (that would trigger operation of the SVETS) at soil gas probe cluster SG-12-16. Derek noted that the probe cluster closest to the mixed-use buildings that include residential use is SG-12-24, which has no TCE concentrations above the proposed action levels.
- Don asked when the structures were built and if there was a vapor barrier under the cinema. Derek noted that before the cinema was built, the Army sampled soil gas in the building footprint and levels were below the vapor intrusion screening levels at the time.

7. Operable Unit Carbon Tetrachloride Plume (OUCTP)

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

- Andrew presented key recent and future events. The Second Quarter 2026 GWMP event took place in May and the Third Quarter GWMP event is scheduled for August.
- The Second Quarter 2026 plume maps, sample data tables, and time-concentration charts were presented.

8. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

No handout was provided for review.

- Responses to comments on the Draft QAPP are currently in progress.
- The Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) schedule for the Draft Final QAPP was revised for delivery at the end of July.

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.
- 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 – Development of the Draft Final OUCTP ESD for TCE in the Lower 180-Foot Aquifer is currently in progress per comments from the regulatory agencies.

10. 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. Documents submitted for regulatory agency review and upcoming documents were identified.

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 July CIW is scheduled for July 25.
- The September HTW BCT meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 8 or 9 pending feedback from CCRWQCB.

- Maeve announced that ATSDR will be having a public meeting on July 27 to discuss the report re-evaluating drinking water exposure from 1985 through 1994. The re-evaluation was conducted at the request of former Representative Porter and current Representative Panetta based on feedback from some veterans who were posted at Fort Ord. Joelle said the Army will post on the Army's website the link to the report and information on the ATSDR public comment period and public meeting, as well as send an email to the community outreach email list.

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 10: Final [BW-2792BB](#) (March 2026).
 - Groundwater Revision 13: Final [BW-2785GG](#) (March 2026).
 - Groundwater Revision 13, Addendum No. 2, Sites 2 and 12 Monitoring Well Installation: Final [BW-2785II](#) (June 2026).
- **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).