

Fort Ord Community Advisory Group

"The Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (FOCAG) is a public interest group formed to review, comment, and advise on the remediation (cleanup) of the Fort Ord Army Base Superfund Site, to ensure that human health, safety, and the environment are protected to the greatest extent possible." - Mission Statement

By definition: A Superfund site is any land in the United States that has been contaminated by hazardous waste and identified by the EPA as a candidate for cleanup because it poses a risk to human health and/or the environment. These sites are placed on the National Priorities List (NPL). Included are lands judged not fit for human habitation.

Subject:
Fort Ord Cleanup Public Comment Period

The Army is announcing the public comment period for the document "Finding of Suitability to Transfer (FOST) Amendment #2, Former Fort Ord, California, Track 1 Plug-In Parcel E20c.1, Yadon's Parcel E29b.3.1, and Operable Unit 1 Parcel S2.1.2 (FOST12)." The Army has prepared this Amendment to update the December 2012 FOST 12 for Parcel E20c.1 at the former Fort Ord. The Department of Defense (DoD) Environmental Condition of Property (ECP) for Parcel E20c.1 is category 3. The public is encouraged to review and comment on this document.

The FOST Amendment is in preparation for the transfer of Parcel E20c.1 to the City of Seaside consistent with Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Section 120(h) and DoD policy. Parcel E20c.1 was included in FOST 12, which also covered Parcels E29b.3.1 and S2.1.2. FOST 12 was issued for regulatory agency and public comment from August 25, 2012 to September 24, 2012, and comments received were reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate. FOST 12 was previously amended on July 19, 2023.

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To: Joelle Lobo, BRAC Environmental Coordinator, and Curtis Payton
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To be followed by a signed hard copy sent via U.S. Mail

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C.c. U.S. EPA Region IX, California DTSC, Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

For the Fort Ord Clean Up Administrative Record

January 26, 2025

Dear Ms. Joelle Lobo,

The FOCAG has the following responses and comments regarding the Subject, FINDING OF SUITABILITY TO TRANSFER (FOST) AMENDMENT #2
Former Fort Ord, California
Track 1 Plug-In Parcel E20c.1, Yadon's Parcel E29b.3.1, and Operable Unit 1 Parcel S2.1.2
(FOST 12) (dtd.) December 2024

This area is east of General Jim Moore Blvd. and north of Eucalyptus Rd. It borders what is known as the Impact Area, formerly Site 15, now known as Site 39. What is the acreage of the FOST(S)? Fort Ord was an active Army Infantry training base, the practice of war maneuvers was scattered about, often during nights, with flares overhead. If it was raining so much the better to simulate actual military battle conditions. All was open land that had troops, equipment, and munitions moving over broad stretches of Fort Ord.

The FOCAG references a historical map we have, "Fort Ord Potentially Contaminated Areas", this one showing Site 13B northeast from the subject area, however the entirety of this shows all of former Fort Ord, labeled "Fort Ord Suspected Ordnance Contamination".

Site 39, the Impact Area, labeled 15 on this document (same overlay), lists the following ordnance; 2.36" & 3.5" Rockets, Hand Grenades, 37mm Anti-Aircraft, 57, 75, 90, 106mm Recoilless Rifle, 40mm Grenade, 60,81,4.2' Stokes Mortars, Light Anti-Tank Weapon, 75mm Howitzer.

Just East of the proposed transfer site is #16-2.36' moving target. Immediately south of #16 is a small area designated "Range Control"
North east of the proposed transfer site is #4-Chemical/Biological Radiological Training. Above this is the 13B-Practice Mortar Range.

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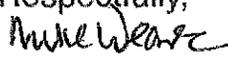
The FOCAG understands this proposed transfer of what is badged as;
~~Track 1 Plug-In Parcel E20c.1, Yadon's Parcel E29b.3.1, and Operable Unit 1~~
Parcel S2.1.2 (FOST12)

This will be going to the City of Seaside and the E20c.1 is proposed to be mostly clustered new residential housing, although there is no comprehensive project description. Why?

Site 15, aka Site 39, aka The Impact Area, lies directly over the Seaside Groundwater Basin. This provides much of the drinking water for the Monterey Peninsula, and we assume for this E20c.1 development area also.

The FOCAG has reviewed the disclosure document(s) some of which are purported to be included in the proposed new E20c.1 housing owner's deeds. These will be included amongst a stack of paperwork, some of which will require signatures, others will be provided in a stack of paperwork. The FOCAG finds these to be weak. This is a Category 3 Parcel, categories as defined by the Army, with #3 being the worst/most dangerous.

The FOST appears to be a done deal given the initial haste that this FOST Amendment #2 was scheduled for public review. Thus, we doubt this letter of concern will be given much attention. However, we highly recommend of the regulatory agencies that this immediate FOST area be an ongoing cancer study area. How many residents will contract cancers of some kind here vs. the general population of Monterey County?

Respectfully,

Mike Weaver
Co-Chair, FOCAG