



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (DRAFT EIS/EIR) FOR PUBLIC REVIEW AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

- PROJECT TITLE:** Fort Ord Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan
- PROJECT LOCATION:** Former Fort Ord, including areas within the Cities of Seaside, Marina, Monterey, and Del Rey Oaks and County of Monterey, California
- CEQA Lead Agency:** Fort Ord Reuse Authority
- NEPA Lead Agency:** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Public Review Period:** November 1, 2019 through December 16, 2019
- Public Meeting:** November 20, 2019, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

A joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) has been prepared to analyze the effects of the Proposed Action, which is the issuance of Federal and State incidental take permits (ITPs) by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) under Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act, and by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) under Section 2081 of the California Fish and Game Code in compliance with the California Endangered Species Act. The issuance of the ITPs would authorize take of the eight State and Federally listed species identified in the Draft Fort Ord Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (Draft HCP) during the course of the redevelopment of the former Fort Ord military base. The Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) and its member jurisdictions have prepared the Draft HCP as a required component of the application for the Federal ITP. The USFWS is acting as lead agency under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FORA is acting as lead agency under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Notice is hereby given that FORA is seeking written comment on the Draft EIS/EIR on the Proposed Action in accordance with CEQA and NEPA. The 45-day public review period will begin on November 1, 2019 and end on December 16, 2019. This review period is established for the purpose of receiving written comments on the accuracy and adequacy of the Draft EIS/EIR together with other information relative to the environmental effects of the Proposed Action. The State Clearinghouse number for this Proposed Action is SCH#2005061119.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Draft EIS/EIR analyzes the potential environmental effects of the adoption and implementation of the Draft HCP and the issuance of Federal and State ITPs, as well as a reasonable range of alternatives. The Draft HCP provides measures to mitigate and avoid/minimize impacts to eight Federal and State listed species within a 28,000-acre Plan Area. This is a comprehensive, base-wide plan that would provide conservation and management of sensitive species and their habitat. The Draft HCP was prepared to support the application for the Federal ITP. FORA is requesting a permit term of 50 years to authorize take of covered species associated with the covered activities described in the Draft HCP.

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIS/EIR identifies impacts in the following resource areas that are either less than significant or are potentially significant but can be mitigated to a less-than-significant level: Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Climate Change, Cultural Resources, Energy, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise, Public Services, Socioeconomic and Environmental Justice, Transportation and Circulation, and Utilities.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The Draft EIS/EIR did not identify any significant and unavoidable impacts. All potentially significant impacts can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the Draft HCP and identified mitigation measures.

HAZARDOUS WASTE SITES: The Draft HCP Plan Area consists of the former Fort Ord, which is a hazardous waste site enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code; the entire former Fort Ord Military Base is designated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as a Superfund National Priority List (NPL) site.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR runs for 45 days, beginning November 1, 2019 and ending December 16, 2019. A copy of the Draft EIS/EIR is available online at the FORA Project website at: <https://www.fora.org/habitat.html> and USFWS Website at: <http://www.fws.gov/ventura/>. The Draft EIS/EIR may also be viewed at the following locations:

Monterey County Public Library
Seaside Branch
550 Harcourt Avenue
Seaside, California 93955

Fort Ord Reuse Authority
920 2nd Avenue, Suite A
Marina, California 93933

PUBLIC MEETING: Pursuant to the public participation goals of CEQA and NEPA, FORA will host a Public Meeting during the public review period to share information on the Draft HCP and the Draft EIS/EIR. Spanish translation will be available, and the venue is accessible under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Comment forms will be available for those who wish to submit written comments during or following the meeting. Prepared written comments will be accepted during the meeting, as well as throughout the 45-day public review period. The date, time, and location of the Public Meeting are listed below.

Date: November 20, 2019
Time: 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Community Center at Soper Field
220 Coe Avenue
Seaside, CA 93955

Comments on the Draft EIS/EIR must be submitted in writing to the USFWS no later than 5:00 PM on December 16, 2019 to the mailing address, fax number, or email address listed below.

By Mail:

Stephen P. Henry, Field Supervisor
Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2493 Portola Road, Suite B, Ventura, CA 93003

By Email:

fw8fortordhcp@fws.gov

By Fax:

805-644-3958 (please also send a physical copy of the correspondence to ensure receipt)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Josh Metz, Assistant Executive Officer, FORA, at 831-883-3672, or Leilani Takano, Assistant Field Supervisor, USFWS, at 805-644-1766.