

## Attachment 5

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**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

VETERAN SERVICES DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 942895

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 94295-0001

Telephone: (916) 653-2573

**received**  
February 24, 2017

February 24, 2017

Board of Supervisors' Fort Ord Committee:

I am writing to request that approval for use of County land in support of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC), Oak Mitigation Plan be expedited. However, I would first like to express the Department's gratitude to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority, Monterey County Resource Management Agency, Denise Duffy & Associates, and the County Board of Supervisors for their efforts in support of this project.

As you know, the establishment of the CCCVC, to memorialize the veterans and family members who have served our nation, has long been a dream for members of your community which has only recently become a reality. In October, CCCVC opened and has quickly become a central focus of the hard work and dedication of the community to celebrate the Monterey Bay's rich military heritage. With plans to expand the cemetery in Phase II development, it is critical that the state and community meet its obligations to preserve and revitalize the area and its natural beauty.

The plan before you today represents our commitment to the environment and CalVet asks that you prioritize our collective efforts to ensure the needs of the community are addressed while fiscally possible. Delays in approving the parcel for Oak Mitigation purposes will pose significant fiscal challenges on the state level to address the needs of your community.

Once again, thank you for your support in serving the veterans and family members in your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keith Boylan", is written over a horizontal line.

KEITH BOYLAN  
Deputy Secretary  
Veterans Services Division

Michael W. Stamp  
Molly Erickson

**STAMP | ERICKSON**  
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March 6, 2017



Via email

Supervisors Mary Adams and Jane Parker  
Board of Supervisors Fort Ord Committee  
County of Monterey  
Salinas, CA 93901

Re: Violation of notice requirements for today's Ft. Ord Committee meeting;  
request for continuance

Dear Supervisors Adams and Parker:

On behalf of Keep Fort Ord Wild, we object to the holding of a Fort Ord Committee meeting today. We did not receive adequate notice of the meeting. The last notice from the County regarding the Committee received by I and KFOW representative Michael Salerno was a cancellation of the February 27, 2017 meeting.

This morning I heard there is a special meeting scheduled for this afternoon. Neither Mr. Salerno nor I received the required advance notice of this meeting, even though we have specifically requested advance written notice and have been on the notification/distribution list for approximately five years. We believe that the County's noticing procedures were not legal. On that basis, we object to the meeting going forward. Neither of us can attend due to other pre-existing commitments. Did *any* member of the public receive notice?

The items on the agenda are items of significant interest to Keep Fort Ord Wild, whose members have specific on-the-ground knowledge of the issues and items.

- Oak tree replacement: The locations of the oak mitigations should be discussed with public input; KFOW's position is that the option 3 is the best option because it allows for contiguous woodlands. KFOW would like to present in person the reasons why option 3 is the superior option. There is no rush for the County's input on this. What the County does on this mitigation will set a precedent for other oak tree mitigations for other projects. The County should consider this issue thoughtfully with public input. That input can only happen if the public knows about the meeting.
- Electrical towers: the County should require the applicant to eliminate the buzzing/sound that currently emanates from electrical towers at Fort Ord, which affects the environment. Noise impacts are CEQA issues (e.g., see CEQA Guidelines checklist, App. G). KFOW may have other comments after it has research the issue.

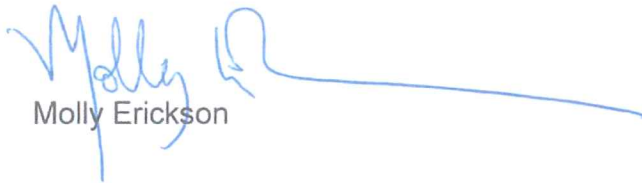
Request: The County should continue the meeting to a date for which *adequate and* legal notice can be provided to the public.

Outdated County website for Fort Ord Committee

The County has an outdated website for the Fort Ord Committee (<http://www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-a-h/clerk-of-the-board/board-standing-committees/fort-ord-committee>). It lists Dave Potter as the chair and the website contains information on meeting dates from 2010 to 2014 only. Any member who looks on the County website for information on the Committee would not have accurate information about the Committee or its meetings. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

STAMP | ERICKSON

  
Molly Erickson

## Nickerson, Jacquelyn x5240

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**From:** Fred Watson [fwatson@csumb.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 6, 2017 2:46 PM  
**To:** Nickerson, Jacquelyn x5240; Beretti, Melanie x5285; Nichols, Nick x5386; Markey, Kristi A. x7576  
**Subject:** Fort Ord Committee meeting - brief comments, and question about agenda mailout



Hi Jacquelyn et al.

Was an agenda sent out to the mailing list for today's Fort Ord Committee meeting?

I'm on the list, and I seem to get most (all?) of the emails about committee meetings, but I can't seem to find one for today's meeting.

By chance, I found the details on the web today, but this has not given me enough time to prepare a sufficient comment in advance or attend the meeting.

In case someone gets this email before the meeting, I have some brief comments now:

Re: Cemetery mitigation:

1. It should be noted that a very popular trail runs through the proposed Shooting Range mitigation area. This is probably a compatible use, but language should be included that clarifies this.
2. Potential for successful restoration at the Shooting Range site could be limited by heavy compaction visible in imagery since 1941, and possible grassland conditions driven by poor natural drainage as evidenced from 1937 imagery (prior to substantial shooting range construction).
3. The site adjacent to Eucalyptus Road is potentially a better candidate. There's an "Elfin Forest" of oaks there that is truly unique. Enhancement of that forest would be valuable, and closer to the cemetery.

Re: PGE poles

1. The parcels involved have been the subject of tremendous public interest recently. A "Vegetation Impact and Restoration Plan" is mentioned. This Plan should be made public so that we can more carefully understand what's proposed with regard to oak tree removal and replacement.

Thanks,

Fred.

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Fred Watson, PhD  
Associate Professor: School of Natural Sciences, California State Univ. Monterey Bay.  
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