



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT ORD OFFICE, ARMY BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE
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MONTEREY, CA 93944-5008

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

BRAC Environmental

JUN 08 2005

Dan O'Brien, Chairman
Fort Ord Community Advisory Group
171 Aaron Way
Marina, CA 93933

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

This letter has been prepared to respond to the Fort Ord Community Advisory Group (CAG) request for membership on the Technical Review Committee as stated in the attached letter. The rationale for membership noted in the CAG's request letter is as follows: "That we [CAG] be allowed to be included as a member of the Technical Review Committee (TRC) on an official basis rather than as an observer. We feel it is imperative that we be able to interact with the other members of the BRAC team on an official basis because we represent the citizenry, the ultimate beneficiary, and provider of funds through taxation."

To open a dialogue with the current TRC members and help the Army address this request, each of the current Technical Review Committee members was provided with the CAG request letter. The request was on the agenda for discussion at the April 14, 2005 TRC meeting. The general consensus of discussion was not to include the CAG as a member of the TRC. The three main reasons for keeping the existing structure follow.

- (1) The Technical Review Committee meeting structure is a *focused* meeting based on the discussion of technical issues as they relate to local, state and federal agencies. The requested membership would likely alter that meeting structure.
- (2) There is an opportunity for full participation at the Community Involvement Workshop. The presentations at the Community Involvement Workshops are identical to those at the Technical Review Committee.
- (3) There is an opportunity to ask questions and make comments after the Technical Review Committee members complete their remarks. Each of the current Technical Review Committee members is available for questions and comments from individuals and groups.

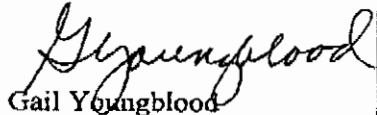
The Technical Review Committee is neither a policy nor a decision making body. The purpose of Technical Review Committee meetings is to have a dialogue with the technical staff of local governmental agencies about the cleanup program at Fort Ord. There is a separate forum, the Community Involvement Workshops, established for similar dialogue with community members and groups. The Technical Review Committee meetings are open to the public and announced at each Community Involvement Workshop. Given these circumstances, the membership and meeting structure will not be changed.

Members of the public, leaders of community groups, and Technical Assistance Grant recipients are all invited to observe the meetings of the Technical Review Committee. A time has been set-aside at the end of each presentation during which these individuals may make comments and ask questions. However, no comments or questions from people other than the Technical Review Committee members will be accepted during any portion of the meeting except when designated by the facilitator. Individuals who wish to make more extensive comments are encouraged to attend the Community Involvement Workshops and make their comments in that forum. The Army has retained a professional facilitator to conduct Technical Review Committee meetings. The facilitator has been instructed to enforce the ground rules described above.

It is not our intent to limit community participation, but to create a structure to address the varied interests and requests for information. To ensure that issues discussed at the Community Involvement Workshops are conveyed to the Technical Review Committee, we will dedicate time on the TRC agenda to report a summary of comments made during the Community Involvement Workshop.

Should you have any questions, please contact Melissa Broadston at phone number (831) 393-1284 or by email at Melissa.Broadston@monterey.army.mil. A copy of this letter has been forwarded to the Technical Review Committee, Claire Trombadore of the U.S Environmental Protection Agency; Kris Escarda and Roman Racca of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control; and Grant Himebaugh of the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Sincerely,



Gail Youngblood
BRAC Environmental Coordinator