

# The Fort Ord Rec Trail and Greenway (FORTAG)

www.fortag.org

Public presentation to

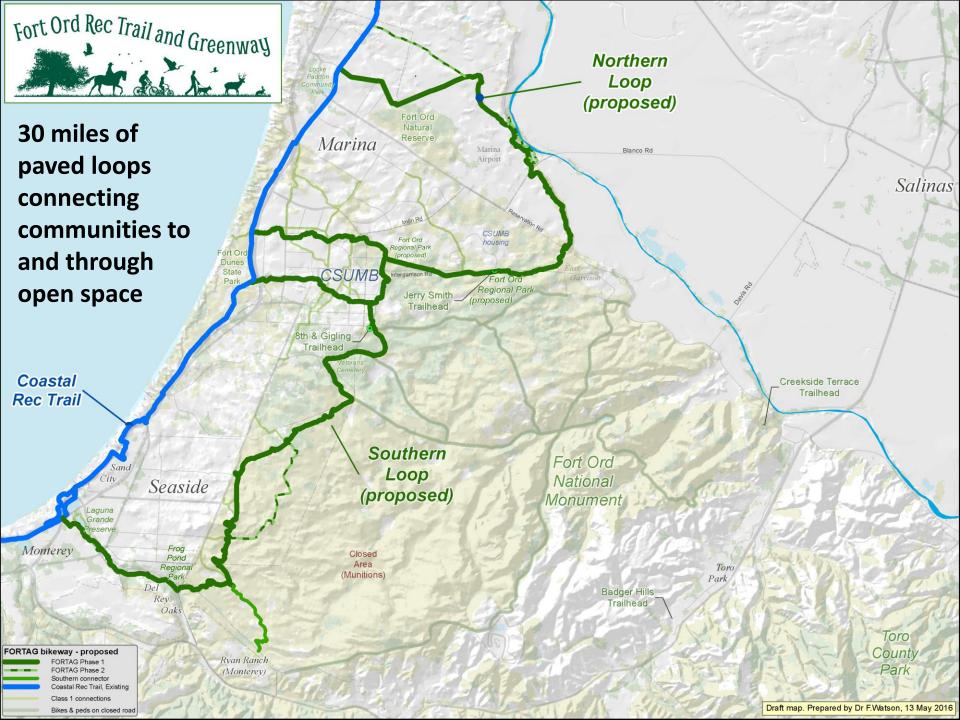
The Rotary Club of Monterey

Presenters: Fred Watson & Scott Waltz

10 Nov 2016



# What is FORTAG?



### FORTAG is inspired by the existing Sanctuary Scenic Trail





## Existing trail at Del Monte & Canyon del Rey



# **Core Values**

- FORTAG should:
  - 1. Connect **people** to **open space**
  - 2. Be a **pleasant** experience
  - 3. Be useable by **anyone**
  - 4. Have **room** for everyone
  - 5. Be **complementary** to the built environment
  - 6. Have **loops**, of different sizes
  - 7. Be 100% **connected** all the way around each loop
  - 8. Have **no 'red flags'** from land owners and/or jurisdictions
  - Function as a habitat corridor for dispersal of native plants and movement of wildlife (with the exception of certain constrained segments where this is impractical)



# Has this kind of thing been done before?



























Note: These images were downloaded ad lib from the web. Their copyright status is unknown.









### Trailside amenities







Major FORTAG-like projects are underway elsewhere: Coachella Valley Link



MASTER PLAN MARCH 2015 VOLUME 1: MASTER PLAN

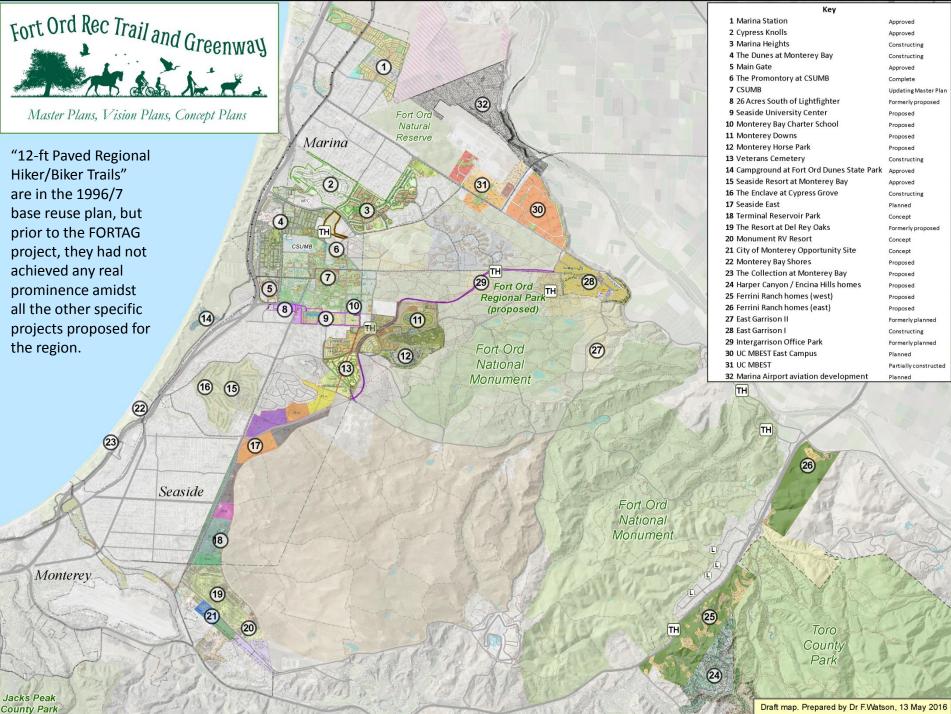


Major FORTAG-like projects are underway elsewhere: Napa Valley Vine Trail

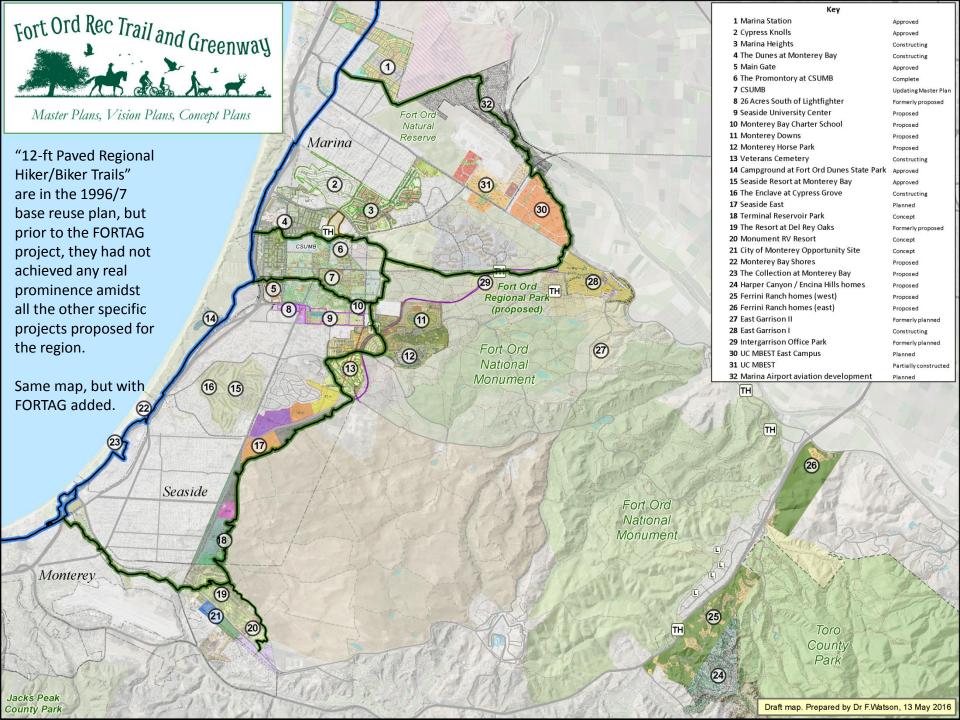




# How does FORTAG relate to other planned projects on the former Fort Ord?



Draft map. Prepared by Dr F.Watson, 13 May 2016



### 3D rendering of some FORTAG sections Illustrates how we're looking at FORTAG from every conceivable angle (Also illustrates where we're discussing the future main connection between FORTAG and East Garrison)





# Who's involved?

# Organizations with whom the FORTAG team has met

#### Government

- City of Marina
- City of Seaside
- City of Del Rey Oaks
- City of Monterey
- County of Monterey
- BLM
- US Army BRAC
- US Army Presidio
- State Parks
- State legislature
- Federal legislature
- Other agencies and utilities
  - FORA
  - Transportation Agency for Monterey County
  - Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District
  - Monterey-Salinas Transit
  - AMBAG
  - Cal trans
  - State Department of Fish & Wildlife
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service
  - PG&E
  - MRPWCA
  - MCWD
  - Cal Vet

Education

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- CSUMB
  - UCSC Fort Ord Natural Reserve
- UCSC MBEST
- Monterey Peninsula College (MPC)
- Chartwell School
- Monterey Bay Charter School

#### Developers, business, & private landowners

- East Garrison (Benchmark Communities)
- Marina Heights (Chadmar Group)
- The Dunes at Monterey Bay (Marina Community Partners)
- Monterey Downs
- Bruno family / Monterey Peninsula Engineering
- Monterey Peninsula Properties (Del Rey Oaks)
- Cypress Knolls

#### Consulting firms

- Denise Duffy & Associates (DDA)
- Bellinger Foster Steinmetz (BFS)
- ICF International
- Dover Kohl Partners (DKP)
- Pathways for Wildlife
- Wood Rodgers
- Clifford Moss

- Other organizations & businesses
  - Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation
  - Sierra Club

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- Big Sur Land Trust
- CA Native Plant Society
- Audubon Society
- FORT Friends
- Keep Fort Ord Wild
- Veterans Fort Ord Wild
- Sustainable Marina
- Sustainable Seaside
- Monterey County Hospitality Association
- Monterey Off Road Cycling Association
- Central Coast Cyclocross
- Sea Otter Classic
- Big Sur International Marathon
- Fort Ord Training Heritage Museum

Total:

- 168 one-on-one meetings
  - 154 people
  - 62 organizations
- 16 presentations

# Themes reinforced by FORTAG

- Celebration of open spaces
- Active lifestyle
  - Health
  - Safety
  - Youth
  - Accessibility
  - Elderly
- Environment
  - Habitat connectivity
  - Stewardship
- Education

- Service to low-income & disadvantaged communities
- Transportation
  - Travelling to parks
  - Federal lands access
  - Commuting
- Veterans & military history
- Tourism
- Economic vitality



# Open space theme

### Fort Ord National Monument – our backyard





# **View from Seaside East**

(This location is along the FORTAG route, within restricted-development 200-ft fuel break, at a location already conceptually master-planned by the City as "Recreational Commercial")



### Fort Ord has many hidden gems within easy reach of residential areas



### Salinas River – part of the former Fort Ord – Historical and cultural icon

This area is largely public land. This view is readily accessible from FORTAG.





# Active lifestyles theme



### Coastal Rec Trail – safe for kids, room to move







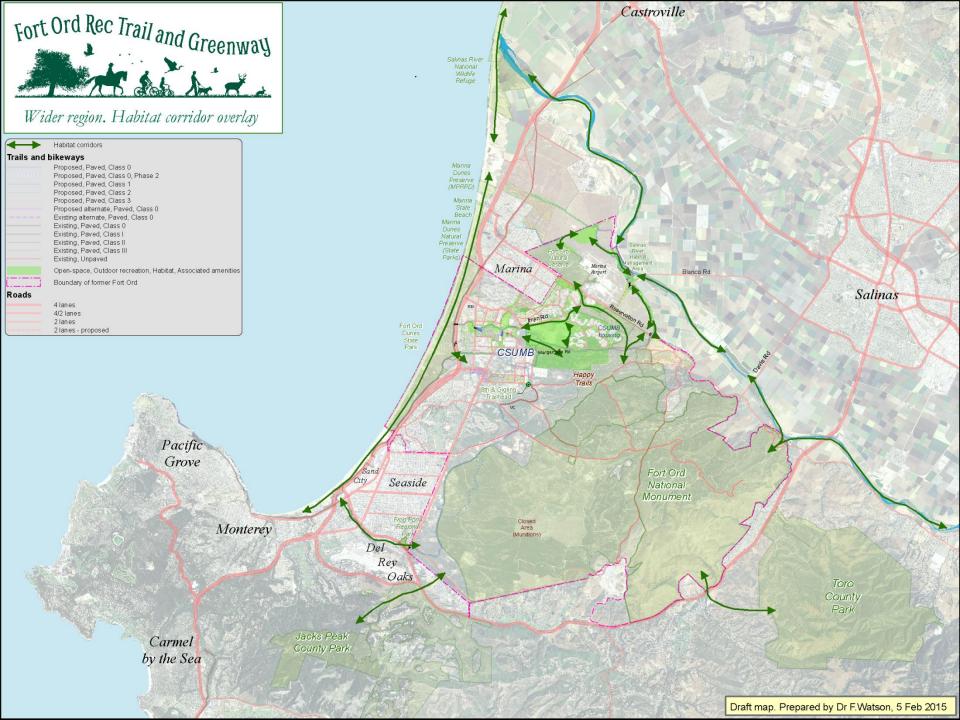


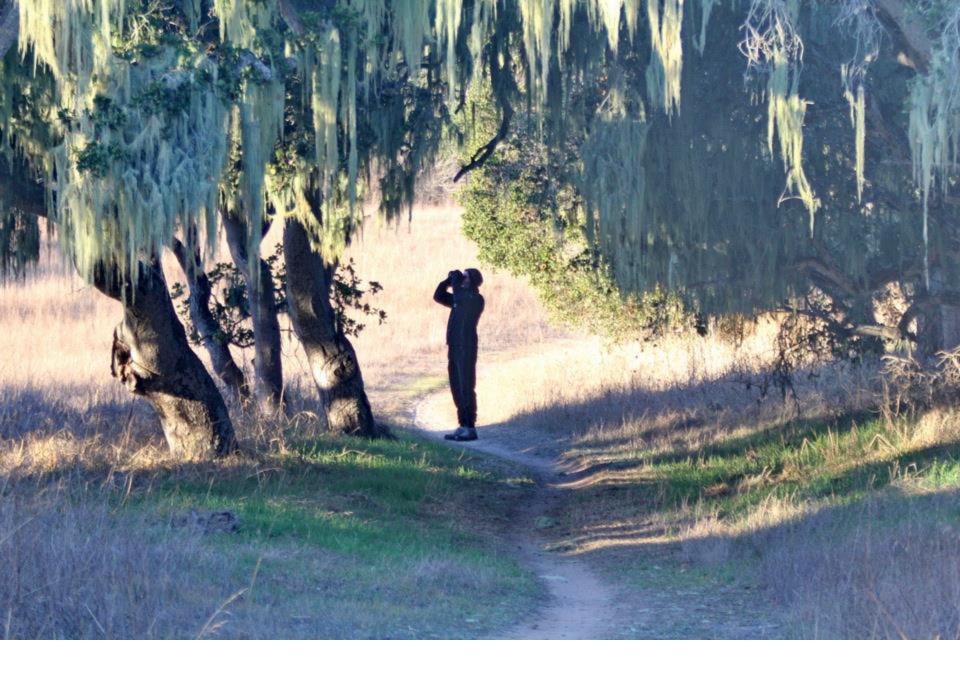






## **Environmental theme**









# **Education theme**

On-campus trails and habitat learning engagement

Just next door at the Chartwell School

### Field Station For Habitat Studies

TRAIL HEAD

Chartwell School And The New High School Project



JUST RUN! JUST RUN! THREE MILLION MILES!

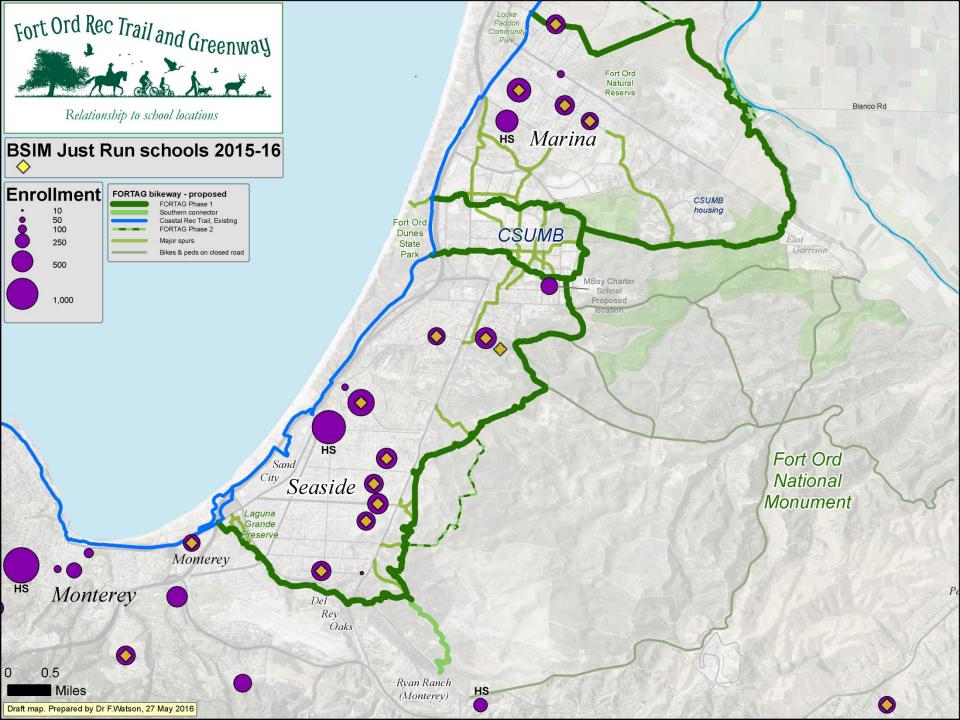
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CSUMB students use bikes to get around campus,

and to explore the Fort Ord National Monument

#### CSUMB student life on bikeways



#### CSUMB student life on bikeways

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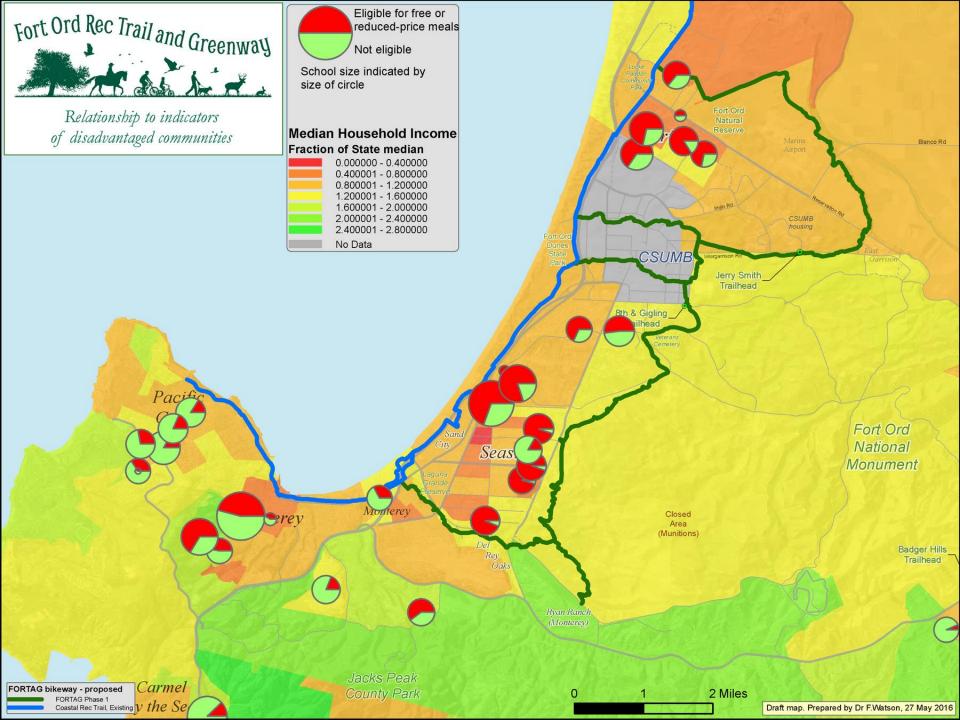
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"Happy Trails" Right next door to campus, but not yet facilitated by trails from campus



# Service to low-income & disadvantaged communities





### Transportation theme

We've made progress on upgrading transportation on Fort Ord. But some things are still problematic.



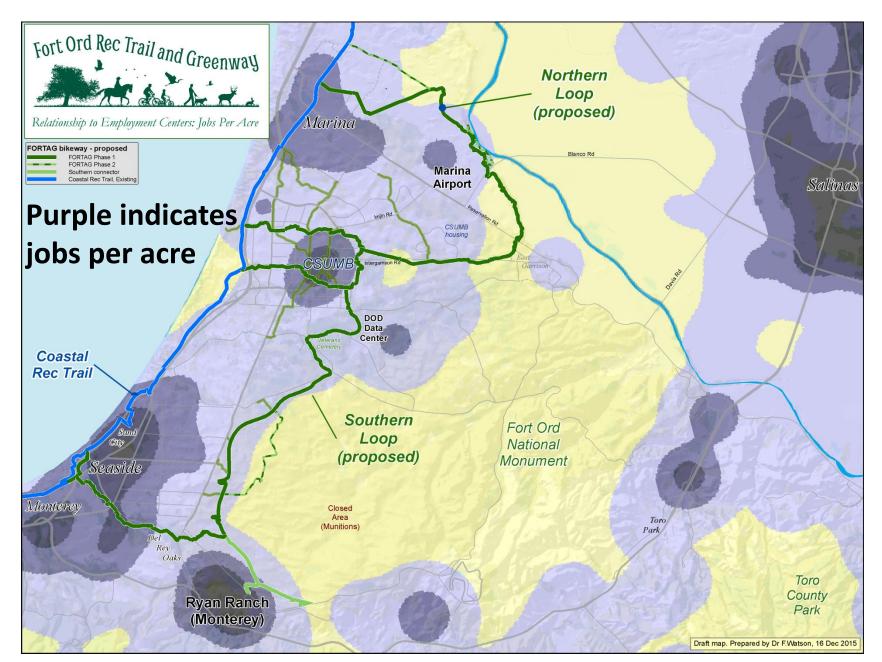
Great to be bike-commuting. But is this a "great" experience for the cyclists? Why do the bikes need to be so close to so many cars?

Ditto. This time a walk-commuter. Not the most pleasant walk to work – despite the abundance of open-space on either side of the road.

People are more likely to bike commute if there's even just 30 feet of open space between trails and cars.

#### Commuting on a trail with room creates social opportunities

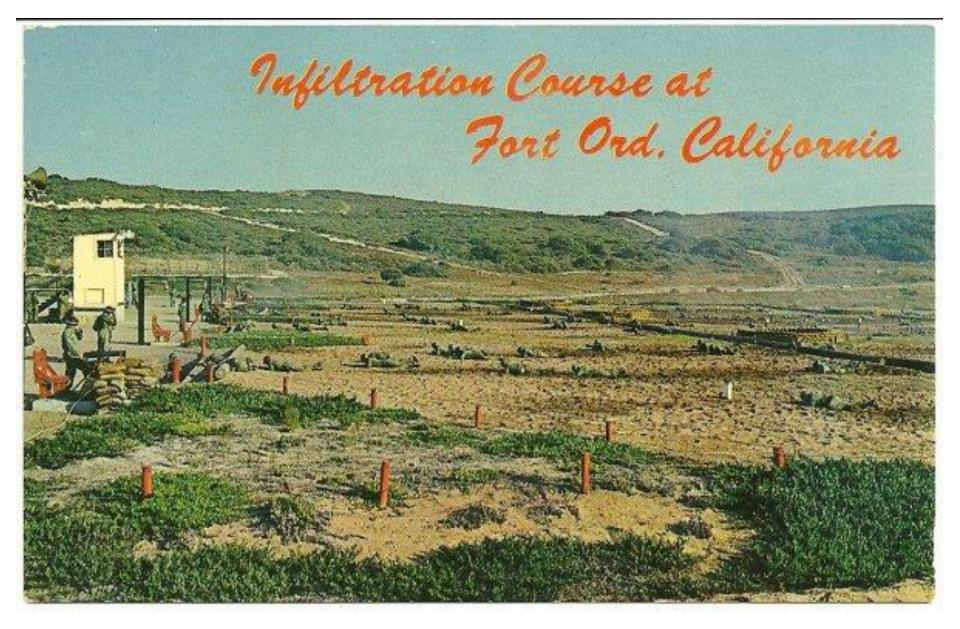
#### Makes biking and walking to work practical





# Veterans & military history theme

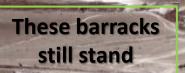
#### A multi-use trail through Fort Ord creates interpretive opportunities to connect people to the history of the former base

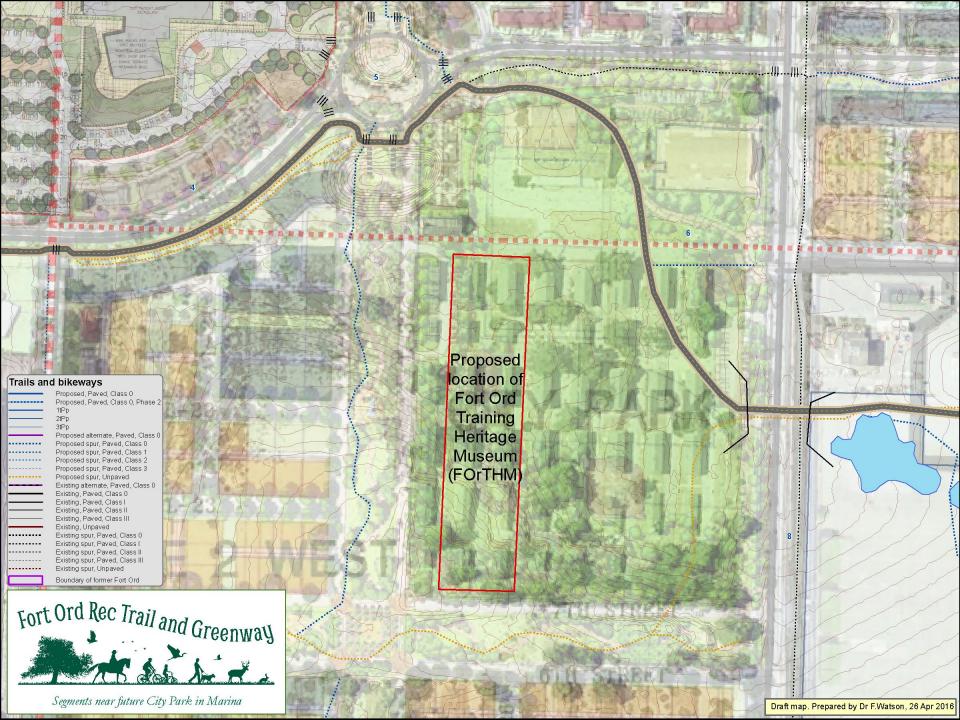


#### FORTAG – Relationship to veterans memorial sites



#### FORTAG will facilitate interpretation of the military history of the former Fort Ord





Friends of the Fort Ord Warkorse and the City of Marina present: Sixth Annual Veterans Day Celebration

#### \* ORD TO NAM AND BACK \* The View from Fifty Years

#### 8:00 Family bike ride through Fort Ord (11 miles)

- 9:30 Defense Language Institute Choir
- 10:00 Ceremony / Recognition of all veterans
- 10:15 Vietnam War perspective: Kevin Howe, Spec4 / LTC Tom Griffin, USA (ret.)
- 10:45 Remembrance Day / DLI Jazz Band / Australian light-horse cavalry
- Fort Ord to Vietnam, photos by Lance Nix
- · History exhibits, vintage military vehicles
- Boy Scout airsoft and facepoint
- Kids and adults: send a card to a serviceman
- Coffee and donuts
- Veterans, please wear cap or uniform!

Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse is an official partner of the USA Vietnam War Commemoration.



TOYOTA National Sponsor



Free commemorative lapel pins from the DaD to any Vietnam era veteran who attends

7 Public WELCOME! fortordhistory@gmail.com 831-224-4534 Saturday, Nov 7 2:30-11:30 g.m.

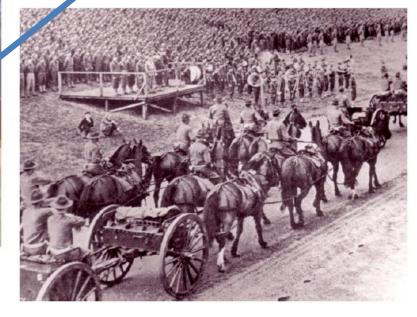
> Marina Equestrian Center Park Sth Avenue at 9th Street, Marina (from Imjin Plowy, turn S on California)

n tem 5 on Colfornia)

<sup>shoto</sup> by Lance

Join bike ride at 8:00 a.m. Manume

Veteran-themed events (including a bike ride through Fort Ord)







CONTRACTOR OF STREET, STREET,

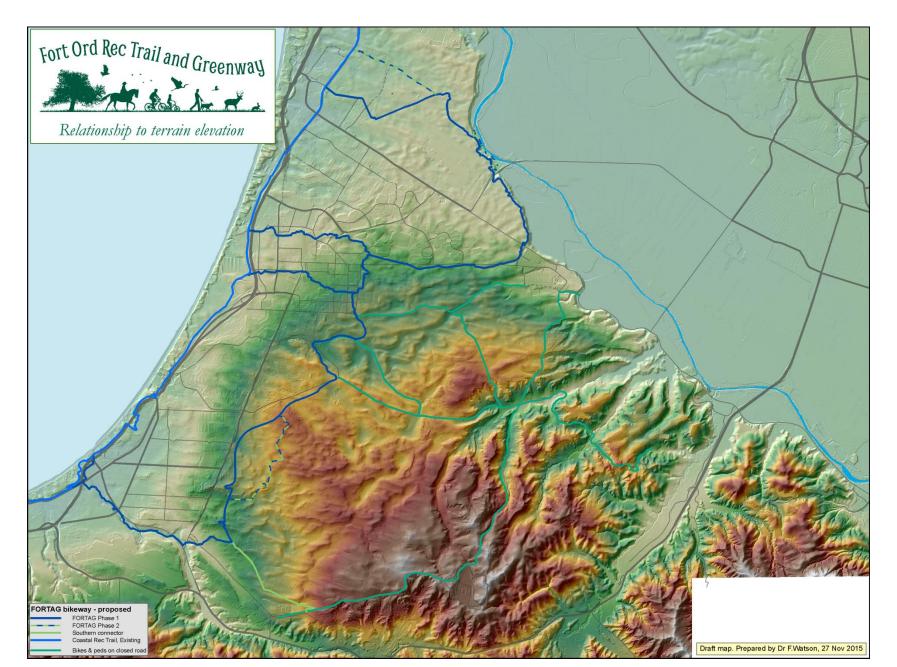
FINISH

### Looped system for trail events



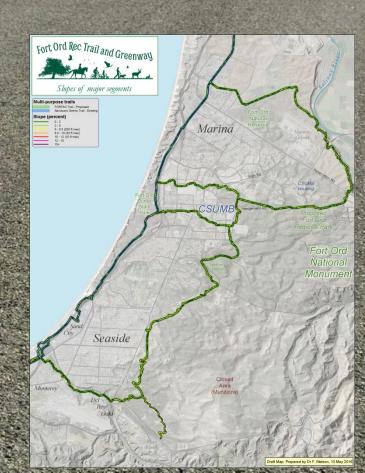
# Accessibility theme

#### FORTAG traces easy routes to scenic places



### Accessibility

This is an open county road. We need to create ways for <u>everyone</u> to be able to access open space, and we <u>have</u> the room to do it. Recreational opportunity for disabled persons



### **Provides access for all**



### Accessible events





#### USA | NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL SPORT

#### Northern California/ Nevada cycling Series ride and Rock Climbing with Mark Wellman from *No Limits*

#### Saturday, October 10, 2015, 9am

Hosted by the Northern California Paralympic Regional Sport Program/Paralympic Sport Sacramento with support from: Paralympic Sport Clubs of Reno, Santa Cruz and Bay Area, and with Recreation Therapy Service from Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System.

Location: Monterey VA Clinic (3401 Engineer Ln, Seaside, CA)

Cost: \$10 per person

FREE to all injured, ill, or wounded veterans and active duty members of the Armed Forces

Parking is free

Helmets are required

#### Schedule:

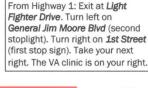
Check in is at 9am
Ride departure at 9:30am
Rock Climbing- 9am to 2pm
Catered lunch from 12 to 1pm

For more event details or to request a loaner handcyle or tandem or recumbent bicycle, contact Annie Desalernos, Northern California Paralympic Sport/City of Sacramento, at adesaler@cityofsacramento.org or 916-808-3809

To register or to volunteer contact Shared Adventures at 831-459-7210 or staff@sharedadventures.org



This event was funded [in part] by a grant from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The opinions findings and conclusion stated herein are those of the author[s] and do not necessarily reflect those of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.





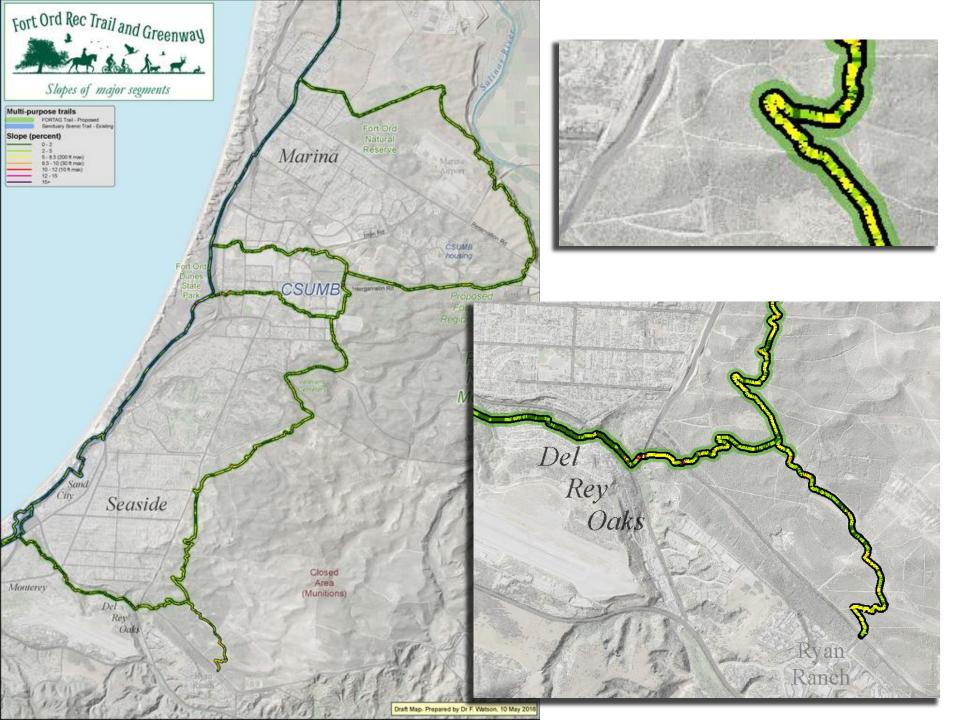
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U.S. Department

of Veterans Affair



Draft Map. Prepared by Dr F. Watson, 10 May 2016



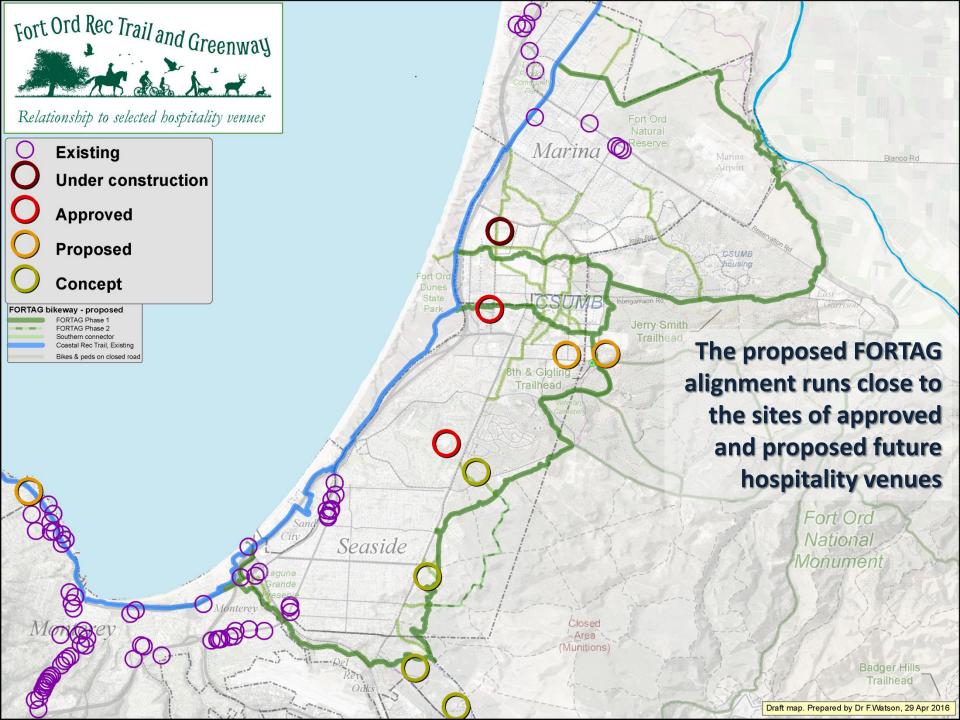
# Tourism theme

Existing hotels promote trails, bikes, & scenery Example of what a multi-use trail can be like when it combines with a dense developed landscape: the new Wharf Marketplace in Monterey

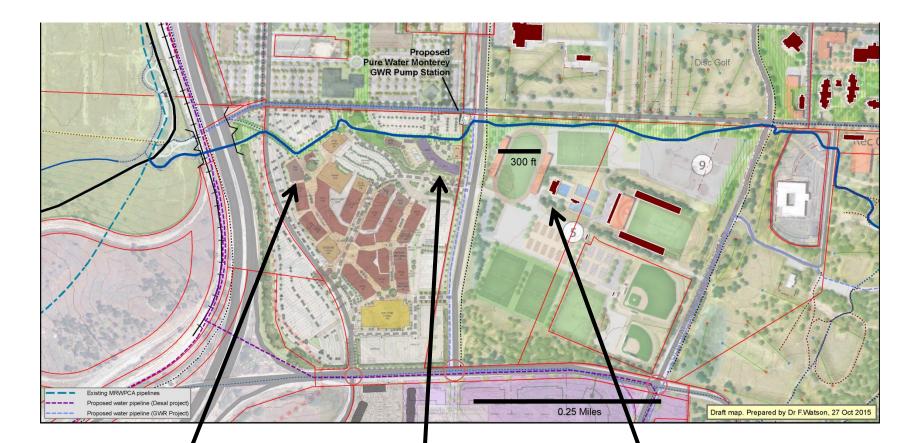
WHARF MARKETPLACE

 Please park bikes in the provided racks
 Leashed pets are welcome in the outdoor patio area
 Tables are for customers
 This is a smoke free area

-Thank you!



## FORTAG segments near Main Gate



Beach-oriented dining (Approved site)

Hotel (Approved site) Athletic facilities (suggested in draft CSUMB master plan update)



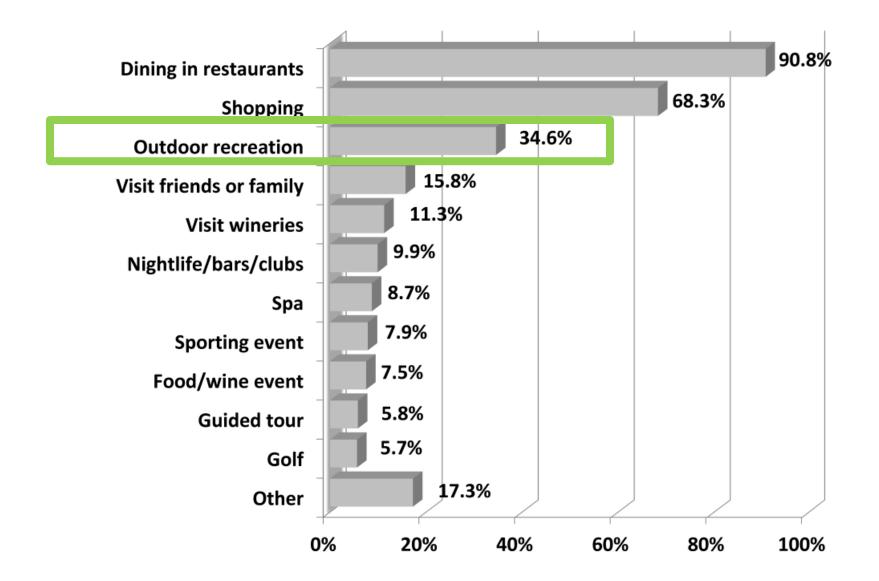
Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau

2015 Monterey County Lodging Guest Visitor Profile Final Report of Findings

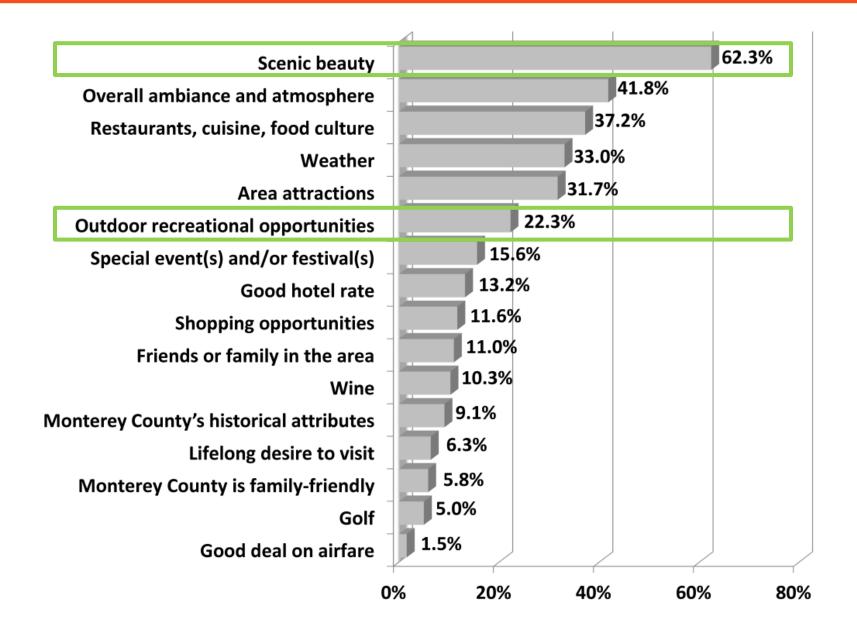
January 2016

Report of Findings prepared for the Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau by Destination Analysts, Inc.

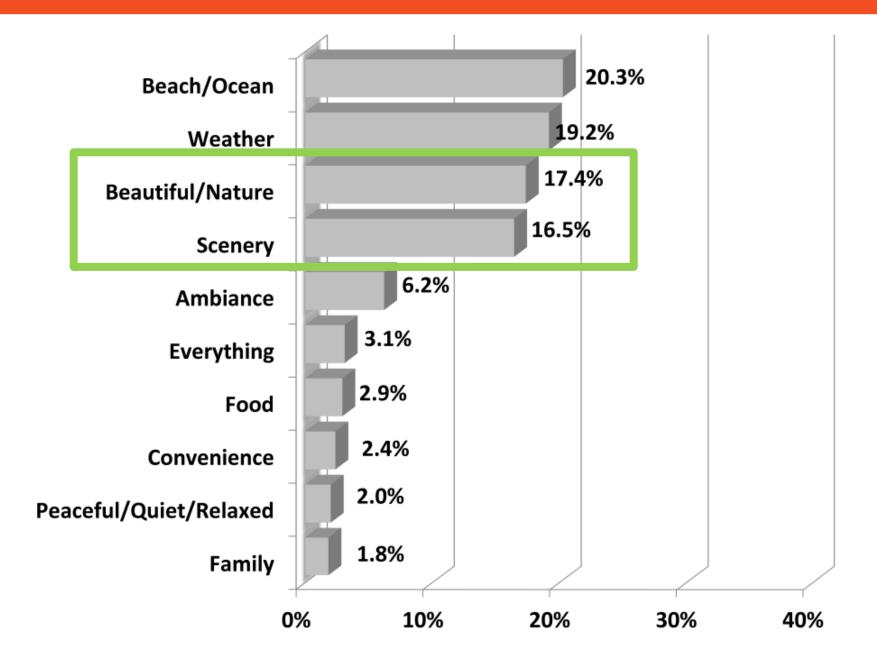
### **Activities in Monterey County**



### **Important Factors to Destination Decision**



### **Most Liked Aspects of Monterey County**





## Sea Otter Classic Economic Impact & Attendee Survey Report of Findings

June 2015

Research prepared for the Monterey County Convention & Visitors Bureau by Destination Analysts, Inc.



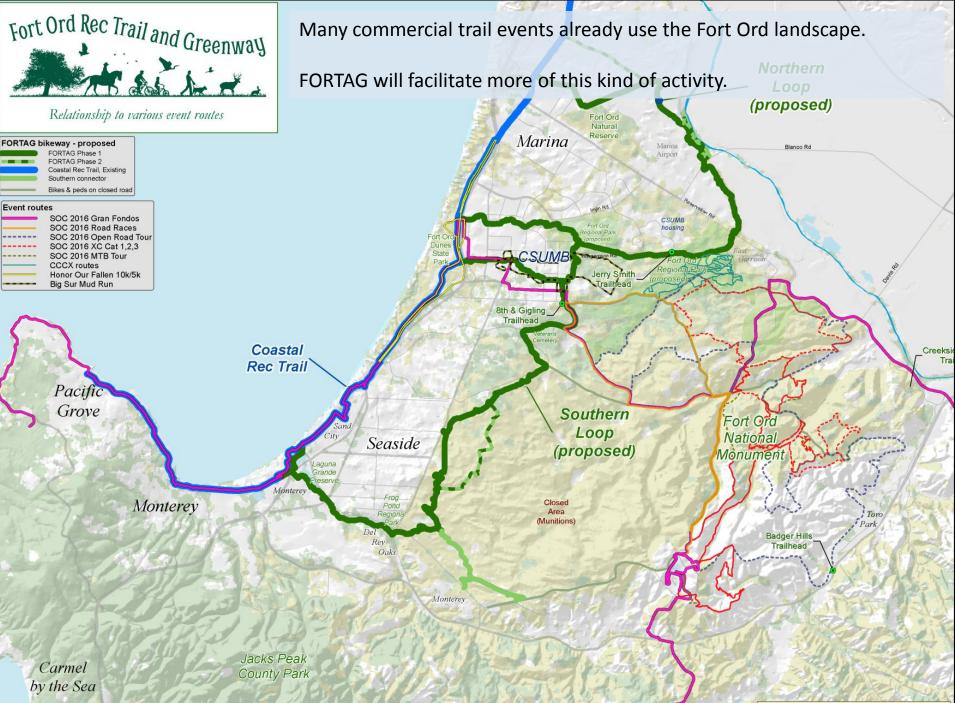
### Sea Otter Classic

## **Economic Impact Estimates**

Α	Total attendance	*32,596
В	% from outside Monterey County	92.9%
С	Attendees from outside Monterey County	30,282
D	% in destination for event	94.7%
Е	Incremental attendees	28,677
F	Average length of stay (nights)	2.7
G	Incremental visitor days	78,344
Н	Avg. spending per day per attendee	\$210.74
Ι	Total incremental trip spending	\$16,510,038

\*\*Total attendance number provided by Sea Otter Classic, Inc. and adjusted for multi-day attendees.







# Economic vitality theme

"The narrative that we really should be pursuing, particularly here on Fort Ord, ... is that access to trails and natural areas produces economic prosperity and resilience. It does so not only with tourism and recreation but also by contributing to the local conditions that attract and retain highly skilled workers."

"Outdoor enthusiasts ... mountain bikers, road bikers, hikers, bird watchers ... most of the times, we're going **close to home** because we just got off work and its four o'clock and we want to get a quick trail run in, or something like that."

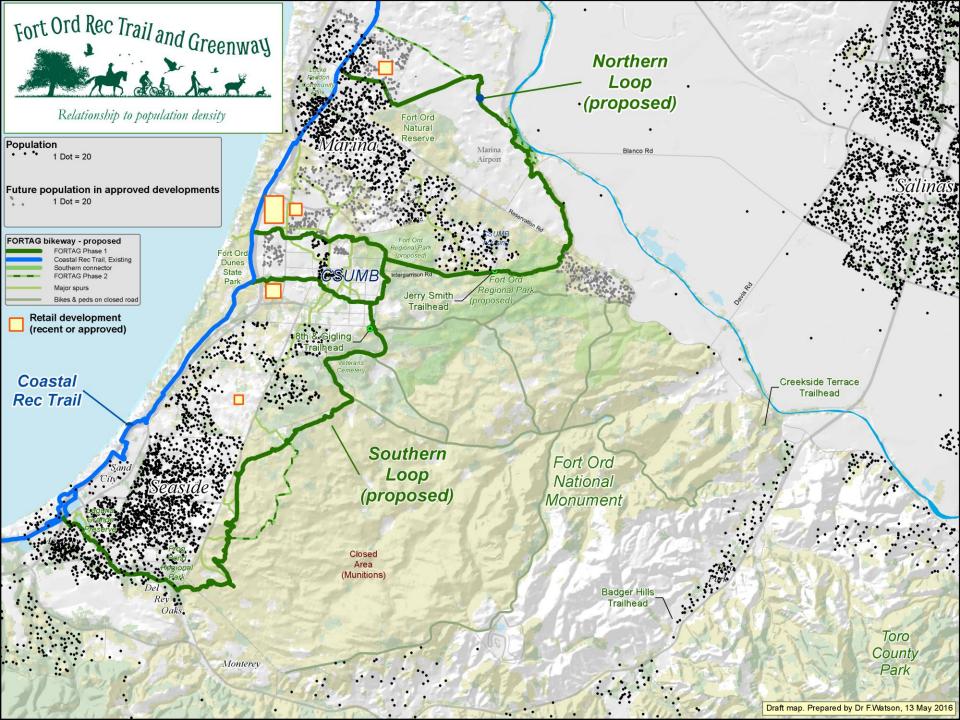
Luther Propst Final speaker, Fort Ord Colloquium, December 12-13, 2013

<sup>1</sup> Population: 5.3 million

### Seaside Resort development approved



Fort Ord is currently experiencing a wave of development. Long-blighted areas are finally being replaced with homes, retail, etc.





# What's been achieved so far?

## What's next?

## FORTAG achievements to date

#### Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

- Measure X very likely to pass (provisional votes still being counted).
   Provides \$20M in funding for FORTAG (\$40M required)
- Mar 2016 TAMC Board approval (unanimous). FORTAG remains at \$20M in a motion to amend the list approved in February.
- Feb 2016 TAMC Board approval. FORTAG included at \$20M on final list of regional projects to be funded by TAMC's transportation tax measure going to county voters in November 2016.
- Dec 2015 FORTAG included on "early draft" list of projects authorized by TAMC Board for public review (listed under "Recreational Trails, including Fort Ord Rec Trail")
- Nov 2015: FORTAG on list of projects being considered by TAMC for funding through transportation tax measure for Nov 2016 ballot
- Aug 2015: TAMC Board unanimously adopted motion directing "staff to assist in finding funding sources for the project, provide more information on a possible TAMC role, and present funding and phasing ideas. directing staff to work toward FORTAG."

#### Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA)

- Mar 2016: FORA Board of Directors unanimously approved a resolution in support of a Draft Trails Concept that mirrors the proposed FORTAG alignment
- Feb 2016: FORTAG alignment in the form of the FORA Trails Blueprint approved by FORA PRAC Committee to go to the FORA Board for approval
- May 2015: FORTAG used as starting point for FORA Trails Blueprint
- Mar 2015: FORTAG included in FORA's draft Habitat Conservation Plan
- Jan 2015: FORTAG highlighted in introduction to Fort Ord Trails Symposium

#### Monterey County

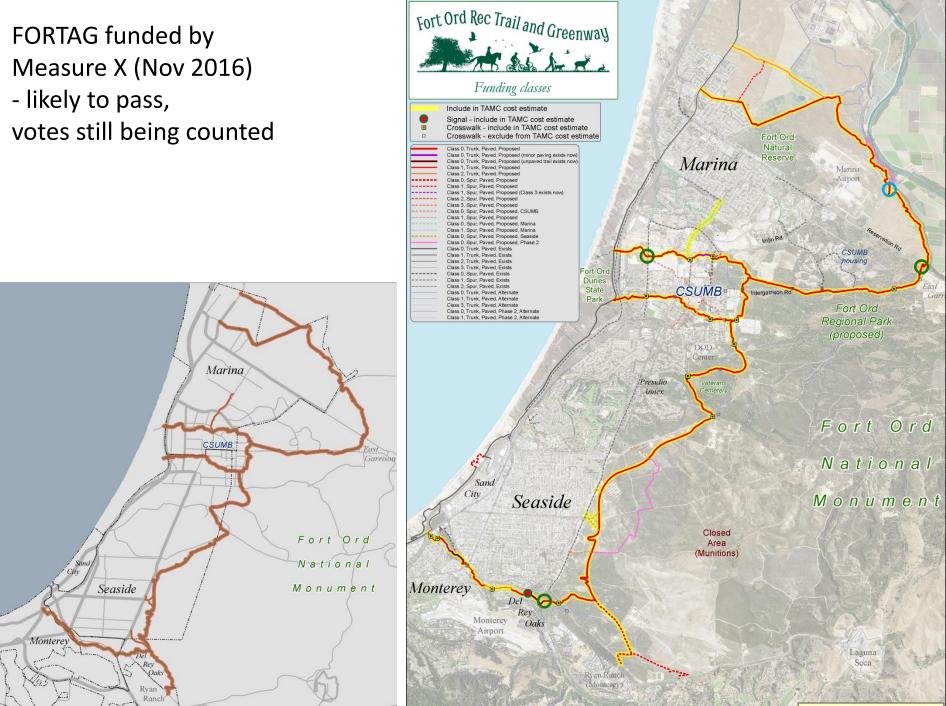
Mar 2015 to Aug 2015: FORTAG included in County's draft trails plan for the FORHA area

#### City of Marina

- April 2016: Master planning for FORTAG included in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for the City of Marina. Council approved an update to the City's 5-year CIP including \$50K for a Parks Master Plan update encompassing the Marina sections of FORTAG and the (overlapping) Veterans Trail
- Nov 2014: Council unanimously adopted motion (after FORTAG presentation) to support and progress with concept of a 13-mile loop around Marina (i.e. the FORTAG northern loop
- Jan 2014: Council unanimously adopted motion to investigate feasibility of a trail & greenway from 8<sup>th</sup> St to Intergarrison Rd (a key FORTAG segment)

#### California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB)

- Sep 2015 to Mar 2016: FORTAG included in draft CSUMB Master Plan illustrative maps
- ~Mar 2016: FORTAG referenced in Specific Plan for Monterey Bay Charter School
- Monterey Peninsula Regional Parks District
  - Nov 2015 Measure E passed renews key MPRPD funding source
  - Dec 2015 Adopted 5-year strategic plan including collaboration with FORTAG on a potential "Marina-Seaside Trails Preserve"



Draft Map. Prepared by Dr F. Watson, 20 Nov 2015

## FORTAG next steps

- Complete FORTAG master plan
- General plan updates:
  - Marina
  - Seaside
  - Del Rey Oaks
  - Monterey
  - County
  - CSUMB
- Habitat Conservation Plan
- County trails plan
- Environmental review
- Detailed design & engineering
- More funding
- Construction



## fortag.org facebook.com/FORTAG

FORTAG will help people discover special places in the Fort Ord region

Final note:

If you happen to be shown in one of the photos in this presentation and either: (1) want a copy of the photo, or (2) want the photo to be removed from our outreach materials, please let us know.

fortag@fortag.org