

*Water for Monterey County*

## **Fort Ord Reuse Authority Endorses Regional Water Project**

On November 14, representatives of *Water for Monterey County*, a project designed to ensure a safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable water supply for the entire region, made a presentation to the Fort Ord Reuse Authority's (FORA) board of directors. At the conclusion of the presentation, the board unanimously passed a resolution in support of the plan.

"FORA has been an active participant in the collaborative that fostered the *Water for Monterey County* project," says FORA Executive Officer Michael Houlemard, Jr. "Since the formation of FORA in 1997, we've envisioned the need to utilize both desalinated and recycled water to meet the region's water needs."

The *Water for Monterey County* project began in January 2007 when the Division of Ratepayer Advocates of the California Public Utilities Commission entreated a collaboration of Monterey County public agencies, stakeholders and citizens with the mission to develop an affordable and sustainable regional water supply strategy. A team of experts were assembled to identify water supply needs and potential project components to fulfill the request. Their efforts resulted in the project that includes aquifer storage and recovery in the Seaside Basin, recycled water, reprogrammed use of Salinas Basin ground water, water from the Salinas River diversion project, regional and City of Sand City desalination facilities, as well as storm water recovery and conservation. For more information about the project visit [www.waterformontereycounty.org](http://www.waterformontereycounty.org).

The resolution approved by FORA's board of directors states, in part, that *Water for Monterey County* has been designed to benefit both the governing jurisdictions and agricultural businesses of northern Monterey County, and that it is cost effective for ratepayers, yields significant regional benefits and offers an acceptable implementation strategy. Recognizing the critical nature of the region's water supply, FORA urges each political and quasi-political entity within Monterey County to support the project by participating in the evaluation and planning process so as to assure its successful implementation.

"The *Water for Monterey County* project is environmentally superior, resource efficient and cost effective, benefiting everyone from Carmel to Castroville and Salinas," states Houlemard. "And by far, it's the best plan on the table. It's a "win win win" solution—good for the environmental, good for the ratepayers and good for the communities of northern Monterey County.

In the last several months, the city councils of both Seaside and Monterey have passed similar resolutions in support of *Water for Monterey County*.