

## **Press Release**

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### **JFTB Announces Changes to Onsite Composting Activities**

After more than five months of effort, a West Orange County consortium of Mayors has been successful in working with the leadership of the Joint Forces Training Base (JFTB) to order a cessation of the Base's pilot composting project until further notice. The Base's decision was provided during a meeting on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> with the Mayors of Cypress, Garden Grove, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach, JFTB Commander, Major General John Harrel, Orange County Supervisor John Moorlach and President of the Rossmoor Community Services District, Alfred Coletta.

“We consider this to be a thoughtful and prudent action by Major General Harrel,” said Los Alamitos Mayor, Troy Edgar. “He is clearly focused on the mission of the Base and we agree completely that the composting program has potentially proven to be a distraction. We support the General's decision completely and hope to be involved along with our neighboring cities in any further discussion of the issue.” Mayor Edgar has been working closely with Mayors of Cypress, Seal Beach and Garden Grove in working with the JFTB to reconsider its position of undertaking the composting program.

“To us, this has always been an issue of the JFTB undertaking non-military activities on Base property,” said Cypress Mayor Douglas A. Bailey. “We have been watching these actions closely, and remain concerned that the military function of the Base is being superseded improperly by other activities that may not be in the long-term best interests of the surrounding communities.” The cities of Cypress, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach have been meeting and communicating with command staff at the Base for the past five months in an effort to gain greater understanding of the project, the approval and environmental clearance processes and potential impacts on local residents. Seal Beach Mayor, Gordon Shanks stated that “for us, this began as a traffic impact issue regarding the potential of managing an influx of overweight trucks on Lampson Avenue, but quickly grew into something larger and more impactful on many of our residents. We are very pleased that the Base has decided to reconsider its options.”

Though local cities have been watching the composting program closely for some time, recent complaints from local neighborhoods in Garden Grove, Cypress and Los Alamitos about odors emanating from the composting windrows occupying nearly 12 acres on the southeast section of the JFTB seems to have crystallized the ongoing concerns of the cities about the unexamined and unintended impacts of such land use decisions. “When Tony Flores of the West Garden Grove Residents Association called me about the odor at

the Base, I toured the neighborhood. Upon confirming that the odor was coming from the Base, I contacted them to arrange a tour to ascertain the cause of the odor and possible remedies,” said Garden Grove Mayor William Dalton. “I was pleased that my colleagues in the other surrounding cities were active and were establishing mechanisms to address these issues in a coordinated manner and happy that I could contribute in a meaningful way. Our residents are the true winners here, and I am certain we will continue to work together as we go forward.”

Major General Harrel has announced that he will actively engage the cities of Cypress, Garden Grove, Los Alamitos and Seal Beach in future discussions of the composting and other non-military land use issues on the JFTB.

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