

THE UC-FORT ORD PROJECT:

Monterey Bay Education, Science and Technology Center (MBEST Center)

Mission Statement

In the 21st Century, the United States will face unprecedented changes and challenges to its economic and environmental systems. Increasing demands on our natural resources threaten the economic and environmental health of our planet. There is a complex interdependency among environmental, economic, social, and political systems that is not well understood and defies simple solutions. As a way to respond to these complex challenges, there is a growing interest in the development of synergistic partnerships, and in multi-institutional, interdisciplinary teams to address areas of critical importance to society. Directly impacted by many of these critical social, political, and economic issues, the Monterey Bay region has become a microcosm of the conditions facing California and many other areas of the United States. With the closure of the country's largest military installation at Fort Ord, surrounding communities have been working together to redefine the regional economic base. What has emerged from that effort is a new awareness of the wealth of human and natural resources in the region and the resulting potential for collaborative partnerships to stimulate regional economic development.

The University of California is developing a multi-institutional center for science, technology, education, and policy on the shores of Monterey Bay. The Monterey Bay Education, Science and Technology Center (MBEST Center), in partnership with the adjacent full-service university campus of California State University, Monterey Bay, is the cornerstone of the Fort Ord defense conversion redevelopment plan. This plan promotes regional economic development and has been designated by the Department of Defense as a model project for the country. Such a designation endorses the vision for this conversion effort, highlights the strength of regional resources on which the vision is based, and expresses the confidence of the federal government that the goals will be achieved. It is envisioned that the MBEST Center will create opportunities for regional economic stimulus and environmental solutions not only for the Monterey Bay region, but also for the state and the country.

I. The **MISSION** of the MBEST Center is to develop and promote the collaborative and cooperative interaction between private business, government research agencies, public and private education and research institutions, and policy makers in strategic alliances to address the environmental opportunities and challenges of the next millennium.

II. The **PURPOSE** of the MBEST Center is threefold:

- 1) To provide the nation with effective tools for promoting economic growth and environmental stewardship through the integration of science, technology, education, and policy, especially for the coastal zones in which most of the population growth will occur.
- 2) To contribute to the emerging environmental and informational economies of the international marketplace.
- 3) To promote sustainable development of the Monterey Bay region.

III. **STRATEGIES:**

- 1) Strengthen and increase the resources of the existing Monterey Bay regional institutions;
 - a. Directly (i.e. through funding, staffing, equipment) and,
 - b. Indirectly, by attracting complementary organizations and programs to the MBEST Center site and other regional locations to work with regional institutions.
- 2) **Focus** MBEST activities in the following areas initially:
 - a. Environmental science, technology and instrumentation
 - b. Biotechnology and bioresources
 - c. Information science and technology
 - d. Educational and entertainment materials and services

These foci are not restrictive and will evolve as markets and regional strengths change.

- 3) Develop and maintain **strategic alliances** among the Monterey Bay regional organizations to promote innovation, technology transfer and effective policy development and application through collaboration, cooperation, and understanding.

- 4) **Co-locate** at the MBEST Center organizations and supporting services whose activities are consonant with the purpose and mission of the MBEST Center. These organizations may include:
 - a. Private business
 - b. Government research and regulatory agencies
 - c. Private and public educational and research institutions
 - d. Public and private service and support

- 5) Establish and maintain **shared activities and facilities** at the MBEST Center:
 - a. *Shared facilities* may include:
 - 1) institutes
 - 2) meeting and teleconferencing capabilities
 - 3) data storage, modeling and visualization capabilities
 - 4) incubators
 - 5) instrumental analytical services
 - 6) remediation and training demonstration sites for contaminated soil and water
 - 7) short-term accommodations
 - 8) indoor and outdoor agriculturally-related plots
 - 9) professional schools

 - b. *Shared services* may include:
 - 1) facilitation of business, regulator, investor, research, and educator interface
 - 2) telecommunications that manage, visualize, and exchange digital information
 - 3) facilitation and promotion of market-specific alliances
 - 4) administration of government programs for related technologies
 - 5) in-service training programs
 - 6) on-going analysis of markets and commercial innovation

The Monterey Bay region is emerging as a center of excellence in marine, environmental and agricultural sciences and technologies. It has one of the largest concentrations of marine and environmental scientists and engineers, linguists, and agricultural, information infrastructure, and policy experts in the country. Public and private sector research universities, relevant state and federal agencies, military, and private sector research and development organizations currently exist and are operating in the region. In no other region is there comparable institutional breadth with the

exhibited and real potential to be combined into a unique partnership of government, institution, and private sector expertise. Close to 20 public and private educational and research institutions rim the Monterey Bay. Together these institutions employ over 1500 natural and social scientists engaged in teaching and research, have an annual operating budget in excess of \$500 Million, and have many specialized laboratories, computer systems, and libraries of value to high technology industries and agencies. These unique aspects of the Monterey Bay region help to define our path to the 21st Century as:

- **A world center for environmental and economic studies.**
- **A national symbol of excellence in research and education.**
- **A community dedicated to preserving and promoting the economic and environmental welfare of our nation.**

Adjacent to the nation's largest marine sanctuary and most productive coastal agricultural region, and close to Silicon Valley, the Monterey Bay region represents a vibrant union of people, ideas, activities, and resources. This region promises to be a showcase for sustainable development--highlighting the belief that protecting the environment does not have to be at the expense of a healthy economy, but rather that wise integration with the environment will, in fact, promote economic health. The closure of Fort Ord has brought more than the impetus for this collaborative vision. It has made available real estate on the shores of the Monterey Bay which will house the new partners, public and private, that will be drawn to the region to participate in this emerging center. The strategic vision of the MBEST Center reflects not only the public service mission of the University of California but commitment to the realization of this region's full potential.

For more information, please contact:

UC MBEST Center
3180 Imjin Road, Suite 102
Marina, CA 93933
(831) 582-1020
FAX (831) 582-1021
E-mail: info@ucmbest.org
Website: <http://www.ucmbest.org>