

# **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

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DATE: June 13, 2014

TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations

SUBJECT: **NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A JOINT INITIAL STUDY/ ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR CALIFORNIA CENTRAL COAST VETERANS CEMETERY PROJECT – PHASE 1**

The State of California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Lead Agency for the proposed California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Project – Phase 1 (Proposed Project). The United States Department of Veteran Affairs (USDVA) is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Lead Agency for the Proposed Project. CalVet has directed the preparation of an Initial Study (IS) in compliance with CEQA. USDVA has directed the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) in compliance with NEPA. The purpose of the IS and the EA is to provide decision makers, public agencies, and the general public with an objective and informative document that facilitates a basic understanding of the Proposed Project and fully discloses the potential environmental effects associated with the Proposed Project, including direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental effects. Based on the studies performed and information contained in the IS, CalVet is proposing to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). CalVet and USDVA will use the IS/MND and EA to obtain permits, agreements, and approvals from necessary agencies to implement the project.

**Project Location:** The project is located at the intersection of Parker Flats Road and Parker Flats Cut-Off in the City of Seaside, Monterey County, California.

**Project Description:** The Proposed Project involves development of Phase 1 of the CCC Veterans Cemetery located on approximately 16.9 acres within the northwest corner of the larger 84.4-acre property currently being transferred from the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) to CalVet. Once constructed, Phase 1 is anticipated to accommodate burials for the next 10 years. Phase 1 would include administration and maintenance facilities, a committal shelter for burial services, and additional elements to honor veterans, including a memorial walk, flag plaza, ceremonial entry, and a 5,000 niche columbarium. The Proposed Project would also include supporting roads and infrastructure.

The Proposed Project would be designed and constructed with funds awarded through the State Cemetery Grant Program offered by the USDVA and some State and local funds. Funding for the overall Master Plan is currently not secured and future funding is uncertain. Phase 1 has independent utility from the larger Master Plan. Consequently, this document addresses impacts associated with construction and operation of Phase 1 only.

## ***Site Design***

The Proposed Project facilities are designed in a manner that takes advantage of the topography and open areas within the existing native vegetation to reduce costs and minimize impacts to on-site natural resources. The Proposed Project would be designed and constructed to meet the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification for New Construction.

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**Potentially Significant Environmental Impacts:** Potentially significant impacts to biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, noise, and transportation/traffic were identified in the Initial Study/ Environmental Assessment. All impacts would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of mitigation measures.

**Public Review Period June 13, 2014 through July 12, 2014:** In compliance with CEQA and NEPA, the CalVet and USDVA has established a 30-day public review period beginning **June 13, 2014** to solicit comments and input on the Draft IS/MND and EA. To ensure that all environmental issues are fully identified and adequately addressed, written comments are invited from all interested parties. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the Draft IS/MND and EA may be submitted electronically to [Environmental@dgs.ca.gov](mailto:Environmental@dgs.ca.gov) or to:

Valerie Namba, Senior Environmental Planner  
California Department of General Services  
RESD – Environmental Services  
P.O. Box 989052 (MS 509)  
West Sacramento, CA 95798-9052

Comments should be submitted no later than **July 12, 2014**.

Copies of the Draft IS/MND and EA are available for public review at the following locations:

Monterey County Library- Seaside Branch  
550 Harcourt Avenue  
Seaside, California 93955

Monterey County Library- Marina Branch  
190 Seaside Circle  
Marina, California

The Draft IS/MND and EA are available for public review at the following web address:

[http://www.ecorpc consulting.com/Client\\_Docs/Public\\_review/CCC\\_Veterans\\_Cemetery/Draft\\_IS\\_MND\\_EA.pdf](http://www.ecorpc consulting.com/Client_Docs/Public_review/CCC_Veterans_Cemetery/Draft_IS_MND_EA.pdf)