



Fort Ord Reuse Authority

MEDIA RELEASE

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Assembly Bill 1842 Support for the Future California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery

Since the 1991 Fort Ord closure announcement, veterans in the Monterey Bay region have accurately noted that they are not adequately served by the San Joaquin National Cemetery, which is currently the closest available Veterans Cemetery. The need for a cemetery along California's Central Coast has been recognized by every veteran's association/organization in this region, the State of California, and every jurisdiction in northern Monterey County. As such, the County of Monterey, the City of Seaside, and the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) have dedicated approximately 78 acres on the former Fort Ord for the State of California to establish the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery (CCCVC). The CCCVC site is included in the FORA 1997 Base Reuse Plan and has awaited funding from multiple sources for the last 15 years. Most agree that is long enough for veterans and their families to wait for this need to be satisfied.

The largest ongoing obstacle to cemetery construction has been the procurement of initial funding for design and planning, which has been greatly impacted by the recent recession. Assemblymember Bill Monning authored Assembly Bill (AB) 1842 to address this funding challenge. AB 1842 proposes to: (1) permit the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) to enter into financial agreements to receive cash advances that will be used for triggering the initial phase of the construction project and (2) provide CDVA with the authority to repay the cash advances from reimbursements received from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

In March 2012, the FORA Board approved a letter of support for AB 1842. AB 1842 is currently scheduled to be considered by the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee on April 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. FORA continues to work closely with Assemblymember Bill Monning, CDVA, veterans and veterans organizations in the Monterey Bay region, and other stakeholders to bring the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery project to completion.

Those interested in donating to the effort can contact Janet Parks at the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation, (831) 384-9400, or visit their website at www.ccvcf.com.

The upcoming Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee hearing can be watched via live webcast at <http://www.calchannel.com/channel/live/>. Please feel free to contact FORA at (831) 883-3672 for more information regarding this project.