

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
FINAL SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT and FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE PHASE 2 EXPANSION AT THE
JACKSONVILLE NATIONAL CEMETERY
JACKSONVILLE, DUVAL COUNTY, FLORIDA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announces the availability of the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action to construct and operate an approximately 50-acre cemetery expansion ("Phase 2 expansion") within the existing 526-acre Jacksonville National Cemetery, located at 4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida. The proposed Phase 2 expansion would be within the boundary specified in VA's 2007 Master Plan and outside of habitat enhancement and preservation areas identified in existing federal and state permits. The Phase 2 expansion would extend the longevity of the Jacksonville National Cemetery by providing approximately 18,000 new interment sites. Construction of the Phase 2 expansion would last approximately 18 months and require land grading, extension of roadways, and expansion of the stormwater retention pond system to supply irrigation water. Construction would not disrupt or interfere with on-going memorial services.

Prior to completing the Final SEA, VA prepared a Draft SEA to document the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action. The Draft SEA identified avoidance and management measures incorporated into the Proposed Action to ensure potential minor adverse impacts would not increase to a significant adverse level during construction and operation. A Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing the release of the Draft SEA for a 30-day public review and comment period was published in the *Florida Times-Union* on December 4, 9, 14, and 16, 2018. No comments from the public were received. Comments from regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes were not opposed to the Proposed Action and have been incorporated into the Final SEA.

The Final SEA and Draft SEA were prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

Upon review of the Final SEA, VA concludes that implementing the Proposed Action would not constitute a major federal action that would have a significant adverse impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of NEPA of 1969. Accordingly, VA has finalized a FONSI, which incorporates the Final SEA in its entirety by reference, and concludes that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The FONSI completes the NEPA review process for this Proposed Action. The Final SEA and FONSI are available for review at the Jacksonville National Cemetery Public Information Complex; the Jacksonville Public Main Library at 303 North Laura Street, Jacksonville, Florida, 32202; and electronically from VA's website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>. For additional information, contact: Mr. Fernando Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529. Please reference "Jacksonville National Cemetery" in all correspondence.