

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY  
DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
FOR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS  
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF THE PHASE 2 EXPANSION AT THE  
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY  
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to construct and operate the Phase 2 cemetery expansion within an approximately 70-acre area located in the northern portion within the existing boundary of the South Florida National Cemetery at 6501 N State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The South Florida National Cemetery is currently utilizing existing burial space and capacity at a rate that is projected to exhaust existing developed gravesites within the next 4 to 6 years. Implementing the Proposed Action would allow VA to continue providing burial opportunities needed by Veterans and their families in the south Florida region. The Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the 2005 Master Plan, avoid preservation areas, and be designed in accordance with existing federal and state permits. Figures 1 and 2, enclosed with this letter, depict the location of the South Florida National Cemetery and the Phase 2 expansion area.

The Phase 2 expansion would take approximately 18 months to construct and would provide approximately 22,000 new casket, columbarium, and in-ground cremation sites, a flag assembly area, a roadway to connect the existing cemetery to the new burial areas, and a new stormwater retention pond to supply all of the irrigation water needed to maintain the newly landscaped expansion area. The Phase 2 expansion design is consistent with the existing 2005 Master Plan and both the South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permit and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit.

VA prepared the Draft SEA 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).

VA invites the public to review the Draft SEA and provide comments within 30-days of the publication of this notice. A printed copy of the Draft SEA is available for review at the South Florida National Cemetery and the Lantana Road Branch of the Palm Beach County Library at 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, Florida, 33462, and can be electronically downloaded from VA's website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>.

Comments received during the 30-day review period will be addressed and documented in the Final SEA. Please address all comments to: Mr. Fernando Fernandez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to [fernando.fernandez@va.gov](mailto:fernando.fernandez@va.gov); or by telephone at (202) 632-5529. Please reference "South Florida National Cemetery Expansion" in all correspondence.