

---

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)**  
**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPOSED EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS OF**  
**THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
**DIXON, SOLANO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

---

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assessed the potential impacts associated with the proposed Phase II Expansion and Improvements Project (Phase II Project) at the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in Dixon, Solano County, California. An Environmental Assessment was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the President's Council on Environmental Quality regulations to implement NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and the Department of Veteran Affairs Environmental Compliance Manual and VA regulations (Title 38 CFR Part 26). The attached Final EA is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

**BACKGROUND**

The VA identified, analyzed, and documented potential impacts associated with the Phase II Project. Technical resource areas evaluated consist of aesthetics; air quality; cultural resources; geology, topography, and soils; hydrology and water quality; wildlife and habitat; noise; land use; floodplains and wetlands; solid and hazardous materials; and transportation and parking. These technical resource areas are briefly summarized in Attachment A. Technical resource areas socioeconomics, utilities, and environmental justice were considered but were found not to have substantial impact on the project and were dismissed from further review.

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery was acquired by VA in 2004 based on the findings of a 2002 Programmatic Environmental Assessment. In 2005, VA developed a detailed engineering design for initial cemetery buildout (i.e., Phase I Project). The Phase I Project buildout area equaled to 86 acres.

**SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTION**

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to expand and improve the existing Sacramento Valley National Cemetery, thus providing 10 years of interment expansion. The Proposed Action is needed to serve projected Veteran needs and avoid depleting cemetery interment sites, thus meeting the National Cemetery Administration's goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA interment options.

The Proposed Action sets out to expand and improve the Sacramento Valley National Cemetery in the western portion of the existing cemetery facility. Specifically, the Phase II Project sets out to construct 32,329 additional interment areas (i.e., pre-placed crypt full casket gravesites, traditional in-ground cremains, green burial section), committal shelter, expanded cortege lanes, and other infrastructure improvements including irrigation, roadways, and utilities. The Proposed Action is approximately 60 acres and will result in expanding the total developed cemetery to 146 acres.

**SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

Construction is expected to result in dust generation, noise, stormwater runoff, and disruptions to parking, and transportation. Best management practices and mitigation measures outlined in the SEA will minimize the potential for construction related short-term adverse impacts to aesthetics, air quality, soil, water quality, wildlife and habitat, noise, solid and hazardous waste, and transportation and parking resource areas.

Operation of the National Cemetery has the potential to generate noise, draw upon irrigation resources, and effect transportation. Best management practices and mitigation measures outlined in the SEA will minimize the potential for operation related minor, short-term adverse impacts to noise and hydrology, hydrology and water quality, and transportation and parking resource areas.

**AGENCY AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Notice of Availability for the Draft SEA was published in the Sacramento Bee newspaper on September 7, 2018 and letters were mailed to stakeholders including, state, local governmental organizations and tribes. California State Historic Preservation Office documented concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the Proposed Action. An electronic version of the Draft SEA was available on the VA website from September 7, 2018 to October 9, 2018. No comments were received after the comment period. Additional evaluation of the proposed action was not warranted.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

This FONSI is based on the attached SEA. The analysis performed in the SEA concludes that there would be no severe short-term, long-term or cumulative impacts to the human environment, provided best management practices and mitigation measures outlined in the SEA, and also included in Attachment A, are fully implemented. Therefore, this FONSI is appropriate and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Bradley G Phillips  
156860

Digitally signed by Bradley G  
Phillips 156860  
Date: 2018.12.06 14:30:24 -08'00'

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Bradley Phillips**  
**Pacific District Executive Director**  
**National Cemetery Administration**

Glenn M. Elliott  
689970

Digitally signed by Glenn M.  
Elliott 689970  
Date: 2018.12.03 11:07:37 -05'00'

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Glenn Elliott, Environmental Engineer**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

**Attachment A. Mitigation Measures**

Resource		
Aesthetics	Convert existing agricultural field to managed turf and landscaped features. Construction activities effecting this resource include parked construction equipment, excavation, grading, mud after rain events, heavy equipment, and the workers parked personal vehicles using the adjoining roads.	<p>Implementation of BMPs such as adding trees, shrubs, and native grasses to obstruct views of construction activities. BMP plantings will be routinely maintained and will be incorporated into the final cemetery design.</p> <p>Beneficial impacts will arise from planned landscaping.</p> <p>A significant effect is not anticipated for this impact.</p>
Air Quality	Temporary, minor negative impacts to air quality may occur from construction activities such as fugitive dust.	<p>Appropriate dust control measures and the implementation of relevant California Air Resources Board, USEPA and OSHA safe work practices would limit impacts during construction. Dust would be controlled via watering the site or applying soil stabilizers.</p> <p>A significant effect is not anticipated for this impact.</p>
Cultural Resources	The Phase II Project will have no effect on cultural resources since it was determined through the Section 106 process that no cultural resources were found on the site.	<p>In the remote possibility that a deeply buried archaeological site is found, mitigation would include ceasing work, contacting the SHPO, and maintaining security around the area until the site is investigated.</p> <p>A significant effect is not anticipated for this impact.</p>
Geology, Topography, and Soils	The Phase II Project will involve grading and selective berming to buffer winds, limit noise, and screen unpleasant views. This will result in disturbing soils and increasing susceptibility to erosion.	<p>Temporary short-term soil erosion effects due to grading will be mitigated through implementation of stormwater BMPs. Any potential long-term soil erosion effects occurring due to increased impervious surfaces would be minimized by including an appropriately designed stormwater management system as part of final site design, including the construction of two extended detention basins.</p> <p>Implementation of BMPs would reduce the potential effects to soil to less-than-significant levels.</p>

Resource		
Hydrology and Water Quality	Construction would occur on a previously disturbed site. The Phase II Project has the potential to result in direct or indirect adverse effects to waters of the United States (i.e., Sweeney and McCune Creeks).	<p>Prior to construction, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be implemented employing Best Management Practices designed to protect adjacent areas from unauthorized discharges of pollutants. BMPs may include operational controls, sediment barriers, spill kits, drip pans, and revegetation. BMPs will be inspected regularly and maintained per requirements of CalEPA's General Permit for Construction.</p> <p>Implementation of BMPs would reduce the potential effects to soil to less-than-significant levels.</p>
Wildlife and Habitat	No Federal or State-listed threatened and/or endangered species designated critical habitats were identified for the site.	<p>BMPs to be implemented to reduce project effects to biological resources during construction and operation include timing construction to avoid migratory bird nesting periods, follow-up nest surveys in advance of construction during nesting season, exclude impacts to Sweeney and McCune Creeks and buffer areas, and revegetating using native species, to the extent practicable.</p> <p>Impacts will result in less-than-significant potential adverse effects.</p>
Noise	<p>Noise levels would temporarily increase during construction.</p> <p>Operation of the cemetery involves rifle shot salutes.</p>	<p>No project-specific minimization measures may be required for construction; however, the construction contractor should implement noise control BMPs not limited to abiding by VA project requirements that limit the hours of the day in which construction equipment can be used, ensure properly muffled equipment engines, site equipment storage and transportation routes to avoid sensitive receptors, etc.</p> <p>Additionally, noise from rifle salutes will contribute to minor short-term adverse noise effects. Management measures to include limiting salutes to normal operating hours, the extent possible.</p> <p>Impacts will result in minor, short-term adverse noise effects.</p>

Resource		
Land Use	The project area is currently undeveloped open land currently owned by VA and local zoning laws do not apply.	<p>No project-specific minimization or management measures are required.</p> <p>Land use impacts will result in less-than-significant effects.</p>
Floodplains and Wetlands	<p>Floodplains associated with Sweeney Creek and McCune Creek.</p> <p>No mapped wetlands are located in the site; however, the project area is bounded by regulated waterbodies.</p>	<p>Potential adverse effects to floodplains are wetlands have been considered in the design and include avoiding floodplains and regulated waters, where possible, maintaining a vegetative buffer around regulated waters, obtain required permits, as necessary, inspect/maintain construction vehicles in good working order and maintain a spill kit, and implement other BMPs listed in Table 5 of the SEA.</p> <p>Floodplain and wetland impacts will result in less-than-significant effects.</p>
Solid and Hazardous Waste	Construction may result in the use and/or generation of solid and/or hazardous materials.	<p>Any hazardous materials stored for use in construction would be stored in a designated area. Furthermore, a Site Safety Spill Plan will be developed before construction, thus minimizing possible impacts due to spills.</p> <p>A significant effect is not anticipated for this impact.</p>
Transportation and Parking	<p>Construction would result in a temporary influx of contractor vehicles during daily work hours. Additionally, installation and connection of utilities could also impact local roadways through the potential need to close lanes around the area. There would be no permanent road changes or rerouting on Project completion.</p> <p>Funeral processions as part of typical cemetery operation may have periodic, short-term traffic effects at peak times. Additionally, visitor travel at various times during the daylight hours</p>	<p>BMPs that could be implemented to reduce transportation effects include coordination with Solano County to identify and implement necessary roadway improvements/coordinate long-term planning, ensure debris and/or soil is not deposited on local roadways during the construction period.</p> <p>Implementation of BMPs would reduce the potential effects to transportation and parking to less-than-significant levels</p>