



FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY

VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC)

920 2nd Avenue, Suite A, Marina CA 93933 (FORA Conference Room)

3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 28, 2016

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE
4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Members of the public wishing to address the Committee on matters within its jurisdiction, but not on this agenda, may do so for up to 3 minutes.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES ACTION
 - a. March 24, 2016

6. BUSINESS ITEMS INFORMATION
 - a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report
 - i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report
 - ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda
 - iii. Endowment Parcel MOU
 - iv. Opening Ceremony
 - v. Military and Veterans Affairs Pre-Enrollment Report
 - b. Fundraising Status
 - i. CCVCF Status Report
 - c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report
 - i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update
 - ii. Construction Schedule
 - d. Transition Center Housing Construction
 - e. Historical Preservation Project
 - f. Assembly Bill 2561

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

8. ADJOURNMENT

NEXT MEETING: May 26, 2016

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**FORT ORD REUSE AUTHORITY
VETERANS ISSUES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (VIAC) MEETING MINUTES**

**3:00 P.M. THURSDAY, March 24, 2016
(FORA Conference Room)**

1. CALL TO ORDER

Confirming quorum, Chair Jerry Edelen called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following were present:

Committee Members:

James Bogan, Disabled American Veterans
Mayor Jerry Edelen, City of Del Rey Oaks (Chair)
Mary Estrada, United Veterans Council (UVC)
Richard Garza, Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Foundation (CCVC Foundation)
Master Sgt. Alan Gerardo, U.S. Army (POM Garrison)
Edith Johnsen, Veterans Families
Jack Stewart, Fort Ord Veterans Cemetery Citizens Advisory Committee
Sid Williams, Monterey County Military & Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)
Preston Young, U.S. Army (POM/DLI)

FORA Staff:

Mary Israel
Michael Houlemard, Jr.

Others in Attendance:

Terry Bare, Veterans Transition Center
Erica Parker, Office of Assemblymember Stone
Bob Schaffer, member of the public

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Sid Williams led the pledge of allegiance.

3. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CORRESPONDENCE

Chair Edelen announced the FORA Board of Directors resolved to declare 2016 the Year of the Veteran (Reso. #16-05).

Executive Officer Michael Houlemard Jr. announced that he now has a grandchild, and that he has been selected as a community leader in attendance at the U.S. Army National Security Seminar at the Army War College in Pennsylvania June 4-8 of this year.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

None.

5. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. February 25, 2016

MOTION: Jack Stewart moved, seconded by James Bogan, to approve the February 25, 2016 Veterans Issues Advisory Committee minutes with changes as noted by Mary Israel.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Status Report

i. Cemetery Administrator's Status Report

Mr. Houlemard said he visited the Cemetery yesterday and construction is moving along and that it is time to form a committee to work toward the ribbon cutting ceremony. The former construction administrator is now effectively replaced by the new assistant Director, and although there will be no "new Eddie Falco," there is a hiring process underway for a local cemetery manager.

ii. Cemetery Advisory Committee (CAC) Working Meeting Agenda No report.

iii. Endowment Parcel MOU

Mr. Houlemard said that the endowment parcel MOU review is rescheduled to the April meeting of the Monterey County Board of Supervisors Fort Ord Committee.

b. Fundraising Status

i. CCVC Foundation Status Report

Richard Garza had no other report than his research on State Assembly Bill 2561, which is discussed in 6f of this meeting agenda.

c. VA/DoD Veterans Clinic Status Report

i. Historic Flag Pole Variance Update

Sid Williams reported that the primer coat is on the flag pole, and he is scheduled to meet in person with Veterans Affairs (VA) to discuss placement. James Bogan said that the Clinic ribbon cutting is set for October 14th and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs is expected to attend. Therefore, he will invite the Secretary to see the veteran transitional housing of Veterans Transition Center (VTC). Otherwise, the attorneys of the VA and the Department of Defense (DOD) are discussing the variance.

ii. Clinic Construction Schedule No report.

d. Transition Center Housing Construction

Terry Bare said a 70 unit housing project for the west end of VTC property is with the Marina Planning Commission and Design Board. Meanwhile, the timeline is tight to keep the funding, so VTC is seeking options for water to support the project and Sam Farr's office is helping to iron out a disagreement on site control with Health and Human Services. Mr. Houlemard offered that VTC measure real need rather than use Marina Coast Water District (MCWD) estimates, which project higher than actual acre-feet per year (AF-Y) need. When VTC has a real need number, they could approach the Army for the amount out of their allocation. Mr. Bare said that after City of Marina and MCWD, Colonel Fellingner has been asked to transfer Army water rights as an alternate.

****Chair Edelen left the meeting at 3:20 p.m. Edith Johnsen became acting Chair.****

e. Historical Preservation Project

Jack Stewart said he is working to enhance Cliff's work by speaking with Marina City Council member Amadeo.

f. California State Assembly Bill 2561

Mr. Garza said that the CCVC Foundation has two concerns with the wording of AB 2561: 1)"expended for maintenance and repair" could limit every penny of the capital campaign and prior fundraising to cemetery development, and 2)"maintenance or beautification project designated by donor" is a phase of the project, whose funds exist at profit for the first ten years, so it could limit funding flow at other phases.

Mr. Houlemard said the intention of the bill is to assure funds aren't swept away at a fiscal year change. Mr. Williams said he questioned the bill's wording as Mr. Garza had, so he wrote to his representatives about it. Senator Monning's Chief of Staff contacted him and explained the reasoning for the terms and that they are helpful because they assure "continuous appropriation," which he took to mean the CCVC doesn't need to go through the state legislature to access the funds. Mr. Williams provided a copy of an email from Kathy Smith on the subject. Acting Chair Johnsen requested the email be attached to the minutes of this meeting. Mr. Williams said he will continue to research the administration of the fund with the office of Assemblymember Mark Stone about the bill, such as who would serve as the auditor and how the Fund will be distributed. A member of the public asked what administrative fee would be charged.

7. ITEMS FROM MEMBERS

Acting Chair Johnsen suggested the VIAC add Opening Ceremony in 6a to the next agenda.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Acting Chair Johnsen adjourned the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Sid Williams

From: Smith, Kathy <Kathy.Smith@sen.ca.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 5:52 PM
To: csm_ret@comcast.net
Cc: Charles, Nicole
Subject: AB 2561

Hello Sid,

I will do my best to break down and explain the actual language included in the bill. I want to reiterate, the statute will limit Cal Vet to be allowed to do **ONLY** what is contained in the legislation and nothing more. I also ask that no one at the local level use this legislation as a way to air grievances against Cal Vet when the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs members are trying to do a positive thing for our local veterans cemetery. Here are the explanations:

SECTION 1.

Section 1457 of the Military and Veterans Code is amended to read:

1457.

(a) Notwithstanding Section 11005 of the Government Code, the veterans cemetery administrator may, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, accept donations of personal property, including cash or other gifts, to be used for the maintenance or beautification of the veterans cemetery.

This section gives permission to Cal Vet to accept cash donations or material gifts that can be used toward maintenance or beautification of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. This will **ONLY** apply to donations made to Cal Vet and no other donations made to **ANY** other nonprofits or organizations.

(b) Donations in the form of cash shall be deposited in the ~~Endowment Fund~~ *California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Project Donation Fund*, which is hereby created in the State Treasury, and shall be expended for the maintenance and repair of the veterans cemetery or for a specified veterans cemetery maintenance or beautification project designated by the ~~donor, upon appropriation by the Legislature.~~ *donor.*

This section establishes the Donation Fund where the cash donations can be made to and deposited into that can then be spent specifically on maintenance and repair or beautification projects designated by the donor.

(c) Notwithstanding Section 13340 of the Government Code, donations deposited to the credit of the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery Project Donation Fund as authorized by this section shall be continuously appropriated to the department, without regard to fiscal year.

This section provides that the legislature approves giving Cal Vet the required appropriation to spend the donations any time they are given without being delayed by the need to come back to the legislature for approval each time money is donated for a specific project/use as long as it is spent on maintenance, repairs or a beautification project specified by the donor, stated in the legislation.

This is everything included in the entire legislation. It is our hope that the local community sees this as an opportunity to accept donations from other Californians outside of the local community as well as others across the nation who want to contribute toward enhancing and beautifying our local veterans cemetery. It would be a travesty if our local community didn't welcome and appreciate this opportunity as an effort supplementing what is already being done by all our friends at the local level. I hope you agree.
K

Kathy Smith
Office of Senator William W. Monning
Senate Majority Leader
(916) 651-4017 (work)
(916) 947-7012 (cell)

Begin forwarded message:

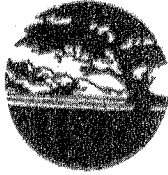
From: "Sid Williams" <csm_ret@comcast.net>
Date: March 14, 2016 at 4:57:08 PM PDT
To: "Alec Arago" <alec.arago@mail.house.gov>, "Nicole Charles" <nicole.charles@sen.ca.gov>, "Ryan Simon" <ryan.simon@mail.house.gov>
Subject: AB 2561

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please find attached a copy of my letter which will be sent officially to the offices of your elected official. It concerns CA AB 2651 which is to be voted out of committee by the state veterans affairs committee on consent agenda on March 22. I find some of the bill to be very disconcerting and have questions which this letter addresses. This is being emailed to you because of the short time span before the vote and the desire to give you heads up before it arrives by snail mail. It is not intended to upset or accuse anyone but rather to help smooth the process so that everyone can work together to continue the process of building the long awaited and overdue cemetery.

Thank you for any assistance you may feel is appropriate.

Sid Williams



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March 31, 2016

Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin
State Capitol, Room 6011
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for AB 2561 Veterans' Cemeteries
(Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs)

Dear Chair Irwin,

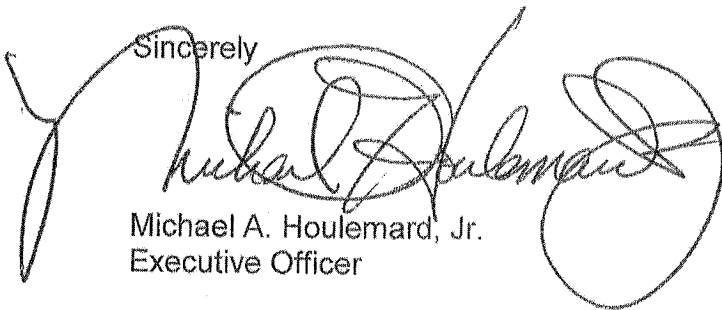
We would like to express our strong support for AB 2561 which would establish the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery project donation fund.

Former veterans of Fort Ord have long struggled to establish a Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord property and that dream is now coming to fruition. This bill would allow CalVet to receive donations that can be used at the cemetery, thereby allowing a continuous appropriation of those funds for specific enhancements. AB 2561 would also provide consistency for all current/future state cemeteries to have a fund via CalVet for these donations.

The statute that created the "Endowment Fund" was for the intention of mobilizing local support and getting the project started. Now that the project is started, this fund will be far less onerous and limiting than the cumbersome "Endowment Fund."

We strongly urge your support of AB 2561.

Sincerely



Michael A. Houlemard, Jr.
Executive Officer

c: FORA Board
VIAC Committee