

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
GRAVESITE EXPANSION AND CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AT THE
FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY,
BUSHNELL, FLORIDA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the availability of the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (Final SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the VA's Proposed Action for the gravesite expansion and cemetery improvements project at the Florida National Cemetery located at 6502 SW 102ND Avenue, Bushnell, Sumter County, Florida. The Proposed Action would create three new burial areas across an approximately 50-acre area within the existing boundary of the Florida National Cemetery. Cemetery improvements would include new roadways, landscaping, and expansion of the irrigation system. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 47,000 additional interment areas and extend the longevity of the Florida National Cemetery for Veterans and their families in central Florida.

Prior to completing the Final SEA, the VA completed a Draft SEA that documented the potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action and the avoidance and management measures to be implemented to ensure potential minor adverse impacts would not increase to a significant adverse level. Both 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). The Draft SEA was published for a 30-day public review period, which began when the Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the *Village Daily Sun* on August 19 and 21, 2018. Additionally, regulatory agencies were notified by letter of the availability of the Draft SEA. Comments received were not in opposition to the Proposed Action and have been incorporated in the Final SEA.

Upon review of the Final SEA, the VA concluded 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, the VA has finalized a FONSI, which incorporates the Final SEA 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 Florida National Cemetery and at the Bushnell Public Library located at 402 North Florida Street, Bushnell, Florida, 33513. An electronic copy can be downloaded from the VA website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>. For further information, please contact: Mr. Glenn Elliott, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Construction & Facilities Management, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417a, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to glenn.elliott@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5879. Please reference "Florida National Cemetery Expansion" in all correspondence.