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 Great Lakes National Cemetery
Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan

The U.S Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) hereby gives Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for VA’s Proposed Action to construct and operate the proposed Phase 2 expansion at the Great Lakes National Cemetery (GLNC) located at 4200 Belford Road, Holly Township, Oakland County, Michigan, 48442. The Phase 2 expansion new burial areas would be constructed in an approximately 30-acre area within the existing GLNC property. The Proposed Action also includes improvements to existing infrastructure within an approximately 20-acre area of the existing Phase 1 cemetery. The Proposed Action is consistent with the GLNC Master Plan and addresses the depletion of existing burial capacity at GLNC. The Proposed Action would provide approximately 9,600 pre-placed double-depth crypts, 6,600 in-ground cremation sites, 12,070 columbarium niches, and 300 oversized pre-placed double-depth crypts. Additionally, the Phase 2 expansion would provide new roadways; two additional cortege lanes; additional parking at the assembly area and committal shelters; a new committal service shelter; additions to the public restrooms; maintenance complex improvements; a new materials storage shelter; grading for stormwater management; and associated landscaping, site furnishings, irrigation, and infrastructure improvements. The Phase 2 expansion would extend the longevity of GLNC for approximately 10 years. VA will evaluate the need for potential future expansions every 8-10 years, and separate environmental assessments would be completed prior to implementing a future expansion.

Prior to issuing the Final SEA, VA completed 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 that would ensure potential minor adverse impacts would not increase to a significant adverse level during construction and operation. A Notice of Availability (NOA) announcing the start of a 30-day review and comment period for the Draft SEA was published in the Oakland Press on August 23 and 25, 2019. Additionally, VA mailed the NOA to selected federal, state, and local regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes, notifying them of the 30-day period. No comments from the public were received. Comments from regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes were not opposed to the Proposed Action. All comments have been incorporated and addressed in the Final SEA.

Upon review of the Final SEA, 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 the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 ([NEPA]; 42 United States Code 4321 et seq.). Accordingly, VA has signed a FONSI, which incorporates the Final SEA by reference in its entirety, and concludes that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

The Draft and Final SEA and FONSI were prepared according to NEPA, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and VA’s Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26).

The Final SEA and FONSI are available for review in print at the GLNC public information center/administration building and the Holly Township Library at 1116 North Saginaw Street, Holly, MI, 48442, and may be electronically downloaded 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 6W317d, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529. Please reference “Great Lakes National Cemetery” in all correspondence.