

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY (NOA)

Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Proposed Construction and Operation of the Puerto Rico National Cemetery Replacement  
Morovis, Puerto Rico

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announces the preparation and availability of a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the VA's Proposed Action to construct and operate Phase 1 of the proposed Puerto Rico National Cemetery Replacement on approximately 50-acres of the VA's approximately 250-acre property located at 11.2 km PR 137 in Morovis, Puerto Rico. The Proposed Action Phase 1 cemetery would provide approximately 14,000 interment sites, supporting physical infrastructure, and require approximately 30 months to construct. Full details of the Proposed Action are provided in the Draft SEA. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to continue to enable the National Cemetery Association (NCA) to provide eligible Veterans and their families with a National Cemetery of sufficient size and capacity to serve the projected needs in Puerto Rico for the next 10 years. The existing Puerto Rico National Cemetery located in Bayamón is anticipated to reach full in-ground interment capacity by 2022 and full columbarium capacity by 2030. The Proposed Action is needed to meet the NCA's goal of providing eligible Veterans with reasonable access to VA burial options.

The Draft SEA has been prepared in accordance with the with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of 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 is available to view/download electronically at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>, or view in printed form at the Bayamón National Cemetery and Morovis Town Hall. A 30-day public comment period to review and comment on the Draft SEA will begin on the date this notice is published. Comments received will be considered and addressed in the Final SEA.

Comments or questions may be directed in writing to: 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 fax to 202-632-5832; or e-mail at [Glenn.Elliott@va.gov](mailto:Glenn.Elliott@va.gov). Please reference "Puerto Rico National Cemetery Replacement Draft SEA" in any correspondence. All comments on the Draft SEA are requested within 30 days of the publication of this notice.