RE: DHR Project File No.: 2018-2145, Received by DHR: May 2, 2018

Project: Phase 2 Expansion - South Florida National Cemetery, 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth, Florida
County: Palm Beach

Mr. Elliott:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced project for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places. The review was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations in 36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties.

Based on the information provided, this office concurs with the Department of Veterans Affairs’ determination that the proposed project should have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. However, since the project includes ground disturbance activities the following special condition regarding unexpected discoveries should be included during project activities:

- If prehistoric or historic artifacts, such as pottery or ceramics, projectile points, dugout canoes, metal implements, historic building materials, or any other physical remains that could be associated with Native American, early European, or American settlement are encountered at any time within the project site area, the permitted project shall cease all activities involving subsurface disturbance in the vicinity of the discovery. The applicant shall contact the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Compliance Review Section at (850)-245-6333. Project activities shall not resume without verbal and/or written authorization. In the event that unmarked human remains are encountered during permitted activities, all work shall stop immediately and the proper authorities notified in accordance with Section 872.05, Florida Statutes.

If you have any questions, please contact Corey Lentz, Historic Sites Specialist, by email at Corey.Lentz@dos.myflorida.com, or by telephone at 850.245.6339 or 800.847.7278.

Sincerely,

Timothy A Parsons, Ph.D.
Director, Division of Historical Resources & State Historic Preservation Officer
April 27, 2018

Dr. Timothy Parsons
Florida Department of State
State Historic Preservation Office
500 Bronough Street
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250

Dear Dr. Timothy Parsons,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is seeking to determine whether any historic properties may be affected by the Proposed Action to construct and operate an approximately 70-acre cemetery expansion (“Phase 2 expansion”) within the existing 313-acre South Florida National Cemetery, located at 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The proposed Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the VA’s 2005 Master Plan and in compliance with subsequently issued federal and state permits, which were based on the 2005 Master Plan. The Proposed Action would also involve the demolition of several dilapidated outbuildings used to support former agricultural nursery operations at an approximately 20-acre property, located adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the 313-acre property, that the VA purchased in 2015. The VA would also place a barbed-wire fence around this 20-acre parcel. A map depicting the locations of these areas is attached.

The Phase 2 expansion would extend the longevity of the South Florida National Cemetery by providing new interment and memorial areas within the 70-acre area within the northern portion of the VA’s existing 313-acre property boundary. Construction of the Phase 2 cemetery would require land clearing and grading within the 70-acre area. Although the cemetery is not 50 years of age, the National Park Service (NPS) has determined that all National Cemeteries are exceptionally significant places that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the NPS has provided guidance that unimproved portions of a national cemetery that have only been set aside for future use and not ready to receive burials are not eligible for the NRHP.

Previous archaeological investigations in 2001 were conducted by VA’s contractor URS Corporation (URS) across the 313-acre property. Additionally, an archaeological investigation was conducted in 2014 by VA’s contractor Barnes, Ferland and Associates, Inc. prior to the VA’s purchase of the 20-acre parcel. Based on those investigations, no significant cultural resources were identified within either the 313-acre or 20-acre property, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation concurred that development of the cemetery would not affect any historic properties. In support of the current Phase 2 expansion and demolition of buildings at the 20-acre parcel, additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database in March 2017. No archaeological resources have been recorded within either property. Therefore, it is our tentative conclusion that the Proposed Action will not have an adverse effect on any historic properties.

We would appreciate receiving your advice about any historic preservation or related issues you believe may be involved in our conduct of this undertaking. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), we would appreciate receiving any comments in response to this letter and attachments within 30 days. We feel that
this undertaking should have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. If construction activities uncover any archaeological remains, it is recommended that activity in the immediate area be stopped while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply. If you have any comments or require any additional information in order to concur with this finding, please contact me at (202) 632-5879 or Glenn.Elliott@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenn Elliott, Program/Project Manager
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

Attachment: Figure 1 - South Florida National Cemetery Proposed Action Area Map
Cc: Mr. Andrew Glucksman, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.
    Mr. Mark Martinkovic, MA, RPA, AECOM Archaeologist
Figure 1. South Florida National Cemetery - Proposed Action Area Map
December 20, 2018

Glenn Elliott
Program/Project Manager
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Phone: 202-632-5879
Email: Glenn.Elliott@va.gov

Subject: Dept. of Veterans Affairs South Florida National Cemetery Expansion, Palm Beach County FL
THPO #: 0030847

Dear Mr. Elliott,

Thank you for the additional information regarding the Dept. of Veterans Affairs South Florida National Cemetery Expansion, Palm Beach County FL. We have no objections to the project at this time and we look forward to continuing consultation on this property when the VA is ready to develop it.

Thank you and feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Respectfully,
Victoria,

It was nice to speak with you today. As we spoke, the activities on the 20 acre parcel will only be the removal of the cinder block structure and the placement of the chain-link fence. This property will not be developed as part of this construction project. When the VA does propose to develop this property in the future, VA will reintiate consultation and perform a Cultural Resources Assessment on the 20 acre parcel. Based on our discussion, the VA will not be required to perform a resource assessment due to the limited activities proposed. Again the VA looks forward to consultations in the future when the VA is ready to potentially utilize this property.

Thank you for your time.

Glenn

Glenn Elliott  Senior PP/M
Environmental Officer
Construction and Facilities Management Office
425 “i” Street NW
Washington, DC 20001
Office – 202 632-5879
Mobile – 202 360-1243
September 26, 2018

Glenn Elliott
Program/Project Manager
Office of Construction & Facilities Management
Phone: 202-632-5879
Email: Glenn.Elliott@va.gov

Subject: Dept. of Veterans Affairs South Florida National Cemetery Expansion, Palm Beach County FL
THPO #: 0030847

Dear Mr. Elliott,

Thank you for the additional information regarding the Dept. of Veterans Affairs South Florida National Cemetery Expansion, Palm Beach County FL. We would respectfully like to request that a Cultural Resources Assessment Survey that meets the professional standards regarding low probability archaeological surveys set forth in the Florida Division of Historical Resources Module 3 Guidelines for Use by Historic Preservation Professionals be conducted for the 20 acre site that is a part of this project. We understand that the area has an archaeologically low probability; however, we would like to note that even in areas of low probability there still exists the potential for undiscovered cultural resources. An example of this is in 2014 when intact human remains were found in the Pine Island Road Right of Way in Broward County FL

Thank you and feel free to contact us with any further questions.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Victoria L. Menchaca, MA, Compliance Review Specialist
STOF-THPO, Compliance Review Section
30290 Josie Billie Hwy, PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440
Office: 863-983-6549 ext 12216
Email: victoriamenchaca@semtribe.com
Web: www.stofthpo.com
April 27, 2018

Mr. Paul Backhouse, Ph.D.
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Hwy PMB 1004
Clewiston, FL 33440

Dear Mr. Backhouse,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is seeking to determine whether any historic properties may be affected by the Proposed Action to construct and operate an approximately 70-acre cemetery expansion (“Phase 2 expansion”) within the existing 313-acre South Florida National Cemetery, located at 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The proposed Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the VA’s 2005 Master Plan and in compliance with subsequently issued federal and state permits, which were based on the 2005 Master Plan. The Proposed Action would also involve the demolition of several dilapidated outbuildings used to support former agricultural nursery operations at an approximately 20-acre property, located adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the 313-acre property, that the VA purchased in 2015. The VA would also place a barbed-wire fence around this 20-acre parcel. A map depicting the locations of these areas is attached.

The Phase 2 expansion would extend the longevity of the South Florida National Cemetery by providing new interment and memorial areas within the 70-acre area within the northern portion of the VA’s existing 313-acre property boundary. Construction of the Phase 2 cemetery would require land clearing and grading within the 70-acre area. Although the cemetery is not 50 years of age, the National Park Service (NPS) has determined that all National Cemeteries are exceptionally significant places that are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). However, the NPS has provided guidance that unimproved portions of a national cemetery that have only been set aside for future use and not ready to receive burials are not eligible for the NRHP.

Previous archaeological investigations in 2001 were conducted by VA’s contractor URS Corporation (URS) across the 313-acre property. Additionally, an archaeological investigation was conducted in 2014 by VA’s contractor Barnes, Ferland and Associates, Inc. prior to the VA’s purchase of the 20-acre parcel. Based on those investigations, no significant cultural resources were identified within either the 313-acre or 20-acre property, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation concurred that development of the cemetery would not affect any historic properties. In support of the current Phase 2 expansion and demolition of buildings at the 20-acre parcel, additional background research was conducted of the Florida Master Site File database in March 2017. No archaeological resources have been recorded within either property. Therefore, it is our tentative conclusion that the Proposed Action will not have an adverse effect on any historic properties.

We would appreciate receiving your advice about any historic preservation or related issues you believe may be involved in our conduct of this undertaking. In accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), we would appreciate receiving any comments in response to this letter and attachments within 30 days. We feel that this undertaking should have No Adverse Effect on historic properties. If construction activities uncover
any archaeological remains, it is recommended that activity in the immediate area be stopped while a professional archaeologist evaluates the remains. In the event that human remains are found during construction or maintenance activities, the provisions of Chapter 872.05, F.S. will apply. If you have any comments or require any additional information in order to concur with this finding, please contact me at (202) 632-5879 or Glenn.Elliott@va.gov.

Sincerely,

Glenn Elliott, Program/Project Manager
Office of Construction & Facilities Management

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    Mr. Mark Martinkovic, MA, RPA, AECOM Archaeologist
Figure 1. South Florida National Cemetery - Proposed Action Area Map
April 27, 2018

Ms. Natalie Harjo
The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK  74868

Dear Ms. Harjo,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is seeking to determine whether any historic properties may be affected by the Proposed Action to construct and operate an approximately 70-acre cemetery expansion ("Phase 2 expansion") within the existing 313-acre South Florida National Cemetery, located at 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The proposed Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the VA’s 2005 Master Plan and in compliance with subsequently issued federal and state permits, which were based on the 2005 Master Plan. The Proposed Action would also involve the demolition of several dilapidated outbuildings used to support former agricultural nursery operations at an approximately 20-acre property, located adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the 313-acre property, that the VA purchased in 2015. The VA would also place a barbed-wire fence around this 20-acre parcel. A map depicting the locations of these areas is attached.

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April 27, 2018

Mr. Fred Dayhoff
Section 106 and NAGPRA Coordinator
Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida
HC 61
SR Box 68 Old loop Road
Ochopee, FL 34141

Dear Mr. Dayhoff,

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is seeking to determine whether any historic properties may be affected by the Proposed Action to construct and operate an approximately 70-acre cemetery expansion ("Phase 2 expansion") within the existing 313-acre South Florida National Cemetery, located at 6501 S. State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The proposed Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the VA’s 2005 Master Plan and in compliance with subsequently issued federal and state permits, which were based on the 2005 Master Plan. The Proposed Action would also involve the demolition of several dilapidated outbuildings used to support former agricultural nursery operations at an approximately 20-acre property, located adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the 313-acre property, that the VA purchased in 2015. The VA would also place a barbed-wire fence around this 20-acre parcel. A map depicting the locations of these areas is attached.

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