

PROOF OF PUBLICATION STATE OF FLORIDA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Before the undersigned authority, personally appeared Teal Pontarelli, who on oath, says that he/she is a Legal Advertising Representative of The Palm Beach Post, a daily and Sunday newspaper, published in West Palm Beach and distributed in Palm Beach County, Martin County, and St. Lucie County, Florida; that the attached copy of advertising for a Legal - PublicNotice was published in said newspaper on: first date of Publication 03/28/2019 and last date of Publication 03/31/2019. Affiant further says that the said The Palm Beach Post is a newspaper published in West Palm Beach, in said Palm Beach County, Florida and that the said newspaper has heretofore been continuously published in said Palm Beach County, Florida, daily and Sunday and has been entered as second class mail matter at the post office in West Palm Beach, in said Palm Beach County, Florida, for a period of one year next preceding the first publication of the attached copy of advertisement; and affiant further says that he/she has neither paid nor promised any person, firm or corporation any discount, rebate, commission or refund for the purpose of securing this advertisement for publication in said newspaper.

MABBETT & ASSOCIATES INC
40 OLD LOUISQUISSET PIKE SUITE 200
NORTH SMITHFIELD, RI 02896

Invoice/Order Number:	0000469292
Ad Cost:	\$681.12
Paid:	\$681.12
Balance Due:	\$0.00

Signed _____

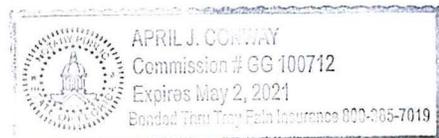
Teal Pontarelli
(Legal Advertising Agent)

Sworn or affirmed to, and subscribed before me, this 1st day of April, 2019 in Testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, the day and year aforesaid.

Signed _____

April J. Conway
(Notary)

Please see Ad on following page(s).



Invoice/Order Number: 0000469292
Ad Cost: \$681.12
Paid: \$681.12
Balance Due: \$0.00

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT SITE-SPECIFIC
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
VETERANS AFFAIRS
PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND
OPERATION OF THE
PHASE 2 EXPANSION AT THE
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY,
FLORIDA**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) has prepared a Draft Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action to construct and operate the Phase 2 cemetery expansion within an approximately 70-acre area located in the northern portion within the existing boundary of the South Florida National Cemetery at 6501 N State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The South Florida National Cemetery is currently utilizing existing burial space and capacity at a rate that is projected to exhaust existing developed gravesites within the next 4 to 6 years. Implementing the Proposed Action would allow VA to continue providing burial opportunities needed by Veterans and their families in the south Florida region. The Phase 2 expansion would be constructed according to the 2005 Master Plan, avoid preservation areas, and be designed in accordance with existing federal and state permits. Figures 1 and 2, enclosed with this letter, depict the location of the South Florida National Cemetery and the Phase 2 expansion area.

The Phase 2 expansion would take approximately 18 months to construct and would provide approximately 22,000 new casket, columbarium, and in-ground cremation sites, a flag assembly area, a roadway to connect the existing cemetery to the new burial areas, and a new stormwater retention pond to supply all of the irrigation water needed to maintain the newly landscaped expansion area. The Phase 2 expansion design is consistent with the existing 2005 Master Plan and both the South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permit and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit.

VA prepared the Draft SEA 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).

VA invites the public to review the Draft SEA and provide comments within 30-days of the publication of this notice. A printed copy of the Draft SEA is available for review at the South Florida National Cemetery and the Lantana Road Branch of the Palm Beach County Library at 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, Florida, 33462, and can be electronically downloaded from VA's website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>.

Comments received during the 30-day review period will be addressed and documented in the Final SEA. Please address all comments to: Mr. Fernando Fernandez, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email to fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529. Please reference "South Florida National Cemetery Expansion" in all correspondence.
3-28, 3-31/2019

0000469292-01

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
SOUTH FLORIDA NATIONAL CEMETERY
LAKE WORTH, PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) announces the availability of the Final Site-Specific Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Proposed Action to construct and operate the Phase 2 cemetery expansion within an approximately 76-acre area located in the northern portion within the existing boundary of the South Florida National Cemetery, located at 6501 N State Road 7, Lake Worth, Palm Beach County, Florida. The South Florida National Cemetery is currently utilizing existing burial space and capacity at a rate that is projected to exhaust available gravesites within the next 4 to 6 years. Implementing the Proposed Action would allow VA to continue providing burial opportunities needed by Veterans and their families in the south Florida region. The Phase 2 expansion design is consistent with the 2005 Master Plan and the South Florida Water Management District Environmental Resource Permit and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Individual Permit.

The Phase 2 expansion would take approximately 18 months to construct and would provide approximately 20,000 new casket, columbarium, and in-ground cremation sites, a flag assembly area, a roadway to connect the existing cemetery to the new burial areas, and a new stormwater retention pond to supply all of the irrigation water needed to maintain new landscaping in the Phase 2 expansion area. Construction would not disrupt or interfere with on-going memorial services.

Prior to completing the Final SEA, VA prepared a Draft SEA for a 30-day review by federal, state, and local regulatory agencies; federally recognized Native American Tribes with ancestral ties to the area; and the public. The Draft SEA documented potential environmental impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action, and identified avoidance and management measures incorporated into the Proposed Action to ensure potential minor adverse impacts would not increase to a significant adverse level during construction and operation. A Notice of Availability announcing the release of the Draft SEA was published in the *Palm Beach Post* on March 28 and 31, 2019. No comments from the public were received. Comments from regulatory agencies and Native American Tribes were not opposed to the Proposed Action and have been incorporated and addressed in the Final SEA.

The Draft and Final 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).

Upon review of the Final SEA, VA concludes 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, VA has finalized a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which incorporates the Final SEA in its entirety 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 in print at the South Florida National Cemetery and the Lantana Road Branch of the Palm Beach County Library at 4020 Lantana Road, Lake Worth, Florida, 33462, and can be electronically downloaded from VA's website at <http://www.cem.va.gov/cem/EA.asp>.

For additional information, contact: Mr. Fernando L. Fernández, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Construction & Facilities Management Office, 425 I (eye) Street, NW, Room 6W417b, Washington, D.C., 20001; by email at fernando.fernandez@va.gov; or by telephone at (202) 632-5529. Please reference "South Florida National Cemetery" in all correspondence.