



Orange County Cemetery District

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Tim Deutsch, General Manager

MARCH – APRIL 2020

Trustees Pass Resolution Reserving Land for Veterans Cemetery

At the Dec. 4, 2018 County of Orange Board of Supervisors Meeting, 283.3 acres of land near the junction of the 241 Toll Road and CA State Route 91 were conveyed to the District, with the stipulation that half of the developable land be set aside for a Veterans cemetery.

Since then, various consultants have been conducting site assessments on the property to determine how much of those 283 acres are actually developable. With the current geotechnical data, RJM Design Services has indicated that 231 acres is suitable for possible development with 108 acres for the public cemetery on the lower portion of the property and 108 acres for the Veterans cemetery on the upper portion of the land. The two cemeteries would share approximately 15 acres of common area making up the entrance to the grounds.

The Orange County Cemetery District is extremely grateful for the foresight of the Board of Supervisors in recognizing the urgent need to provide the residents of Orange County with this additional burial space. Our public cemeteries are often the only affordable option for county residents when the death of a loved one occurs. With casket space sold out at Anaheim Cemetery, and nearly gone at Santa Ana Cemetery, El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest has become the last and best option for County residents and will likely be sold out within 8 to 10 years. This land ensures that the needs of our communities will be well served into the future. The creation of a Veterans cemetery on the upper portion will finally give an eternal resting place within Orange County for our deserving Veterans and is long overdue.

To show the District's commitment to the development of the Veterans cemetery, the Orange County Cemetery District's Board of Trustees passed Resolution 2020-02 at the February 4, 2020 Board Meeting. The resolution designates half of the developable acreage for the creation of the Veterans cemetery and memorializes the District's compliance with the Supervisors' intent that land be reserved specifically for the Veterans. In addition, the new public cemetery will also have a designated area specifically for our Veterans as well as for service members who fought alongside U.S. forces as allies.

The District's Trustees understand the vital importance of
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Pictured right is a preliminary conceptual site plan for the public cemetery on the left side of the rendering and a Veterans cemetery on the right half of the rendering.

Extended Hours at El Toro Memorial Park Begin on March 8th

Sunday, March 8th marks the beginning of Daylight Saving Time. For visitors to El Toro Memorial Park that also means the start of extended visitation hours. Beginning on Sunday, March 8th, the grounds at El Toro Memorial Park will be open for visitation from 8 a.m. with the gates closing promptly at 7:00 p.m. Extended hours continue until Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, 2020.

Visitation hours at Santa Ana Cemetery and Anaheim Cemetery are from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. year-round. All three cemetery offices including the District Office are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Offices are closed on the weekends.

PLEASE RESPECT CLOSING TIMES AND PLAN VISITS ACCORDINGLY

District staff and our gatekeepers respectfully ask that you please consider closing times when you visit the grounds. If you wish to stay for any length of time, please don't enter the park five minutes before the gates are to close and expect to be allowed to stay. All visitors to the parks should plan to exit the grounds at or before closing time so the cemeteries can be cleared and the premises locked in an efficient and timely manner. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in this regard.

Save the Dates for these Upcoming Special Events



Trustee Cynthia Ward Presents a History of Anaheim Cemetery March 31st – 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Anaheim Central Library

Join Trustee Ward at Anaheim Central Library and learn about the Victorian-era history of Anaheim Cemetery which was founded in 1867. Trustee Ward will share interesting facts about the cemetery's architecture as well as life stories of the many pioneers and city founders who are interred on the grounds. The library is located at 500 W. Broadway.



Memorial Day Observances at All District Cemeteries Monday, May 25th (Santa Ana 10 a.m., El Toro and Anaheim 11 a.m.)

Take time on Memorial Day to remember the reason for the holiday. Show your support for our Veterans by attending one of the District's Memorial Day Observances. The programs feature special guest speakers, beautiful patriotic musical performances, Honor Guard Firing Salutes, wreath presentations, combined color guards, and more. Seating can be limited, so plan to either arrive early or bring your own lawn chair.



El Toro Memorial Park Twilight Tour Friday, July 24th – 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The past comes to life at El Toro Memorial Park when costumed actors will be portraying the lives of notable figures interred in the park. Come and learn about the history of our community and discover how these remarkable individuals made a difference in our world. The tour will feature Hollywood actors and writers, athletes, politicians, pioneers, and more. The tour is completely free and will take place rain or shine. Watch for more details in the next newsletter.

Trustees Attend CAPC Annual Conference in Oxnard

On February 20-22nd, the California Association of Public Cemeteries (CAPC) held its 62nd Annual Conference. The conference provides continuing education opportunities for trustees and staff as well as networking opportunities to share information and problem-solve common concerns among members.

Trustee Kelly Rivers, who currently serves on the CAPC Board, attended the conference along with Trustees

William Nelson, Maribel Marroquin, and Noel Hatch. Just a few of the topics covered at the conference included: Human Resources Best Practices, Required Ethics Training, Records and Risk Management, the legal processes for reclaiming abandoned cemetery plots, and an update on current legislation that could impact public cemetery districts. Attendees were also able to connect with a host of cemetery industry vendors and learn more about their products and services.

Land for Veterans Cemetery – Continued from page 1

this land and are intent on maximizing its best use for the benefit of County residents. The District is exploring options such as walking trails, a community chapel/meeting space, and continued cooperation with the Orange County Fire Authority and the Fire Departments for the City of Orange and the City of Anaheim to maintain access to the site for training purposes.

Once a clear strategy is in place for addressing the site’s geotechnical issues, a more definitive cost estimate can be

created. In the meantime, the District is exploring various financing options for the project. Over the last decade, the District has diligently saved for an expansion. By the end of this fiscal year, we expect to have about \$11 million set aside. Rough estimates show the first phase of the public cemetery development will cost around \$25 million.

The District is humbled with this opportunity and what it means for the families and veterans residing in Orange County. We look forward to making this dream a reality for all.

Staff Honored for Years of Service at Special Awards Luncheon



Every January the District holds a special luncheon to recognize those staff members who reached milestones in service during the previous year. This year, the luncheon was held picnic style on-site at the new property so staff would have an opportunity to tour the land where the new fourth public cemetery and, hopefully, a Veterans cemetery will be developed. General Manager, Tim Deutsch also used the opportunity to update staff on the most recent project developments and answer any other questions they had about the District operations.

This year, four staff members were recognized including: Administrative Manager, Mary Funk who has been with the District for 5 years; Leadworker, Tony Gallegos who has served the District for 20 years; Groundskeeper Alberto Soltero who has been with the District for 30 years; and District Equipment Mechanic Jesus Lopez who has reached an impressive 35-year milestone with the District! A hearty congratulations and thanks to all of these dedicated employees.

Pictured left: GM Deutsch presents Leadworker Tony Gallegos with a plaque honoring his 20 years of service to the District.

The District Welcomes Three New Staff Members

El Toro Memorial Park is happy to introduce new Groundskeeper, Jose Avila. Mr. Avila comes to us as an experienced groundskeeper having worked previously just down the street at Ascension Cemetery.

Oscar Tapia is Santa Ana Cemetery’s newest groundskeeper. Mr. Tapia has five years of cemetery experience and worked at Melrose Abbey Memorial Park as a Maintenance Superintendent and is able to perform preventative maintenance on equipment and vehicles.

In the District Office, Diana Vosler is a wonderful addition to our accounting department. Ms. Vosler will offer part-time assistance as an accounting technician, assisting with AR/AP, deposit processing and general accounting functions. Welcome aboard to all our new faces!



Brenda Manriquez, Finance & Accounting Mgr. (left) welcomes Diana Vosler (right)

Trustee Hatch and Trustee Rivers Reappointed for New Terms

Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for the District in which they reside and serve four-year terms. Trustees are responsible for setting policies, defining goals and objectives, adopting rules and regulations, and acting as legal custodians for District property.

We are happy to announce that Trustee Noel Hatch, who represents the Fifth District, and Trustee Kelly Rivers, who

represents the Second District, have both been reappointed to serve another four-year term, both ending on 1-1-2024. This is also the second term for both Trustees. Trustee Rivers served as the Board Chair in 2018 and Trustee Hatch is the 2020 Board Chair. Both Trustees have earned the Special District Governance Award from the California Special District Association. Trustee Rivers is also currently serving on the Board of the California Association of Public Cemeteries. They are both wonderful assets for the District.

ORANGE COUNTY CEMETERY DISTRICT

March/April Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees for the Orange County Cemetery District holds regular meetings the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the District Office located at 25751 Trabuco Road, Lake Forest, CA 92630. The public is welcome to attend.

Agendas are available at least 72 hours prior to each meeting and are also posted on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. In March and April, meetings will be held as follows:

- **Tuesday, March 3rd at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Tuesday, April 7th at 10:00 a.m.**

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact the District Secretary, Mary Funk at (949) 951-9102 ext. 110.

CEMETERY VISITATION HOURS

All District cemeteries are open for visitation seven days a week, year-round.

Anaheim & Santa Ana Cemeteries are open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

El Toro Memorial Park in Lake Forest is open during the Fall and Winter months from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

El Toro Memorial Park – Extended Hours

When Daylight Saving Time begins on March 8th El Toro Memorial Park will remain open until 7:00 p.m.

When Daylight Saving Time ends on Nov. 1st the park will close at 5:00 p.m.

Offices are closed on the weekends.

Flower Removal and Holiday Schedule

Every Wednesday, groundskeepers remove and discard flowers and decorations throughout all three cemeteries. Families are encouraged to remove their flowers or decorations on Tuesday night; you can then place the flowers back on the space on Wednesday afternoon. Please remember that the District policy only allows for two items to be placed on gravesites. This includes the in-ground flower vase and one other item. If gravesites exceed the number of allowed items, staff may remove and discard the excess items. Please do not leave items of great monetary or sentimental value on gravesites as the District cannot prevent theft.

The District permits the allowed two items of flowers and/or decorations to be left on gravesites during holidays or for special occasions, such as anniversaries, birthdays and for new interments. Please come to the cemetery office and let us know that you have a special occasion and request that the flowers and decorations be left on the space. We do ask that you empty the vase and place fresh water in the container every four to five days to eliminate mosquito breeding sources, which can cause serious health issues. Your cooperation in this regard is greatly appreciated.

In honor of Persian New Year, flowers At El Toro Memorial Park may be placed on Thursday, March 12th until Tuesday, March 31st. In honor of Easter, flowers at all three District cemeteries may be placed on gravesites on Thursday, April 2nd and should be removed by Tuesday, April 21st.

A complete listing of the District’s extended holiday flower schedule for 2020 is available on our website at www.occemeterydistrict.com. Click on the tab for Flowers, Markers and Rules for more information.

Our Mission Statement & Values

The Orange County Cemetery District manages and maintains Orange County’s public cemeteries in a manner that preserves their beauty, dignity, historical and cultural values, and offers affordable interment service for County residents.

The Trustees and staff of the Orange County Cemetery District are committed to the following values:

- Integrity ■ Respect ■ Accountability
- Responsiveness ■ Empathy ■ Transparency
- Appreciation for Diverse Needs

