



League of United Latin American Citizens

Resolution in Support of the Establishment of a State Veterans Cemetery at Former MCAS El Toro

Whereas, California Assembly Bill- AB 1453, authored by Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva was approved by the California Legislature and signed into law on September 2014 by Governor Jerry Brown; and

Whereas, the City of Irvine is fully supportive of the state veterans cemetery being located within the former site of the Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) at El Toro and in the City of Irvine, and adopted Resolution 14-92 on July 22, 2014, designating approximately 125 acres, known as the ARDA site for conveyance to the State of California for said veterans cemetery; and

Whereas, AB 1453 became effective on January 1, 2015 and it is the responsibility of the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) for appropriate studies to ascertain acceptance for grant submittal to the U.S. Veterans Affairs (VA) for approval; and

Whereas, CalVet is completing the grant pre-application to the VA by July 1, 2016 requesting substantial funds to be approved and appropriated for the design, development, and construction of the veterans cemetery; and

Whereas, the Orange County Veterans Memorial Park Foundation and Committee (OCVMP) was founded as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization to support the completion of the veterans cemetery and also provide continuing ancillary support; and

Whereas, Five-Point Communities has presented a discussion plan to OCVMP for an alternate site within the MCAS boundaries which is a more than adequate site for a cemetery with no buildings and towers requiring demolition, and aircraft runways to be removed- identified by LULAC National as the "Five Point Star" Site; and

Whereas, The Irvine City Council has re-asserted its support for the ARDA site through the pre-application process and has stated it may consider the Five Point Star site as an alternate site at a future time If need be; and

Whereas, LULAC National has fully participated in all matters for the creation and establishment of this state veterans cemetery, the only one in Southern California - with its members participating in the OCVMP: Zeke Hernandez (Vice Chairman), Alex Diaz (Secretary), Arturo Montez, and Robert Banuelos.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT LULAC NATIONAL SUPPORTS THE TWO SITES: A.) ARDA SITE AND B) "FIVE POINT STAR" SITE- AS POSSIBLE SITES FOR THE FUTURE STATE VETERANS CEMETERY, BOTH WITHIN THE MCAS BOUNDARIES;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, THAT PRIORITY CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN TO THE SITE WITH LESS DEVELOPMENT COSTS TO BE UNDERTAKEN FOR THE PREPARATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND FINAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE STATE VETERANS CEMETERY;

Voted and approved at the 2016 National LULAC Convention - July 16, 2016

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President