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# **NEWPORT BEACH**

## **City Council Staff Report**

September 14, 2021  
Agenda Item No. 10

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

**FROM:** Grace K. Leung, City Manager - 949-644-3001,  
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**PREPARED BY:** Tara Finnigan, Deputy City Manager,  
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**TITLE:** Resolution No. 2021-82: Supporting Gypsum Canyon Veterans' Cemetery

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**ABSTRACT:**

At its August 24, 2021 meeting, the City Council unanimously voted, via a straw poll, in favor of staff bringing forward a resolution for the Council's consideration that would express its support for the development of a veterans' cemetery at Gypsum Canyon in Anaheim Hills.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- a) Determine this action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Sections 15060(c)(2) and 15060(c)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because this action will not result in a physical change to the environment, directly or indirectly; and
- b) Adopt Resolution No. 2021-82, *A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Newport Beach, California, Supporting a Gypsum Canyon Veterans' Cemetery.*

**DISCUSSION:**

For a number of years, Orange County veterans and public officials have sought consensus on a site to develop a cemetery to honor the men and women who have served our country and provide for them a local burial location. Recent efforts to site the cemetery at the former Marine Corps Air Station El Toro in the City of Irvine have been unsuccessful.

In July of this year, the Orange County Board of Supervisors (Board) passed a resolution to convey its endorsement of a veterans' cemetery on county-owned land located in Gypsum Canyon, near the intersection of the 241 toll road and the 91 freeway, in Anaheim Hills. The Board also unanimously supported allocating \$20 million in County of Orange general fund money toward the project. Anaheim officials have also publicly expressed support for siting the cemetery at the Gypsum Canyon location.

At the request of Newport Beach City Council Member Kevin Muldoon, at its August 24, 2021 meeting, the City Council considered placing an item on a future Council agenda that, if adopted, would express its support for a veterans' cemetery in Gypsum Canyon. The City Council unanimously voted, via a straw poll, in favor of staff bringing forward a resolution for the Council's consideration.

If adopted, Resolution No. 2021-82 (Attachment), would convey that the City Council supports locating the veterans' cemetery on the county-owned land in Gypsum Canyon and supports state and federal legislation that facilitates its development.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact related to this item.

**ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW:**

Staff recommends the City Council find this project exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section [insert exemption section number (short description of section)] of the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, because it has no potential to have a significant effect on the environment.

**NOTICING:**

The agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Council considers the item).

**ATTACHMENT:**

Attachment – Resolution No. 2021-82