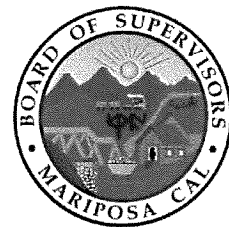




MARIPOSA COUNTY

Public Works · 209 966 5356



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-549

MEETING: September 17, 2019

TO: The Board of Supervisors

MINUTE ORDER ATTACHED

FROM: Mike Healy, Public Works Director

RE: Selection of Mariposa Town Area Burial Plot Property

RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:

Selection of a New Burial Ground Site and Resolve that Only Flush, Flat and Ground-Level Markers or Headstones Shall be Permitted in the New Burial Ground.

The Mariposa Town Cemetery can no longer accommodate burial requests of full casket interment and presently has very few spaces remaining for interment of cremation remains. Staff has been working with the public and the Board of Supervisors for about a decade to locate a new burial ground, but a dramatic increase in the number of cremation services has extended the life of the current location. The time has come when there is no longer space sufficient for full-casket burials and minimal availability for cremated remains. It is time to move forward with a new burial ground site.

There are particular requirements for burial grounds to avoid the additional cost and regulation of designation as a cemetery. Primarily, the burial ground must be less than five (5) acres.

Staff has reviewed County-owned parcels suitable for this purpose over the past eighteen (18) months. Staff has also addressed this need publicly through various newspaper articles appealing to the community for possible donation(s) of land, resulting in some generous responses.

After full review of all possible locations, staff has identified three (3) sites that are best suited for the development of a new burial ground. The Board of Supervisors, staff and interested public recently visited these sites as part of a regular public meeting. The site tour offered the opportunity for members of the Board and the public to ask specific questions regarding each site and discuss any necessary improvements for a particular site to be utilized as a burial ground.

The first site has been offered as a burial ground through the generosity of a potential private donor. The site is close to Highway 49 in the Mount Bullion area, but has access concerns as a roadway and potentially a bridge would have to be constructed to

Resolution - Action Requested 2019-549

gain access to the property. The topography, disability access, a needed Highway Access Encroachment Permit and a seasonal creek at the entry could also be challenges here. This property is also located within the Airport Safety Zone, also known as the Airport Influence Restriction Zone.

Site number two (2) is County-owned land located on Old Toll Road. The property is fairly flat. Adjacent properties are residential, making a privacy buffer around the burial ground desirable. At only 3.92 acres and without parking or access roads, additional land may be needed from adjacent property owners to have sufficient land at this location.

Staff is concerned about available land area, periodically heavy traffic common to Old Toll Road and areas of narrow roadways in the immediate vicinity that could result in line-of-sight concerns at the egress that would have to be mitigated. As with the first site, this site is located within the Airport Safety Zone.

The third site is County-owned land currently located within the boundary of the airport on CYA Road. The site is fairly flat and has access from an established roadway that serves as an entrypoint to the airport. The site houses a water tank and well so water and power are readily available. It is far enough away from the Air Operations Area that it is not within the Airport Safety Zone. Although cemeteries and burial grounds are not uncommon on or adjacent to airports, staff would seek an FAA technical boundary adjustment to the Airport Facility Map should this site be selected.

This site is a total of 10.3 acres and portions of the site are currently being used by Skydive Yosemite as a landing zone. Current interment trends suggest that burial ground uses would stay within a five-acre area and not encroach on skydiving operations for more than one hundred (100) years.

Staff has consulted appropriate boards and committees about the available options. The Airport Advisory Committee has voted not to recommend use of the third site for a burial ground on several occasions, including earlier this year. This Committee believes the site is better suited to skydiving and hang gliding, both of which are revenue neutral to the airport, and for possible economic development purposes.

The Mariposa Town Cemetery Ad Hoc Committee met on September 4, 2019 to review and discuss the three available sites. This Committee unanimously selected Site Number Three (3) on CYA Road as their preferred location, citing minimal site improvements necessary to begin operations.

A review of records over the past seven (7) years identified the resident demand for full casket burials in the Mariposa Cemetery averages between 5 - 7 per year and roughly 10 to 12 cremation remains burials annually.

Land use necessary to accommodate these requests are on average 1,250 full casket burials per acre or as some prefer double depth full casket burials can accommodate



MARIPOSA COUNTY

Public Works · 209 966 5356



RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2019-549

2,500 burials per acre. Cremation interments can be accommodated at 2,500 per acre.

Staff notes that, regardless of which site is selected here, staff fully intends to bring forward at a later date for Board consideration a clarifying amendment to County Code Section 8.48.050 stating the prohibition of vertical headstones and or grave markers in the new Mariposa Town Cemetery/Burial Ground.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

The Board has been made aware of this concern and presently there is a critical need for a new facility should the Board decide that this is a service that they wish to continue to offer.

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

By not making a site selection or giving staff further direction, the Board would effectively:

- 1) End the benefit of free interment services offered to Mariposa residents
- 2) Advise staff to eliminate the practice of burial services to residents once the current Cemetery reaches capacity (within an estimated 6 months)
- 3) Advise staff to continue efforts to identify additional suitable site(s) realizing that resident interment's during this period may require a suspension of these services.

ATTACHMENTS:

Proposed Sites (PDF)

RESULT: ADOPTED [4 TO 1]

MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor

SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor

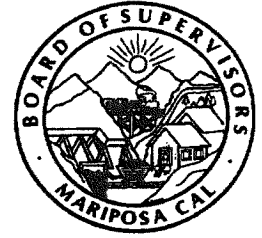
AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey

NAYS: Marshall Long



COUNTY of MARIPOSA


P.O. Box 784, Mariposa, CA 95338 (209) 966-3222



MILES MENETREY, CHAIR
KEVIN CANN, VICE-CHAIR
ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE
MERLIN JONES
MARSHALL LONG

DISTRICT V
DISTRICT IV
DISTRICT I
DISTRICT II
DISTRICT III

MARIPOSA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE ORDER

TO: MIKE HEALY/Public Works Director
FROM: RENÉ LaROCHE/Clerk of the Board 
SUBJECT: Selection of a New Burial Ground Site
RESOLUTION: **19-549**

The following action was taken by the Mariposa County Board of Supervisors on **October 1, 2019:**

L.4. Public Works RES-2019-549

Selection of a New Burial Ground Site

Mike Healy gave the staff report accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation. During public comment, Rob Binder/Airport Advisory Committee, Stan Wheeler, and Rick Leinheuser spoke in opposition to the use of the airport site. Board discussion ensued.

ACTION: *The Board selected Site number 3 as the site for the new Burial Ground.*

RESULT: **ADOPTED [4 TO 1]**
MOVER: Merlin Jones, District II Supervisor
SECONDER: Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor
AYES: Rosemarie Smallcombe, Merlin Jones, Kevin Cann, Miles Menetrey
NAYS: Marshall Long