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CITY OF IRVINE  
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

# Memo

To: John Russo, City Manager  
From: Councilmembers Melissa Fox and Christina Shea *MF/CS*  
Date: July 16, 2018  
Re: **Potential relocation of Veterans Cemetery to the area currently planned for a golf course in the Great Park**

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As we continue to seek a site for the Veterans Cemetery, it has occurred to us and others, as mentioned July 10<sup>th</sup> at our council meeting, that the area within the Great Park planned for a golf course offers several benefits as a potential location. The golf course site has ample space, at about 195 acres; it is within the Great Park and in the heart of the former MCAS El Toro, honoring those who served there; it is not located adjacent to neighborhoods or schools, and it could provide multiple points of access for future visitation and processions. If up to 125 acres were to be dedicated to the Veterans Cemetery, 70 plus acres would still be available for a smaller golf-related use, other recreational uses and a potential for the expansion of the Organic Circle Farm, helping with annual revenues for the Great Park.

The golf course site wouldn't require the 40 million dollars demolition and remediation costs that the ARDA site requires. The golf course site has also gone thru the CEQA process. Additionally, by creating a veteran's cemetery in the heart of the Great Park, not outside the Great Park where the ARDA site is located, our Veterans would realize a true resting place inside the Great Park, where so many citizens have requested the cemetery to be developed. In lieu of a full length golf course, there may be financial savings that can be used for cemetery construction.

For the reasons outlined above, we believe this is worthy for the Planning Commission to add this second site to their review and due diligence study for the City's review process of the ARDA site. This will allow staff to review this concept along with any other alternatives we may deem of value for our Veterans Cemetery.

Thank you

cc: City Council and Great Park Board Members  
City Attorney  
Planning Commission  
City Clerk