

RANCHO SIMI RECREATION AND PARK DISTRICT
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 20, 2008
TO: Board of Directors
FROM: General Manager
SUBJECT: Approval of Letter In Support of Assembly Bill 1932 Providing Authority to City of Simi Valley to Secure Cemetery Site in Excess of Five Acres

SUMMARY

The City of Simi Valley is attempting to secure authority to acquire land which may be used as a public cemetery, and to ensure adequate funding exists to operate the existing Pioneer Cemetery. Existing law limits the size of a public cemetery to less than five acres. The attached proposed AB 1932 seeks to modify existing law only with respect to the City of Simi Valley. That is, the City of Simi Valley would be able to acquire land in excess of five acres to be used as a public cemetery. The City of Simi Valley is pursuing the obvious and worthwhile goal of expanding public cemetery facilities for the community. Staff therefore recommends the Park District Board consider the attached draft letter of support.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

Staff recommends approval of the attached letter providing support to AB 1932, authored by Assembly Member Cameron Smyth.



Larry Peterson
General Manager



ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1932

Introduced by Assembly Member Smyth

February 12, 2008

An act to add Section 8125.5 to the Health and Safety Code, relating to cemeteries.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1932, as introduced, Smyth. Simi Valley: public cemeteries.

Existing law authorizes incorporated cities, and for unincorporated towns the supervisors of the county, to survey, lay out, and dedicate for burial purposes not more than 5 acres of public lands. Existing law authorizes the inhabitants of any city to purchase or receive by gift or donation lands not exceeding 5 acres to be used as a cemetery.

This bill would, notwithstanding the above-mentioned provisions, authorize the City of Simi Valley to survey, lay out, and dedicate for burial purposes, or to purchase, or receive by gift or donation, 5 acres or more of public lands to be used as a public cemetery.

This bill would state the findings and declarations of the Legislature concerning the need for special legislation.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 8125.5 is added to the Health and Safety
- 2 Code, to read:
- 3 8125.5. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the City
- 4 of Simi Valley may survey, lay out, and dedicate for burial

1 purposes, or may purchase, or receive by gift or donation, five
2 acres or more of public lands to be used as a public cemetery.

3 SEC. 2. Due to the unique circumstances concerning the City
4 of Simi Valley, the Legislature finds and declares that a general
5 statute cannot be made applicable within the meaning of Section
6 16 of Article IV of the California Constitution. Therefore, this act
7 is necessarily applicable only to the City of Simi Valley.

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March 11, 2008

The Honorable Cameron Smyth
California State Assembly, District 38
State Capitol, Room 4153
Sacramento, Ca 95814

Re: Assembly Bill 1932 - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Smyth,

Please accept this letter as our support of Assembly Bill 1932, which provides authority to the City of Simi Valley to acquire more than 5 acres of land to be used as a public cemetery. Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District was formed in 1961, and currently provides park and recreation services to a community of 136,000. As a Park District doing business within the City of Simi Valley, we have a long and distinguished history working with the City of Simi Valley.

The City of Simi Valley is well governed and managed, and provides an excellent level of service to its residents. The community of Simi Valley has limited burial locations, and is in need of additional locations that the private sector has failed to provide. The existing "Pioneer Cemetery" is located adjacent to our Rancho Simi Community Park. It is important to us that this existing cemetery be well maintained because it is a reflection on our parks and on our community. Your proposed bill may also enable the City to secure the funding necessary to keep this facility well maintained, an obviously important objective.

Thank you for your understanding of these issues, and for making the effort to bring about positive change. I hope that you are successful. This letter was approved by our Board of Directors during its regular meeting held on March 20, 2008. Please do not hesitate to call me with any questions at (805) 584-4400.

Sincerely,

Larry Peterson
General Manager