SAM FARR 20TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS' AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

Co-Chair, Congressional Organic Caucus

Co-Chair, Congressional Travel and Tourism Caucus

Co-Chair, House Oceans Caucus

## Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, **BC** 20515-0520

March 14, 2013

1126 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, DC 20515–0520 (202) 225–2861

> 100 WEST ALISAL SALINAS, CA 93901 (831) 424-2229

701 OCEAN STREET ROOM 318 SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 (831) 429-1976

www.farr.house.gov

The Honorable Fernando Armenta, Jr. Supervisor, District 1
Monterey County Board of Supervisors 168 W. Alisal St, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor
Salinas, CA 93901-2487

Dear Supervisor Armenta:

The veterans' community on the Central Coast has been advocating for a State Veterans Cemetery since the former Fort Ord closed in 1993.

After more than a decade of work to make this dream a reality, we have reached the point where the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) can transfer the 78 acre parcel to the State of California. The final step in this part of the process is for Monterey County to approve the transfer.

In order for the State to meet the federal deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup>, to be eligible for consideration in the State Cemetery grant program, the Monterey County Board of Supervisors must provide a letter to FORA approving the land transfer to the State of California. The land transfer letter to FORA must be submitted March 26, 2013.

I am very appreciative of the leadership of Monterey County to honor Central Coast veterans with a final resting place that honors their sacrifice and I hope that the Board is able to act on this matter in a timely manner. I assure you of my support for a State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Ord and look forward to working with you further to make the cemetery a reality.

Sincerely,

SAM FARR

Member of Congress

SF/sa

**COMMITTEES** 

CHAIR: BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE 3 ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES **BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW EDUCATION HEALTH JUDICIARY** NATURAL RESOURCES & WATER



## SENATOR **BILL MONNING**

SEVENTEENTH SENATE DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 4066 SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 PHONE: (916) 651-4017

SENATE CAPITOL OFFICE

MONTEREY DISTRICT OFFICE

99 PACIFIC AVE., SUITE 575-F MONTEREY, CA 93940 PHONE: (831) 657-6315

SAN LUIS OBISPO DISTRICT OFFICE

1026 PALM STREET, SUITE-201 SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA 93401 PHONE: (805) 549-3784

**GILROY DISTRICT OFFICE** 

7800 ARROYO CIRCLE, SUITE-A **GILROY, CA 95020** PHONE: (408) 847-6101

SANTA CRUZ DISTRICT OFFICE

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318-A SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060 PHONE: (831) 425-0401

WEB: http://sd17.senate.ca.gov/

March 13, 2013

Fernando Armenta, Chair Monterey County Board of Supervisors 168 W. Alisal Street Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Chair Armenta:

This letter is to respectfully request that the Monterey County Board of Supervisors transfer the 78 acres designated for the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery burial area to the Ford Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) in order for FORA to transfer the property to the State of California.

The transfer of the property designated to become the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is necessary in order for the State of California to apply for Cemetery funding from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

Local and statewide veterans' organizations, community groups, local agencies, and elected officials have worked together since 1994 to advance the construction of the cemetery, and I specifically want to acknowledge the efforts of Congressmember Farr and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. The dedication and collaboration of everyone committed to seeing the establishment of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery is making this dream become a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM W. MONNI

Senator, 17<sup>th</sup> District

WWM:nc/jf

cc: Dave Potter, District 5 Monterey County Supervisor Jane Parker, District 4 Monterey County Supervisor COMMITTEES
JUDICIARY
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE #5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY
NATURAL RESOURCES
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY AND
TOXIC MATERIALS





STATE CAPITOL P.O. BOX 942849 SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0029 (916) 319-2029 FAX (916) 319-2129

DISTRICT OFFICES
701 OCEAN STREET #318B
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060
(831) 425-1503
FAX (831) 425-2570

99 PACIFIC STREET #555D MONTEREY, CA 93940 (831) 649-2832 FAX (831) 649-2935

March 14, 2013

Supervisor Fernando Armenta, Chair Monterey County Board of Supervisors 168 W. Alisal Street Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Chair Armenta:

This letter is to respectfully request that the County of Monterey transfer the 78 acres designated for burials directly from the Fort Ord Reuse Authority (FORA) to the State of California (the State) to facilitate the State's application to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) cemetery grant program. The State stands poised to move forward quickly in pursing federal funding for the construction of the Central Coast Veterans Cemetery on the former Fort Ord.

There is currently a deadline of August 15<sup>th</sup> to apply for these USDVA grant funds. To ensure that the years of hard work by Congressmember Farr, Senator Monning, and numerous local agencies do not go to waste, I urge you to take action on this immediately and designate the State as the County's designee on the transfer of the burial property from FORA.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Mark Stone

Assemblymember

Twenty-Ninth District

Mal St

CC: Office of Supervisor Dave Potter Office of Supervisor Jane Parker