



# County of Monterey

## Board of Supervisors

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April 13, 2026

The Honorable Bob Archuleta  
Chair, Senate Committee on Military and Veteran Affairs  
1020 N Street, Room 251  
Sacramento, CA 95814

### Re: SB 1040 (Choi) Veteran Cemetery Maintenance-Endowment Match Act. – Notice of Support

Dear Chair Archuleta,

The County of Monterey writes in **support** of Senate Bill 1040 (Choi) regarding the establishment of a state and local matching fund program for veterans' cemetery maintenance.

California's veteran cemeteries are administered by the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) in partnership with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Existing law authorizes the creation of "perpetual maintenance funds" for these cemeteries. Donations and contributions may be deposited into those funds, and the interest is used for ongoing maintenance and repairs.

Each cemetery's maintenance capacity varies widely based on the size and wealth of its surrounding community with larger cemeteries receiving donations through established foundations, while new and rural sites rely almost entirely on limited state maintenance appropriations. These funds do not cover all needed expenses and have resulted in a large maintenance backlog at some cemeteries. Additionally, federal VA grants fund construction and capital improvements but do not cover perpetual maintenance. This leaves the only form of maintenance funding coming from CalVet which relies on General Fund and ad-doc donations.

SB 1040 would establish a State-Local Matching Program to incentivize local philanthropy or donations from private organizations by ensuring that every \$1 contributed by individuals, local governments, veterans' service organizations, or private donors deposited into an official cemetery maintenance endowment fund will receive \$1 in state matching funds up to \$250,000 per cemetery per fiscal year.

The County of Monterey is home to the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery, located at Seaside, California and understands the critical need for increased maintenance funding. For these reasons, we are pleased to support SB 1040. Should you have any questions regarding our position please contact Senior Policy Advisor, Ashley Walker at 916-930-7780.



Sincerely,

**DRAFT**

**Wendy Root Askew, Chair**  
Board of Supervisors