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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 2018

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Board Approves 2,500-Acre Parcel for Creation of Veteran-Civilian Cemetery

County-Owned Site in Anaheim Hills will be Donated to OC Cemetery District

SANTA ANA, Calif. – A veteran’s cemetery is one step closer to reality after the Orange County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved transferring a parcel of open land to the Orange County Cemetery District. Orange County is home to over 120,000 veterans.

The deed would stipulate that the 2,500-acre parcel in Anaheim Hills would be utilized for a cemetery with a requirement that future details about configuration and operation will be decided by the Board of Supervisors at that time. The site is located near the intersection of the 91 Freeway and the 241 toll road in District 3, represented by Supervisor Todd Spitzer.

Spitzer stated, “I worked with Irvine Company owner Donald Bren in 2010 when he dedicated the land to the county. I wanted the assurance before I left the Board of Supervisors that the land would be used for a cemetery.”

Board Chairman Andrew Do and Spitzer jointly introduced the item on the agenda.

“Orange County is committed to preserving the memory of our veterans, today’s vote is proof of that,” Do said. “The sacrifices of our brave service members in defense of our highest ideals is a legacy that we have a responsibility to honor and respect.”

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“Orange County has such an incredible military history,” Spitzer added. “Many of us remember when El Toro and Tustin Air Stations were operating. They were such a source of pride for the community. A little known fact is that these military bases date back to WWII and were one of the reasons we won that war – their planes protected the Pacific Rim.”

The cemetery deed stipulates that the property needs to be developed within 10 years and include at least 50 percent of the burial space reserved for veterans. A goal is to have the property designated as a national veteran’s cemetery, which requires state and federal approval.

The Orange County Cemetery District voted today to accept the parcel. The District will have the funding to create the cemetery in stages as it is currently debt-free and has \$8 million in reserves.

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