



GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

COUNTY OF TULARE AGENDA ITEM

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

KUYLER CROCKER
District One

PETE VANDER POEL
District Two

AMY SHUKLIAN
District Three

EDDIE VALERO
District Four

DENNIS TOWNSEND
District Five

AGENDA DATE: July 9, 2019

Public Hearing Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Scheduled Public Hearing w/Clerk	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Published Notice Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advertised Published Notice	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Meet & Confer Required	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Electronic file(s) has been sent	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
Budget Transfer (Aud 308) attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personnel Resolution attached	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agreements are attached and signature line for Chairman is marked with tab(s)/flag(s)	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>

CONTACT PERSON: Maria Benavides

PHONE: 205-1124

SUBJECT: Potter's Field Grant Application & Improvements

REQUEST(S):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Receive a presentation from General Services Agency and the Rotary Club of Visalia regarding a potential Rotary Grant Application for improvements at Potter's Field.
2. Authorize the Chairman to sign a letter of participation in support of the project.

SUMMARY:

The County owns two cemeteries near the community of Traver: Potter's Field and the Pioneer Cemetery. The Pioneer Cemetery was founded in 1888 and is the burial place for many early Tulare County residents. Adjacent to the Pioneer Cemetery, is Potter's Field, an indigent cemetery. Potter's Field was founded in 1964 and represents an important public service to the community.

When an individual dies and is determined to be indigent, their cremated remains are ultimately buried at Potter's Field. An individual is determined to be indigent if their family is unable to afford the cost of burial, or if there are no family members available to claim the remains. In 2008, the Board adopted Resolution No. 2008-0902 regarding an Indigent Burial Policy. Pursuant to California Welfare & Institutions Code Section 17009, the County may provide for the cremation and burial of those persons lawfully residing in the County who die without funds. The County's indigent burial program costs approximately \$100,000 annually.

Families can claim these cremains if they are able to pay the cost of cremation, \$700.

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The County works with the Kingsburg Cemetery District, the closest such district to Potter's Field, to coordinate mass burials at Potter's Field. Mass burials take place when there are enough cremains to sufficiently fill one burial vault; typically, about 300 cremains fill one vault. A ceremony is conducted to ensure that all persons receive a respectful burial. Burial ceremonies have been held in 2006, 2014, and January 2019.

In 2013, the County completed several repairs and improvements to Potter's Field. Specifically, the County painted the perimeter fence black, conducted landscaping maintenance, and installed a monument sign near the entrance. These improvements were completed to provide a reverent burial ground for the deceased. In the past, County Probation Youth Work Crews provided grounds maintenance to the property. As this Probation program is no longer available, GSA Grounds will maintain the property going forward.

Because of its public value and the importance of providing all Tulare County residents a proper burial, the Rotary Club of Visalia has proposed expanding the improvements completed in 2013 and providing additional enhancements to the cemetery. The Rotary Club of Visalia will be executing agreements with a minimum of six other Rotary Clubs in Tulare County. These other Rotary Clubs are also interested in pursuing this grant opportunity. With their fellow Clubs' support, the Visalia Rotary Club is planning on submitting a grant application to the Rotary International Organization for an improvement project at Potter's Field in July 2019.

GSA and the Rotary Club of Visalia are seeking the Board's approval of this project and would like to identify the preferred improvements to the property. It is recommended that any improvements have minimal maintenance requirements, but also provide an opportunity for visitors to pay their respects to the deceased. For example, improvements could include expanding the existing monument with visual features, or installing a seating area near the entrance.

The application will be in the amount of \$17,500 and is due by July 30. The notice of award will be received in August or September. With the Board's approval, if successful, GSA will work with the Rotary to complete the identified improvements.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING:

There is no net County cost to the General Fund.

LINKAGE TO THE COUNTY OF TULARE STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN:

Tulare County's Strategic Business Plan includes the Quality of Life initiative. This project enhances the quality of life for Tulare County residents through the improvement of indigent burial grounds for visitation by family and friends of the deceased.

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ADMINISTRATIVE SIGN-OFF:



John Hess
General Services Agency Director

cc: County Administrative Office

Attachment(s)
Letter of Participation

BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF TULARE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF POTTER'S FIELD)
GRANT APPLICATION & IMPROVEMENTS) Resolution No. _____
)
)

UPON MOTION OF SUPERVISOR _____, SECONDED BY
SUPERVISOR _____, THE FOLLOWING WAS ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, AT AN OFFICIAL MEETING HELD _____
_____, BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSTAIN:
ABSENT:

ATTEST: JASON T. BRITT
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/
CLERK, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

BY: _____
Deputy Clerk

* * * * *

1. Received a presentation from General Services Agency and the Rotary Club of Visalia regarding a potential Rotary Grant Application for improvements at Potter's Field.
2. Authorized the Chairman to sign a letter of participation in support of the project.



COUNTY OF TULARE

GENERAL SERVICES AGENCY

July 7, 2019

Paul Hurley
President, Rotary Club of Visalia
P. O. Box 1216
Visalia, CA 93279

RE: Letter of participation Multi-Club Rotary Grant for Improvements to Potter's Field

Dear Mr. Hurley,

The County of Tulare is pleased to partner with the Rotary Club of Visalia to complete improvements at the County's indigent cemetery known as Potter's Field.

Potter's Field was founded in 1964 and represents an important public service to the Tulare County community. When an individual dies whose family is either unable to afford the cost of burial or unable to claim the remains, he or she is cremated and ultimately buried at Potter's Field. The County partners with the Kingsburg Cemetery District to coordinate mass burials at the site once there are enough cremains to sufficiently fill one burial vault (approximately 300), and a ceremony is conducted to ensure that all persons receive a respectful burial.

Because of its public value and the importance of providing all Tulare County residents a proper burial, in 2013, the County completed several repairs and improvements to Potter's Field aimed at providing a reverent burial ground for the deceased. The Rotary Club of Visalia has now proposed expanding the improvements completed in 2013 and providing additional enhancements to the cemetery using District 5230 Grant funds. These improvements may include a more accessible visiting area from which friends and family may sit and pay their respects to the deceased, drought tolerant landscaping, and an expanded monument on site.

The County agrees to support the Rotary Club of Visalia in this endeavor by making the site accessible to the organization and providing staffing and administrative resources for consultation and oversight where necessary. As a Non-Rotary Cooperating Organization, defined in the Rotary District 5230 Grant Application Packet, the County agrees to comply with all reporting and auditing activities required by The Rotary Foundation and provide receipts and proof of purchase as required. The County also agrees that all funding provided by Rotary for this project will be used for specific project expenses.

The County is appreciative of this opportunity to collaborate with a local service organization for the improvement of service to the community and looks forward to a fruitful partnership.

Sincerely,

Kuyler Crocker, Chairman
County of Tulare Board of Supervisors