



EL DORADO COUNTY
PIONEER CEMETERIES COMMISSION

2551 Deer Trail Lane
Cameron Park, CA 95682
(530) 677-8525

August 22, 2007

Honorable Ted Long, Chairman
El Dorado County LAFCO
550 Main St., Suite E
Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Draft Municipal Services Review for Public Cemetery Services

Dear Chairman Long and LAFCO Commissioners:

The El Dorado County Pioneer Cemeteries Commission thanks LAFCO for its efforts in undertaking this review.


There are a variety of issues the MSR addresses in relation to services provided by the administration of the public cemeteries in El Dorado County. We are in the process of reviewing the MSR and will be making comment on some of these issues.

We are primarily concerned that your board and staff be cognizant of the underlying problems that our county's historic era cemeteries face. At the top of the list of the areas of concern is the fact that state law provided that the title to public cemeteries was vested in the public through operation of an 1872 statute. Because of this, cities and counties were mandated as the legal authorities for the management and control of the cemeteries located within their areas of jurisdiction. In a rare minority of instances, this occurred. On the whole, however, the county failed to acknowledge its responsibilities and the result is the condition of the cemeteries today.

We mention this today because we believe it is important for LAFCO to understand that when the county states it has no funding to care for these places, it is saying that it chooses to ignore a legal mandate to provide some measure of supervision of these resources. If the lack of services and care pertained to any other public infrastructure or cultural resource, the public would be outraged by this attitude.

EDCPCC hopes that our later comments will be reviewed in earnest as many of the comments we will be making will serve to illuminate the many inconsistencies that exist in the county's attendance to the needs of both the public and the cemeteries.

Respectfully,



Susan M. Mickus

Erica Sanchez

From: ED LAFCO [lafco@co.el-dorado.ca.us]
Sent: Tuesday, September 04, 2007 8:48 AM
To: 'Erica Sanchez'
Subject: FW: Draft Cemetery Municipal Service Review

From: Bill Knierim [mailto:billknierim@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, September 01, 2007 1:22 PM
To: lafco@co.el-dorado.ca.us
Subject: Draft Cemetery Municipal Service Review

I wanted to give you some comments regarding the Draft Municipal Service Review concerning El Dorado County Cemeteries.

My comments apply specifically to the sections regarding the Kelsey Cemetery District (KSD) as that is the cemetery district in which I reside.

First, I found the chart on page 69 to be confusing. I think it would be much more clear if you added a column titled "balance brought forward" and changed the "total revenues" column to "new revenues".

Secondly, you appear to have completely overlooked the possibility of applying for a grant from some sort of philanthropy as a possible funding source for some needed capital improvements. There are probably quite a few sources although it would take time and effort to track them down. Some possibilities that I am aware of are the History Channel's Save Our History Grant program and the California Historical Society. I am also aware that Wells Fargo Bank has a grant program but am not sure if it covers historical projects or not. Other entities such as El Dorado County Savings could be approached for a grant even if they don't have a grant program per se.

Thirdly, it seems to me that the KSD needs a more aggressive outreach program for volunteers. An article could be run in the Georgetown Gazette when volunteers are needed. I have lived in Garden Valley for 5 + years and have never seen anything recruiting volunteers for the KCD in the paper (maybe I just missed it). Also, I was unaware that they are currently looking for board members.

Fourthly, I like the idea of promoting these old cemeteries as tourist attractions although I tend to doubt that it would generate a whole lot of revenue. Never-the-less, the cemetery could be promoted by adding a sign to highway 193 indicating that the Kelsey pioneer cemetery is there. At a minimum a pamphlet with historical background about some of those buried there could be provided (seek a small fee in donations). A more ambitious project would be to develop a small book with more extensive details. The book could be sold at the El Dorado County Historical Museum and the Coloma gift shop. Possibly a CSUS history graduate student could take on the task of researching the history of those buried there as part of a masters thesis. I would assume that old issues of the Georgetown Gazette could provide information on many of those buried there.

Finally, a small maintenance issue. The last time I went by the cemetery (last summer) it was largely overgrown with yellow star thistle. Even if someone came and used a weed eater the next day, the yellow star thistle comes back. However, pulling it out by hand can keep it from coming back yearly. It is labor intensive (especially the first year) but the thistle can be eliminated within a couple of years with only minimal hand pulling thereafter. This seems like a better maintenance approach to me as the cemetery being overgrown with the thistle is just plain ugly.

Overall I found the Municipal Service Review to be very good and informative. I hope that you find my comments to be of at least some help.

Sincerely,
Bill Knierim
Garden Valley

9/4/2007



Kelsey Cemetery District
6553 Kelsey Road
Kelsey CA 95667

El Dorado County LAFCO
550 Main Street, Suite E.
Placerville CA 95667

Attention: Erica Sanchez

RE: Draft Municipal Services Review for Public Cemetery Services

Suggested Change:

P. 68, lines 8 -9

Change from: "...receives a reduction of \$7,000 to his/her property taxes on primary residence..."

Change to: "...receives a reduction of \$7,000 to his/her property assessed valuation on primary residence..."

We would really enjoy the reduction of \$7,000 on our property taxes. Can you make this happen?

Sincerely,

Graham M. Rankin, secretary board of trustees

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SEP 05 2007

EL DORADO LAFCO

Erica Sanchez

From: Bonnie D Wurm [bonnie.wurm@co.el-dorado.ca.us]
Sent: Monday, September 10, 2007 2:09 PM
To: Erica.Sanchez@edcgov.us
Cc: Charles J Harrell
Subject: Minor corrections to Report

Attachments: Total Cemetery Listing sent to Lafco 9-10-07.doc



Total Cemetery
Listing sent to...

(See attached file: Total Cemetery Listing sent to Lafco 9-10-07.doc) For your information only: I am attaching the Cemetery Advisory Committee list of cemeteries.

This list was put together for the use of the Cemetery Advisory Committee.
There may be some errors so it would not be publishable in it's present form.

I have a couple of minor corrections for the report.

- 1) pg 155 Infrastructure Needs & Deficiencies. first paragraph, last sentence; should read "Georgia Slide" instead of "Renke Annex". See pg. 100 for reference.
- 2) pg 97 (I'm sure you are already aware of this>) need to move Map 3 above K. County Service Area 9, etc.

Also, can you tell me if the Pioneer Cemetery Commission has given you any substantive corrections that I need to address? I am concerned about the comments made regarding Pioneer Memorial Parks at the LAFCO meeting. I am not sure how to address this issue in the report if the PMP status is called into question. The CAC has been working on getting this issue taken care of by resubmitting the already nominated cemeteries to the BOS.

Bonnie Wurm
(530) 621-6540
Department of General Services



United States Department of the Interior



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Folsom, California 95630
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2920
CA-018.17
SEP 7 2007

Erica Sanchez, Policy Analyst
Local Agency Formation Commission
550 Main Street, Suite E
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Sanchez:

Thank you for providing us the opportunity to review the Public Cemeteries Draft MSR. Our comments are as follows:

Page 15 – Although the County may have assumed or been assigned upkeep responsibility for Indian Diggins Cemetery, the cemetery itself is located on BLM-administered federal land. Title to the property is vested in the USA; it has not been “deeded to the County” as stated in Table 1.

Page 29 – To the best of our knowledge, Indian Diggins Cemetery is accessed by a county road, not a private logging road. Please check with Department of Public Works/Road Department to verify the current status of Indian Diggins Road. Although county maintenance has been sporadic to non-existent in recent years, the road was a county road up to a point just short of On It Creek, 6-700' past the cemetery.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Dean Decker at (916) 985-4474.

Sincerely,

William S. Haigh
Field Manager

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SEP 11 2007

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