



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SEP 12 2019

To the Members of California State Assembly:

I am signing Assembly Bill 368, which would take a significant step towards the establishment of a Southern California Veterans Cemetery in Orange County.

Under this bill, when the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of General Services study the feasibility of the two specified sites, the location determination will be based on economic feasibility, benefits to veterans and Orange County residents, and the availability of each location.

The 2019-2020 State Budget allocated \$20 million for this project. As with all capital outlay projects, specific spending authority is needed before the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of General Services can begin the site feasibility study.

As the economic feasibility of a location is assessed, the availability of private, local and federal investment should be considered critical factors. Additionally, in determining a site, serious consideration should be given to support from the community and their local representatives.

California is proud to be home to nearly 1.6 million veterans – more than any other state in the country. Veterans and their loved ones deserve our honor and respect.

Sincerely,

Gavin Newsom