



Feb 2025 Update to Tri-Cities Veterans Community on the Proposed Tri-Cities State Veterans Cemetery

WDVA is honored that the Tri -Cities Legislative Council included WDVA's proposed Tri-Cities Veterans Cemetery as one of their five priority projects for the 2025 Legislative Session. On January 23, the Tri-Cities Legislative Council invited WDVA Director David Puente to attend their Legislative Day events. David shared a few project updates including:

- \$500,000 was included in the Governor's proposed budget for a cemetery pre-design report.
- We continue talks with owners fo the two parcels under consideration. Cost and access to water are the primary factors being discussed.
- In the future, there will be a need for state legislative funding to purchase land and bring infrastructure on site such as power, sewer, and water.

If the pre-design is funded in the Legislative Budget, our plans are to:

- Conduct further studies on properties that can support the cemetery.
- Determine if we can obtain water rights to support an irrigated grass cemetery, or if it is feasible to have a dry (non-irrigated) cemetery, which exists in other arid areas such as Arizona and Texas.
- Determine full costs for the land, improvements, and construction of the cemetery. Land and off-site improvements, such as running utilities, must be borne by the state. Up to 100% of cemetery construction will be paid by the federal VA (a 10% up front match is required).
- Provide an updated Capital Request for all funding necessary to support the building of the cemetery after the pre-design work is completed. WDVA will submit a grant application to the Federal VA for the construction funding. The 10% matching funds from the state must be provided before the grant will be approved.

For previous Cemetery Update messages Visit:
www.dva.wa.gov/tri-cities-cemetery

If you have any questions or comments, please let us know at:
CemeteryTri-Cities@dva.wa.gov