

**Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Newsletter**


## Memorial Day 2022

On Monday, May 30th, the community gathered at the Veterans Memorial to commemorate Memorial Day. There are over 600 veterans that are interred at the Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District (CVPCD or District), many of whom paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom.

The event was held under clear blue skies and supported by hundreds of attendees and dignitaries from the local community. The Coachella Valley High School Choir performed the National Anthem, and a Pass and Review was done by the American Legion Riders. A presentation of wreaths and a salute (riffle volley) was performed by the Post 739 Honor Guard. Volunteers with Freedom Flags for Families and local Boy Scout troops helped decorate headstones with wreaths and flags.

The District would like to thank the American Legion for their coordination and support of the event, as well as Councilmember Glenn Miller from Indio for serving as emcee, and our own Board Chairman Ernesto Rosales for his event introduction.

## WHAT'S NEW

### CAPITOL TRIP

The District advocates for our community in Sacramento

### STAYING COOL

Early services, complimentary water part of heat illness prevention

### NEW SERVICE CARTS

Families find comfortable transportation around grounds

### AND MORE...

# Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Joins Special District Week in Sacramento

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District recently joined with other special districts from across California to advocate on behalf of the communities they serve. The event was sponsored by the California Special District Association (CSDA). Special districts are public agencies created by the community to provide one or more specific services, such as water service, sewer service, cemetery, parks, fire protection and other needs critical to the wellbeing of a community.

In addition to guest speakers, the event featured seminars on governance and updates on legislation that could impact our local special districts. The keynote speaker was State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara who spoke on the impact climate change and drought are having on fire protection, parks and recreation, and other districts across the State.



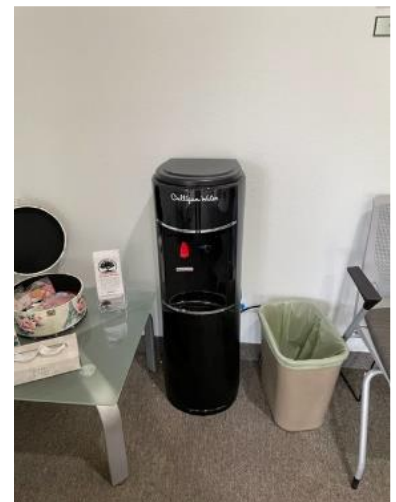
CVPCD representatives meet with the State Insurance Commissioner. From left to right, Trustee Dr. Bruce Underwood, General Manager Joshua Bonner, Trustee Marcos Coronel, Jr. and State Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara (and guest).

“From climate to workforce development, state lawmakers are making critical decisions that will impact the budget, infrastructure, and operations of our local districts in the Coachella Valley,” said CVPCD General Manager Joshua Bonner. “Our goal in visiting Sacramento is to not only stay abreast of new laws and potential funding opportunities for the District, but also directly engage with elected leaders to create those opportunities through legislation.” Bonner points to the \$57,512 in COVID-19 relief funding the District recently received as part of the COVID-19 Fiscal Relief for Special Districts as an example. “That was a direct result of significant advocacy work being done by the CSDA and their local district partners.”

The District was represented in Sacramento by Trustee Marcos Coronel, Jr., Trustee Dr. Bruce Underwood, and their General Manager. They were joined by representatives from five other special districts in the Coachella Valley. In addition to organized activities, the group was able to meet with Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, representatives from Assemblymember Chad Mays office, and other elected leaders.

## Summer Heat Reminders

The heat of Summer has arrived, a few kind reminders when visiting the cemetery grounds. During summer we begin services as early as 8:30 AM to allow for cooler temperatures. The District also provides water for all interment services, please take advantage of this service to stay hydrated. There is also water available in the office lobby during our standard business hours. The cemetery has many shade trees throughout the grounds, but umbrellas are also welcomed (please no canopies as they encroach on nearby graves).



## Thousands Visit Cemetery During Mother's Day

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District welcomed over 4,000 vehicles to the grounds over Mother's Day Weekend and Mexican Mother's Day. Mother's Day week is one of the heaviest traffic days of the year for the cemetery, along with Día de los Muertos.

This year the District took several steps to ensure the crowds were safe and well organized, including additional parking on the west side of the cemetery, restroom facilities, additional trash receptacles, traffic flow directions and additional security staff. The event went very well, and the District would like to thank the public for their cooperation and all the positive feedback we received from visitors. We continue to look for ways to improve the public's experience while visiting the cemetery and always welcome your feedback!



## New Service Carts



The District has new six-seater carts for serving families. The two new units arrived in April and have been shuttling families around the cemetery grounds. Our shuttles get used for many purposes, including the selection of plot location during at-need and pre-need appointments, assisting families with locating the graves of loved ones, leading the funeral procession into the grounds when they arrive, and more. We look forward to the new units accomplishing these tasks and serving the needs of our guests for years to come.

## CVPCD BOARD WELCOMES PUBLIC COMMENT

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees meets monthly and welcomes feedback from the public. All upcoming board meetings are publicly posted on our website ([HERE](#)). There is time set aside at each meeting for members of the public to offer comments. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, we welcome public comment through email ([info@cvpcd.org](mailto:info@cvpcd.org)) or by phone at (760) 398-3221.