

COACHELLA VALLEY PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICT

Quarterly Newsletter

Q1 • January - March 2025

What's New

State of the District
Video Series

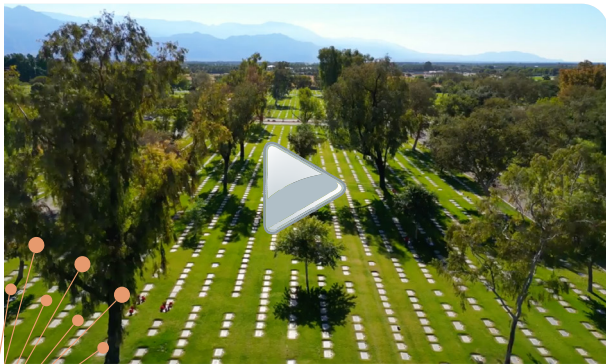
2025 Operational
Calendar

Frost Advisory

Road Construction

State of the District Video Series

The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District is excited to announce the release of its 2024 State of the District video series. This informative five-part series highlights significant developments, ongoing projects, and key successes throughout the 2024 service year and beyond. The videos premiered at the District's annual Día de los Muertos celebration in November 2024, where they were prominently showcased on the digital display boards at the main stage.



The video series, created in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, offers an in-depth look at the District's five operational pillars: **Governance, Policy, Finance, Operations, and Cemetery Services.**

Each three-minute video provides focused updates on vital areas of the District's operations. Key topics include the ongoing development of the District's 10-year Master Plan, communication enhancements, strategic investments, and plans for future growth.

"We are proud to present this video series," said District General Manager Joshua Bonner. "Transparency and consistent communication with our community are top priorities for our Board of Trustees. This video series is just one more way we are committed to keeping our constituents informed and updated on the operations and governance of their Cemetery District."

The video series was produced with the help of the District's outreach and public engagement firm, CV Strategies. Following its release, this series will be shared through the District's monthly newsletter over the next five months, from December 2024 to April 2025.

Additionally, the videos will be available for public viewing on the District's website. For more information, please visit CVPCD.org.



The District's 2025 Operational Calendar is Now Available

This annual calendar offers a helpful resource for families and visitors planning trips to the cemetery. It includes key information on mowing and cleanup schedules, office closures, and restricted parking. **Several items to note for the 2025 operational year include:**

No Mow Weeks - The District has scheduled eight "no mow" weeks for 2025, including:

- Easter
- Memorial Day
- Father's Day
- Mother's Day(s)
- Valentine's Day
- Día de los Muertos
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas



Holiday Closures: The District will observe fourteen holidays during the year, with offices closed on these dates. However, the cemetery will remain open to the public on all holidays.



Parking Modifications: During Father's Day, Mother's Day(s), and Día de los Muertos, there will be parking restrictions or modifications in place to accommodate increased visitation.



Opening and Closing Times: The calendar also includes the cemetery's opening and closing times for the year, to help the public plan their trips accordingly.

The 2025 calendar is available in both English and Spanish to ensure accessibility for all members of our community. We encourage you to keep the calendar on hand to help plan your visits throughout the year. Access the 2025 Operational Calendar at any time by clicking on the following links or stop by our front office for a printed copy.

[English - 2025 Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Calendar](#)

[Spanish - 2025 Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Calendar](#)

We thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you throughout the year.

Staying Safe When Visiting

As we approach the coldest months of winter, the District encourages our visitors to stay mindful of possible frost conditions, particularly during the early morning hours. The cemetery's irrigation system operates overnight to minimize disruption for visitors during the day and maximize efficient water use and energy resources. However, overnight irrigation, combined with any additional precipitation or dew, can lead to water buildup and cause potential hazards on cemetery surfaces.

FROST ADVISORY – Cold temperatures and limited sunlight can create frost on cemetery grounds in the early mornings, posing a risk of slips and falls. Grass, headstones, and other hard surfaces can become icy, making it more difficult to navigate through the cemetery safely.

Your safety is our priority, and we strongly recommend avoiding areas that appear wet or icy during the morning hours. Please take special caution around shaded areas, especially beneath large trees, which receive little to no direct sunlight and may remain slippery for an extended period.

Our team appreciates your understanding as we work to maintain the cemetery's grounds efficiently during this season. For questions or concerns, please call 760-398-3221.



Paving the Way for Federal Funding:

Road Rebuilding and Route Repairs

As streets across the Coachella Valley continue to deteriorate due to sand, wind and sun, the need for comprehensive maintenance has never been more urgent. Cracked paths and eroded roads not only hinder visitors' access but also risk the dignity and respect owed to those resting there. Securing federal funding for these much-needed repairs offers a lifeline, ensuring that families can visit their loved ones in peace and the cemetery can preserve its legacy for generations to come. It's time to honor the past by investing in the future of these sacred spaces.



The Coachella Valley Public Cemetery District Board of Trustees has approved a Capital Budget for the much-needed repair of the cemetery's roads. The project was formally approved during a Special Meeting held on March 22, 2024. The Board allocated \$1,418,692.77 for the project, which has been awarded to Command Performance Constructors.

Securing Federal Funding

In addition to the budget approval, the District has been actively pursuing funding to offset the total cost of the road repair project. Working closely with the office of Congressman Raul Ruiz and in cooperation with Congressman Ken Calvert, whose congressional district overlaps our service area, the District successfully submitted a budget request as part of the FY2025 federal budget. The Appropriations Committee approved \$850,000 in federal funding for the project. The FY25 budget is currently under consideration in both the House and Senate and is awaiting final passage and approval from the President.

Why is Federal Funding Important?

While the District has the necessary funds to complete the project, the addition of federal funding would provide significant relief. Cemetery use fees are set through the District's fee studies, which are conducted every three years.

These studies calculate operational expenses, work hours, and other factors to determine the fees necessary to cover costs. If the District can secure funding from external sources—such as the federal funding for the road construction project—those funds will not be included in future fee studies. This would help to keep future cemetery costs lower for our community.

Roadwork Timeline

The District is currently awaiting the final passage of the FY25 federal budget. If the District is awarded the federal funds as part of the budget, we expect to receive those funds within 3 to 6 months of passage. This would allow roadwork to begin in the latter part of 2025. However, if there are delays in the budget process, the project timeline may be pushed into 2026.

What Happens If Federal Funding Is Not Secured?

If the District does not receive the additional federal funding, we are fully prepared to proceed with the road repair project using District funds. The necessary resources are available to ensure the work will be completed.

Moving Forward

The District recognizes the vital importance of this road repair project and is committed to completing it as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. We will continue to provide updates as funding and operational planning progress. We thank the community for its continued support and patience as we move forward with this essential project.