



Mayor:
CLYDE ROBERSON

Councilmembers:
DAN ALBERT
ALAN HAFFA
ED SMITH
TYLLER WILLIAMSON

City Manager:
HANS USLAR

March 15, 2022

The Honorable Anna Caballero
12th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 7620
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable John Laird
17th Senate District
1021 O Street, Rm 8720
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Robert Rivas
30th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5110
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Mark Stone
29th Assembly District
1021 O Street, Rm 5740
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for a CalVet Veterans Home in Monterey County

Dear Members of the California State Legislature:

On behalf of the City of Monterey, I write to express our support for Monterey County's request for authorizing legislation allowing a Veteran's Home to be built in the region.

Currently, there are extended wait times to access the established Veterans Homes in the State for much needed services. If Veterans cannot access Veteran Home services timely, they will have to seek other options, potentially out of the State of California, or even risk becoming homeless. Veterans in need of Skilled Nursing and Memory Care must wait years before they are admitted.

The construction of a new Veterans Home in Monterey County would help to alleviate the long wait times and keep our Veterans in the State. Current wait times and distances from Monterey for these services are:

- Yountville (164 miles from Monterey): 5 years wait time for admittance.
- West Los Angeles (307 miles from Monterey): 2 years wait time for admittance.
- Fresno (145 miles from Monterey): 4 years wait time for admittance.
- Redding (336 miles from Monterey): 5 years wait time for admittance.

California is losing veterans at an alarming rate – much faster than the following two largest veteran population states (Texas and Florida). We owe all we have to the veterans of this Nation, and it is our obligation to care for those who have served our country. Currently, California Veterans receive more than 8 Billion in Federal VA Compensation and Pension Payments. In addition, many receive Post 9/11 GI Bill, Chapter 33 Education Benefits, and DoD Retirements. If Veterans leave the state, so will the need for Veteran Serving organizations that create high-paying jobs with the Federal VA, State, Counties, Private Sector, and Non-Profits that serve our Veterans. Veterans positively impact the California Ecosystem.

The construction of a new Veterans Home will lower or eliminate wait times for admittance into the CalVET Veterans Homes for services, including combined skilled nursing and memory care services. An additional Veterans Home location would increase the number of homes to nine (9) in the state. Homes are available to disabled and aging Veterans as well as spouses. This home will provide much needed care to our state's heroes and decrease the risk of these veterans becoming homeless. In addition, the location in Monterey County would provide an attractive geographical location with a rich military history and current military presence. Residents of the Veterans Home would have easy access to the Major General William H. Gourley VA-DoD Outpatient Clinic, commissaries, post exchanges, military gyms, and other facilities.

Additionally, Monterey County is interested in contributing land for a new CalVET Veterans Home, and Federal Grants are available for 65% of construction costs of the new Veteran Home.

For these reasons, the City of Monterey supports Monterey County's request for State authorization allowing a Veterans Home to be built in the region. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Monterey County Veterans Issues Advisory Committee's Monterey representative, Assistant City Manager Nat Rojanasathira, at (831) 646-3760.

Sincerely,



Clyde Roberson
Mayor
City of Monterey

cc: Monterey City Council
Hon. Anna Caballero, 12th Senate District
Hon. Robert Rivas, 30th Assembly District
Hon. John Laird, 17th Senate District
Hon. Mark Stone, 29th Assembly District