



County of El Dorado

Cemetery Advisory Committee

Thomas S. Heck, Cemetery Director
Richard Collier, Cemetery Director Alternate
Susan Mickus, District I Representative
Lynette Mizell, District II Representative
Fred Belt, District III Representative
Frank Clark, District IV Representative
Joan Wicklund, District V Representative

Supervisor John Knight, BOS Representative
Loretta Featherston, BOS Alternate
Brian Golmitz, County Coroner's Office
Ramona Tripp-Verbeck, Native American Representative
Vacant, Native American Rep Alternate
Barney Noel, Fraternal Org. Representative
Douglas Walker, Archaeological Representative

Report to the Board of Supervisors 2007 and 2008

Introduction

The El Dorado County Board of Supervisors established, by Resolution 128-2002, the El Dorado County Cemetery Advisory Committee consisting of eleven members. Representatives include one committee member from each of the five Board of Supervisors districts, one member representing a recognized fraternal organization, one member representing a recognized Native American organization, one member who is a trained professional archaeologist, a member of the Board of Supervisors, the County Coroner, and the County Cemetery Director or their designees.

The purpose of the Committee is to:

- Advise the Board of Supervisors of issues, concerns and problems related to cemeteries within the County
- Serve as a liaison among County Departments and interested community groups and citizens
- Report to the Board of Supervisors on the status of cemeteries, make recommendations regarding future activities and projects and report on findings resulting from the Committee's research.

The Cemetery Advisory Committee meets regularly on the 4th Monday of each month at 3:00 PM.

Committee Accomplishments:

- Rewrote the county cemetery ordinance.
- Established regulations to vest rights to interment.
- Recommended fee schedule for Placerville Union Cemetery.
- Changed the Pioneer Memorial Park designation to "Pioneer Cemeteries" and developed new criteria for this new type of cemetery designation.

General Cemetery Activities:

The County-wide Maintenance and Operation Plan is being followed by the grounds staff (with the addition of help from Growlersburg Conservation Camp in Georgetown and the California Conservation Corps in Greenwood). Fairplay and Grizzly Flat have been added to the list for county maintenance and Indian Diggings was removed from this list since it is under the supervision of the BLM.

Placerville Union Cemetery has had many repairs done since the county took over supervision. Asphalt was applied to Pythian Way and parts of the road at the entrance. Several dead cypress and oak trees have been removed along with stump grinding of these and other old stumps on the grounds. The old mausoleum crypts and niches have had the broken face plates and sides replaced. A new roof was put on the old mausoleum. There are serious issues with the watering of the cemetery which are being addressed. It has been determined that there are still several niches and crypts for sale as well as the resale of ground plots by former owners. A full inventory is being conducted to determine the potential for plot sales in the future.

- Note: 10 plot sales and 30 burials have been completed over the last two years.

At the Georgetown Pioneer and Renke Annex a new gate is being constructed for Renke Annex and the water system has been installed. Mow strips are going to be added this spring. The Georgetown Cemetery Advisory Committee resolved that new plots could now be sold in the Pioneer section to persons who had family members buried in the cemetery since we now know that there is space available.

- Note: 13 plot sales and 21 burials in have been completed over the last two years.

Shingle Springs Cemetery has new fencing along the front, donated and installed by Eagle Scout Andrew Roseo and Boy Scout Troop 550.

A meeting was arranged with community members to discuss over-site of the Fairplay Cemetery. It was determined that the community members were not able to set up a cemetery corporation. The county will continue over-site of the cemetery.

- Note: 15 burials have been completed for all other county managed cemeteries over the past two years.

A new county web-page has been developed with photographs, history and burial information regarding the county maintained cemeteries. References for District Cemeteries are also listed.

In addition to the Cemetery Advisory Committee's accomplishments, County Museum volunteers are filing and doing data entry of burial permits that were sent from Vital Statistics. County staff is doing data entry into the combined data base for all burials in the public cemeteries of El Dorado County. Placerville Union Cemetery alone has over 5,000 burials to be entered into the data base.

The next tasks to be tackled by the Cemetery Advisory Committee include:

- Making sure the new cemetery ordinance progresses through the system to the Board of Supervisors.
- Doing a new survey of the cemeteries by CAC District Representatives to check on the current condition of the cemeteries in their districts.
- Completing the list of cemeteries and researching legal titles of cemeteries to determine their public or private status.
- Developing recommendations regarding the designation of cemeteries as "Pioneer Cemeteries".
- Researching and identifying potential funding sources for specific cemetery projects.

Report approved by the El Dorado County Cemetery Advisory Committee, March 23, 2009

Submitted by Bonnie Wurm, Cemetery Administrator for the EDC Cemetery Advisory Committee,
March 24, 2009

Committee Staff:

General Services, Bonnie Wurm
County Counsel's Office, Dave Livingston
Development Department, Gina Hunter
Museum Administrator, Mary Cory