



## City of Needles, California Request for Commission Action

☐ CITY COUNCIL ☒ CEMETERY BOARD

☒ Regular ☐ Special

**Meeting Date:** January 16, 2025

**Title:** Possible designation of a pet cemetery within the boundaries of the Needles Riverview Cemetery

**Background:** A discussion was had at the January 25, 2024 meeting regarding possible designation of a pet cemetery - see minutes attached. In a follow up with the city attorney's office, "It looks like AB 528 is inactive/died, having been held in senate committee under submission".

Staff reached out to the Palm Springs Cemetery District and found that they formed a nonprofit as they could not create a pet cemetery under a public cemetery district as State law does not allow such. Their District designated 5 acres of land for a pet cemetery for \$1 and the nonprofit will raise donations to put in and maintain the pet cemetery (not yet to this point). They did caution to make sure our cemetery has enough land for residents as lack of land for human interment could cause issues.

Pet and/or human/pet burial section is included on the Capital Improvement Plan with a cost estimate of \$10,000. Funds could be considered for inclusion in the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget for legal fees to begin the research to possibly set up a nonprofit and transfer land.

**Fiscal Impact:** City attorney legal fees to research/set up a nonprofit and transfer land for the purpose of establishing a pet cemetery. Additional costs would include surveying, parcel map preparation, recording and other fees to split and transfer the property.

**Environmental Impact:**

**Recommended Action:** Include funding in the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget to start the process for possible creation of a nonprofit to establish a pet cemetery within the boundaries of the Needles Riverview Cemetery.

**Submitted By:** Cheryl Sallis

**City Manager Approval:** Patrick J. Martinez

**Date:** 1/7/2024

**Other Department Approval (when required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: ☐

Not Approved: ☐

Tabled: ☐

Other: ☐

Agenda Item: \_\_\_\_\_