

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-14

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE June 18, 2013

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

(Information Attached)

SUBJECT:

Approval to Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Commission's Report to the Board of Supervisors and Direct the Commission to Develop with County Staff, Options for Implementation of a Facility Plan

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Report.
2. Direct the Commission to develop, with County staff, options for implementation of a Facility Plan, seeking financial partnerships, grants and additional opportunities for collaboration and return to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall of 2013 with additional recommendations.
3. Seek the Board of Supervisors' continued support of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and Department of Aging and Veterans will provide support to the Veterans Advisory Commission. The Commission will return to the Board of Supervisors with a recommended Facility Plan to include conceptual costs with a time line and funding strategy for implementation.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2013-305

On motion of Supervisor Monteith, Seconded by Supervisor Withrow
and approved by the following vote,

Ayes: Supervisors: O'Brien, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini and Chairman Chiesa

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:



ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No.

DISCUSSION:

On April 3, 2012, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors established the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC), comprised of seven members; one from each Supervisorial District and 2 at large public members with alternating terms.

At that time, the Board directed staff to meet with the Commission or its designated representatives to evaluate existing locations currently used by veteran service organizations, evaluate existing County facility sites that might be suited for dedicated use by veterans and determine the short-term and long-term facility needs to be used as a guide in searching for an appropriate location.

This report will summarize the organizing year of the Commission, its Strategic Plans, Objectives, and Outcomes.

Overview:

Stanislaus County proudly supports our veterans. It is estimated that as of 2011, over 27,000 veterans reside in Stanislaus County, with further growth anticipated as the general population increases and as veterans return from active duty in recent conflicts. As military activities wind down, many veterans are returning home and dramatically changing the demography of our veteran community. Those returning to civilian life often need help finding employment, accessing education and training programs, obtaining referrals to benefits; and, assistance in finding appropriate housing, medical and counseling services, and transportation connections.

Stanislaus County is home to over 30 veteran service organizations with membership estimated to be over 7,000 throughout the Stanislaus County region. These veteran service clubs provide social and service referral to members, support and recognition of our veterans and vitally needed networking between members. These service clubs are an essential system of support for Stanislaus County veterans, yet many have no regular (or dependable) location in which to meet. Several larger organizations have limited facilities, but none have the resources to provide coordinated services and assemblies at a single site in our County. Some of the current buildings are difficult to access by public transportation and have safety or security concerns (often limiting use or attendance at facilities.)

In August 2004, a number of local representatives of veteran organizations addressed the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors requesting the County's assistance in the development of new facilities for those that have served in our nation's armed forces. Veteran groups throughout the County were using

Approval to Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Commission's Report to the Board of Supervisors and Direct the Commission to Develop with County Staff, Options for Implementation of the Facility Plan
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facilities that were aging and no single location appropriately met the needs of veterans in the Community.

From that initiative, the Board of Supervisors directed staff from the Chief Executive Office and the Veterans Service Office to work with local veteran groups to determine facilities needs and assist the veterans in finding a way to meet the identified needs. At that time there was planning and discussion about the possible creation of a Veterans Memorial District to support veteran activities in the community.

As these discussions continued, it became clear that there are many issues that veterans face and that a platform was needed for all veterans' issues to be heard. On April 3, 2012 the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors created the new **Veterans Advisory Commission** in response to alternatively seeking the creation of an elected Veterans Memorial District board of Directors. The Board of Supervisors directed County staff to work with the newly created Commission to address facility and program needs and other issues of importance to our veteran community in Stanislaus County. On May 8, 2012, the following Commissioners were appointed:

District #1 – Richard Sylvester (one year term)
District #2 – Tom Truax (two year term)
District #3 – Richard Barboza (one year term)
District #4 – Richard Edgecomb (two year term)
District #5 – Richard Gaytan (two year term)
Members At Large:
 Joseph Madden (one year term)
 Douglas Miller (one year term)

The purpose of the Commission is to represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff generally on matters pertaining to veterans, hold informal public meetings, provide the public with information and receive comments relative to veterans' issues.

At their first organizing public meeting on May 17, 2012 the Veterans Advisory Commission elected the following officers:

Chairman - Richard Edgcomb
Vice-Chairman – Richard Gaytan
Secretary – Tom Truax

In its first year, the Commission has held 13 public meetings, two Saturday workshops and countless committee and preparation meetings. The public audience and citizen participation has continued to grow for each publically

Approval to Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Commission's Report to the Board of Supervisors and Direct the Commission to Develop with County Staff, Options for Implementation of the Facility Plan
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noticed Commission meeting. At the meeting in May, there were approximately 50 people in attendance.

In order to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Commission, the Commission decided early on to conduct a Saturday Workshop to focus on its Strategic Objectives and Direction. While the Veterans Advisory Commission was formed around the discussion on facility needs, other issues that were common to all veterans surfaced. These include:

- The need to educate the entire community about services and programs available in the County for veterans of all ages. Even though there are many services available in each community, the current system is fragmented and agencies and organizations do not communicate or coordinate services.
- The need for specialized, door-to-door transportation for disabled and frail, homebound, older veterans, particularly transportation to the Bay Area for medical appointments.
- Affordable housing for all veterans, particularly younger veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. Also, outreach and housing for homeless veterans is needed as well.
- Employment and income assistance for all veterans, particularly younger veterans coming back from war who do not have a job or a place to live.
- Centralized referral mechanism for all veterans to the Veterans Administration. Again, coordination and communication among all agencies/organizations providing services are paramount to a successful service-delivery system in our county.

On August 25, 2012, the Veterans Advisory Commission held a strategic planning session to determine the goals and expected outcomes for the next year. At that meeting, the following priorities were created:

1. Define facility purpose/needs within Stanislaus County and implement a strategy to address those needs.
2. Identify and partner with existing education and job placement programs.
3. Develop and implement an outreach strategy.
4. Improve access for veterans to transportation.

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Each committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and is open to the public to attend and participate.

Facilities Committee:

Chairman: Richard Sylvester, District 1
Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4 and Douglas Miller, Member At Large
Meetings: The Committee meets the third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 a.m. at 1010 10th Street Place.

Our local veteran representatives have expressed the need to coordinate services, referrals and social activities to better serve current and new veterans. Stanislaus County veterans have long voiced the need to identify a way to provide a single "go to" place or "one-stop shop" for coordination of veteran benefits, services and activities that is accessible, safe, recognized and established within the community.

Veteran facility needs have been the focus of local veterans over the past decade. In 2004 and 2005, veterans established a preliminary plan to develop a consolidated Veterans Service Facility. During its first year, the Veterans Advisory Commission established a priority to evaluate veterans' facility needs. To pursue that priority, the Veterans Advisory Commission created a Facilities Committee comprised of Chairperson Richard Sylvester, Commissioner Richard Edgecomb, and Commissioner Doug Miller. Information collected by the Facilities Committee was used to create a plan for providing those needed facilities to veteran groups.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Fall, 2012 Veterans Advisory Commission established the Facilities Committee.
- November, 2012 Developed and distributed a Facility Needs Assessment Questionnaire. Approximately 75 were sent out for comment and 17 veteran organizations, representing over 3000 veteran members responded.
- Feb. 2, 2013 Conducted a public workshop to discuss and receive comments on facility needs for veterans in Stanislaus County. Over 60 attendees. Discussed:
 - Lack of meeting space for many groups
 - Need for a single site for services, assistance and referral to services

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- Possible functions to be included at a Veterans Center
 - Need to coordinate with other veteran services by many agencies
 - How a County Veterans Center could operate in a shared-facility environment
 - Other existing facility resources for veterans
- March, 2013 Summarized findings to the Veterans Advisory Commission
- April, 2013 Developed and presented a Draft Veterans Facility Needs Assessment and Program to the Veterans Advisory Commission
- May, 2013 Finalized the Draft Veterans Facility Needs Assessment and Program and presented the report to the Veterans Advisory Commission.
- June 18, 2013 The Veterans Facility Needs Assessment presented to the Board of Supervisors for Adoption (Attachment # A).

The Facility Needs Assessment report identifies those functions and activities that would be of most help to our County's veterans as expressed by the majority of participants in the Facilities Committee's research. These needs are expressed in a program of facilities requirements in Attachment A to assist in the identification of space resources. The needs assessment report describes several criteria by which candidate facilities or site alternatives can be measured, including general geographic areas, security, accessibility by public transportation, parking, etc.

The next task toward resolution of veteran facility needs is to identify potential resources and to determine which elements, if any, already exist that meet those needs within the community. Any existing facilities that can be used to meet those needs can also reduce or simplify plans for acquisition, construction or modification of new space and help to minimize the cost of providing for the full program of needs.

With the Board of Supervisors' approval of the needs assessment, the Veteran's Advisory Commission's Facilities Committee would begin to identify and evaluate building options and space resources with the objective of identifying a preferred implementation plan. With County staff assistance, the Committee would concurrently develop conceptual costs and timelines for implementation, and a funding strategy for implementation.

Education and Job Placement:

Chairman: Douglas Miller, At Large Member
Members: Tom Truax, District 2
Meetings: The Committee meets as needed.

The Education and Job Placement Committee's emphasis is on developing a bridge between veterans and the organizations and agencies that provide education and job placement services. The intent was not to reinvent or duplicate what was already available, but to provide a link for veterans to these services. In 2012, the unemployment rate for male Gulf War-era II veterans age 18 to 24 was 20.0 percent, higher than the rate for non-veterans of the same age group (16.4 percent). The rate for male veterans age 25 to 34 was also higher than the rate for their non-veteran counterparts (10.4 and 8.1 percent, respectively). The Committee chose to focus on this age group, as the unemployment rate for older veterans is more similar to non-veterans of the same age.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- The Committee worked with Alliance Worknet in December 2012 to discuss the creation of a veterans' job fair with resources and information focused on veterans' needs.
- A tri-fold brochure was developed that provided important information on veteran services available in Stanislaus County along with contact information. These brochures were handed out at a recent EDD job Fair in May 2013. (Attachment B). Over 300 attended the job fair and received the brochure, as well as contact referrals and information from the Veterans Service Office.
- The Committee provided outreach to a new veterans group at CSU Stanislaus and invited them to participate in the VAC.

Outreach Committee:

Chairman: Richard Gaytan, District 5
Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4
Meetings: Fourth Monday of every month at 3:30 p.m. in the Modesto Library Basement Community Room.

The Committee identified the need to reach out and educate the entire veteran community about services and programs available in the County for veterans of all ages. Even though there are many services available in various locations, the current system is fragmented and agencies and organizations do not communicate or coordinate services. The Outreach Committee identified the

various sub-groups within the veteran community where they would focus their efforts in the first year. These include homeless veterans, non-war veterans, senior veterans and the spouses and widows of veterans.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Develop and provide news releases to all area newspapers regarding Veterans Advisory Commission meetings. Attendance at meetings has continued to grow, with many issues being brought before the Commission for discussion and follow up.
- Commissioners worked with the Stanislaus County Parks Department to develop a separate fee category for veterans that allowed for a 50% discount on entrance fees for all veterans and free entrance on Veterans Day and a Saturday in May in recognition of Memorial Day.
- In order to increase access for veteran constituents, the Commission acquired a domain name (stanvets.org) with email accounts that the public could utilize to contact Commissioners and business cards were created that Commissioners could hand out at events and veteran service organization meetings/fundraisers.
- The Outreach Committee is in the process of developing a survey to determine what resources are important to local veterans and the best method for accessing those resources.

Transportation Committee:

Chairman: Joseph Madden, At Large Member

Members: Richard Barboza, District 3, Eric Andrews, Richard Madden, Mary Ormonde, Shawna Reid, and Margie Palomino

Meetings: Fourth Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the Aging and Veterans Service Office

Commissioners identified the need for a viable transportation option for homebound and disabled veterans to attend Bay Area medical appointments. Currently the Veterans Administration Clinic provides some transportation to the health centers in Livermore and Palo Alto, but a significant number of veterans are unable to access these transportation services due to disability and/or the rural nature of much of the County. In consultation with the Veterans Administration (VA), the Veterans Commission collaborated with the Department of Aging and Veterans Services, the Coordinated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), and the staff of the VA's Home Based Primary Care (HBPC)

program to address the needs of those veterans affected by the inability to use the existing transportation options.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- The Committee determined that a door-to-door service was needed. The Department of Aging and Veterans Services and Veterans Advisory Commissioners met several times with Veterans Administration staff to try to acquire a vehicle for use in Stanislaus County.
- The staff of the CTSA obtained a van that can accommodate three ambulatory veterans and one veteran in a wheelchair. The vehicle was donated by Paratransit, Inc. and is estimated to be delivered to Palo Alto to start processing into the Veteran Administration records in early summer 2013. In addition, thanks to the efforts of staff from Congressman Denham's Office and the VA, a second van was obtained from Welcome Home Heroes. This van will also be available to the VA Voluntary Services and will be assigned to Stanislaus County.
- The VA has assumed all the costs for operating the vans and has certified two veteran volunteers to drive the vans. The vans and the volunteers will be a part of the VA Voluntary Services at Livermore. The staff at the CTSA will coordinate the requests and the scheduling of the rides. The VA HBPC estimates that there are at least 80 veterans who would potentially use this service. Based upon that estimate, the VA Voluntary Services, in partnership with the Veterans Advisory Commission, will continue to identify more volunteers to meet the transportation needs of these veterans.
- Outreach for this program will be done through the VA Clinic in Modesto. In addition, the Modesto VA Clinic will be submitting press releases to the local papers and radio stations and distributing brochures through the various veteran organizations in Stanislaus County at informational events. The brochures will be designed and published by the VA.
- The estimated date for this service to begin is the Summer of 2013.

Summary of Conclusions:

The Veterans Advisory Commission has worked diligently to accomplish the Strategic Objectives established for the first year and has served as a catalyst for collaboration and problem solving for issues facing the veterans community in Stanislaus County.

The Veterans Advisory Commission has become a focal point for collaboration of local representatives of the Veterans Administration, Congressman Denham's

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staff, local employment and educational representatives, member of various veteran service organizations, and the veteran community at large.

The Commission's work on the concept of a "one stop" shop can enhance existing veteran services and programs and better leverage existing fiscal resources.

The Veterans Advisory Commission appreciates the support and direction of the Board of Supervisors as it seeks to establish a new level of collaborative problem solving, advocacy and effective partnerships for the Stanislaus Veterans Commission.

The Commission recommends the Board of Supervisors accept its First Annual Report and direct the Commission to develop options for implementation of the Facility Plan, seeking financial partnerships, grants and additional opportunities for collaboration. Further, direct the Commission to return to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall of 2013 with additional recommendations. The Commission also requests the Board of Supervisors' continued support of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission and authorize the Area Agency on Aging / Veterans Services Office and the Chief Executive Office to support the positive efforts of the Commission with existing staff resources.

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this request supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services by providing a mechanism to support local veterans in our community in an efficient and effective manner.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and Department of Aging and Veterans will provide support to the Veterans Advisory Commission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Patricia Hill Thomas, Chief Operations Officer/Assistant Executive Officer
525-6333

Richard Edgecomb, Chairman Veterans Advisory Commission 558-7825

VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION

ESTABLISHED APRIL 3, 2012



June 18
2013

First Annual Report to the
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Mission:

To represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and staff on matters pertaining to all veterans.



Veterans Advisory Commission

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Recommended Facilities Program A-1

Veterans' Brochure A-2

Board of Supervisors Agenda Item
B-10 April 3, 2012 Establishing the Commission A-3



Veterans Advisory Commission

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Introduction

On April 3, 2012, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors established the new Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC), comprised of seven members; one from each Supervisorial District and 2 at large public members with alternating terms.

The Charge of the Board of Supervisors was stated in the agenda item (see Appendix A-3); directing staff to meet with the Commission or its designated representatives to evaluate existing locations currently used by veteran service organizations, evaluate existing County facility sites that might be suited for dedicated use by veterans and determine the short-term and long-term facility needs to be used as a guide in searching for an appropriate location.

This report will summarize the organizing year of the Commission, its Strategic Plans, Objectives, and Outcomes.

Overview:

Stanislaus County proudly supports our veterans. It is estimated that over 35,000 veterans reside in Stanislaus County, with further growth anticipated as the general population increases and as veterans return from active duty in recent conflicts. As military activities wind down, more veterans are returning home and dramatically changing the demographics of our veteran community. Younger veterans returning to civilian life need help assimilating, finding employment, and accessing education and training programs. Common to veterans of all ages is the need for assistance in housing, medical and counseling services, transportation connections and referral to benefits.

Veterans receive referrals to services and benefits locally through the County's Veterans Service Office (with the Department of Aging and Veterans Services at 121 Downey Street in Modesto). The Modesto Vet Center at 1219 North Carpenter Road and the newly constructed U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic located at 1225 Oakdale Road in Modesto also provide a wealth of assistance, counseling and clinic services.

The Federal Veterans Affairs services provide major benefit, medical and counseling services outside Stanislaus County as well. Many Stanislaus County

veterans must commute to Palo Alto, Fresno, Livermore, Menlo Park and San Francisco to access these Health Care options.

There are also many other programs and services provided locally to veterans. These include educational assistance and referrals through Modesto Junior College and California State University Stanislaus, and employment services offered by Alliance Worknet and the State of California Employment Development Department.

Additionally, there are many veteran service organizations. The membership of these organizations is estimated to be over 7,000 throughout the Stanislaus County region. These veteran service clubs provide social and service referral to members, support and recognition of our veterans and vitally needed networking between members. These service clubs are an essential system of support for Stanislaus County veterans; yet many have no regular (or dependable) location in which to meet. Several larger organizations have limited facilities, but none have the resources to provide coordinated services and assemblies at a single site. Some of the currently utilized buildings are difficult to access by public transportation and have safety or security concerns (often limiting use or attendance at facilities.)



In August 2004, a number of local representatives of veterans' organizations addressed the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors requesting the County's assistance in the development of new facilities for those that have served in our nation's armed forces. From that initiative, the Board of Supervisors

directed staff from the Chief Executive Office (CEO) and Veterans Service Office to work with local veterans groups to determine what facilities were needed and to assist the veterans in finding a way to fill the identified needs. At that time there was planning and discussion about the possible creation of a Veterans Memorial District to support veteran activities in the community.

Veteran groups throughout the County were using facilities that were aging and no single location appropriately met the needs of veterans in the community. The vision was that this building would primarily be used to hold veteran events and fundraisers, conduct veteran support groups and hold veteran service organizations' monthly meetings.

It became clear there was a need for veterans to come together and that a platform was needed for veterans' issues to be heard. On April 3, 2012 the

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors created the Veterans Advisory Commission in response to alternatively seeking the creation of an elected Veterans Memorial District board of directors. The Board of Supervisors directed County staff to work with the newly created Commission to address facility and program needs and other issues of importance to our veteran community in Stanislaus County.

The purpose of the Commission is to represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff generally on matters pertaining to veterans, hold informal public meetings, provide the public with information and receive comments relative to veterans' issues.

On May 8, 2012 the following Commissioners were appointed:

- District #1 – Richard Sylvester (one year term)
- District #2 – Tom Truax (two year term)
- District #3 – Richard Barboza (one year term)
- District #4 – Richard Edgcomb (two year term)
- District #5 – Richard Gaytan (two year term)
- Members At Large:
 - Joseph Madden (one year term)
 - Douglas Miller (one year term)



At their first organizing public meeting on May 17, 2013 the Veterans Advisory Commission elected the following officers:

- Chairman - Richard Edgcomb
- Vice-Chairman – Richard Gaytan
- Secretary – Tom Truax

In its first year, the Commission has held 13 public meetings, two Saturday workshops and countless committee and preparation meetings. The public audience and citizen participation has continued to grow for each publically noticed Commission meeting.

Strategic Direction

In order to ensure maximum effectiveness of the Commission, the Commission decided early on to conduct a Saturday Workshop to focus on its Strategic Objectives and Direction. While the Veterans Advisory Commission was formed around the discussion on facility needs, other issues that were common to all veterans surfaced. These include:

- The need to educate the entire community about all services and programs available in the County for veterans of all ages. Even though there are many services available in each community, the current system is fragmented and agencies and organizations do not communicate or coordinate services. As a result, the Outreach Committee was created and is Chaired by Richard Gaytan.
- The need for specialized, door-to-door transportation for disabled and frail, homebound, older veterans, particularly transportation to the Bay Area for medical appointments. As a result, the Outreach Committee was created and is Chaired by Joseph Madden.
- Affordable housing for all veterans, particularly younger veterans coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. Also, outreach and housing for homeless veterans. This goal was included in the Outreach Committee's objectives.
- Employment and income assistance for all veterans, particularly younger veterans coming back from war who do not have a job or a place to live. As a result, the Education and Job Placement Committee was created and is Chaired by Douglas Miller.
- Centralized referral mechanism for all veterans to the Veterans Administration. Again, coordination and communication among all agencies/organizations providing the services are paramount to a successful service-delivery system in our county. This goal was included in the Outreach Committee's objectives.

On August 25, 2012, the Veterans Advisory Commission held a strategic planning session to determine the goals and expected outcomes for the next year. At that meeting, the following priorities were identified:

1. Define facility purpose/needs for Stanislaus County and implement a strategy to address those needs.
2. Identify and partner with existing education and job placement programs.
3. Develop and implement an outreach strategy.
4. Improve access for veterans to transportation.

Each committee holds regularly scheduled meetings and is open to the public to attend and participate in moving forward the goals and objectives.

Facilities Committee

Chairman: Richard Sylvester, District 1

Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4
Douglas L. Miller, At Large Member
Support provided by Chief Executive Office staff

Meetings: Third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 a.m 1010 10th Street

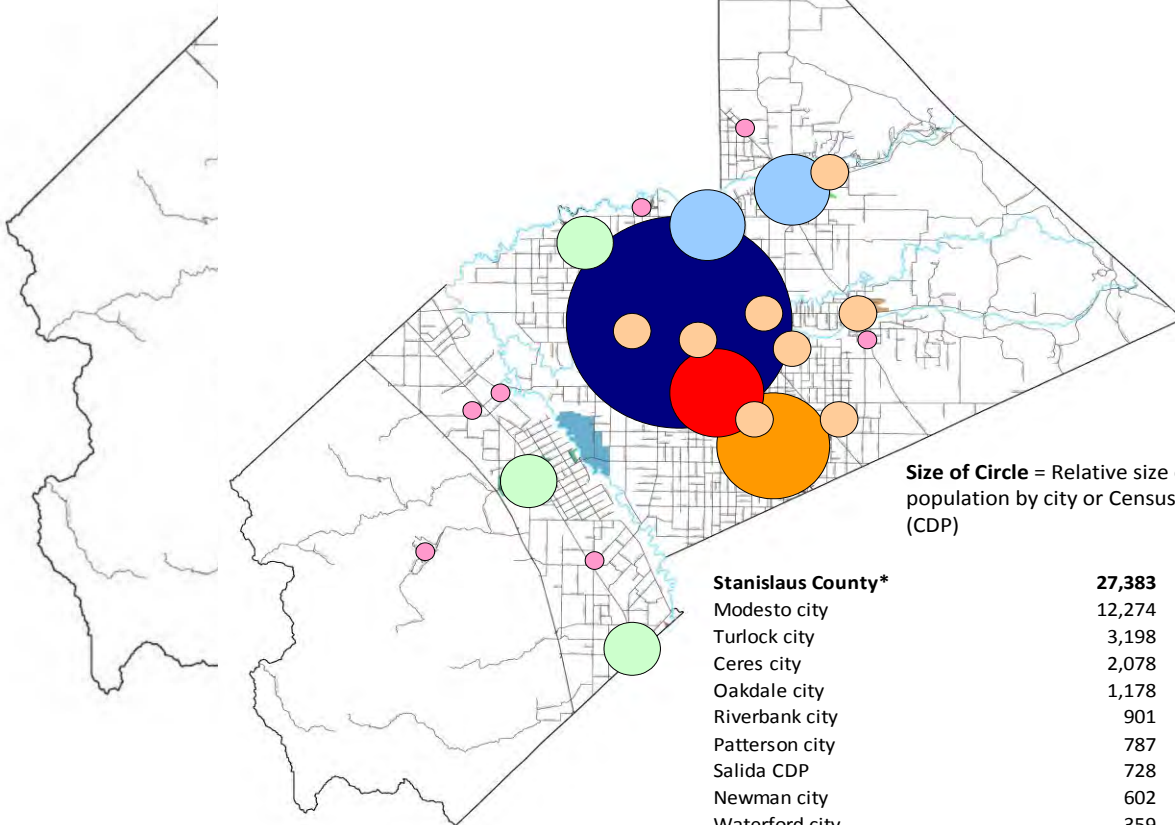
Our local veteran representatives have expressed the need to coordinate services, referrals and social activities to better serve current and new veterans. Stanislaus County veterans have long voiced the need to identify a way to provide a single “go to” place or “one-stop shop” for coordination of veterans benefits, services and activities that is accessible, safe, recognized and established within the community.

Veteran facility needs have been the focus of local veterans over the past decade. In 2004 and 2005, veterans established a preliminary plan to develop a consolidated Veterans Service Facility. During its first year, the Veterans Advisory Commission established a priority to evaluate veterans’ facility needs. To pursue that priority, the Veterans Advisory Commission created a Facilities Committee comprised of Chairperson Richard Sylvester, Commissioner Richard Edgecomb, and Commissioner Doug Miller. Information collected by the Facilities Committee was used to create a plan for providing those needed facilities to veterans groups.

The majority of members of veteran organizations in Stanislaus County belong to organizations located along the central corridor of Stanislaus County, primarily along the State Highway 99 corridor. The American Communities Survey (ACS) conducted by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census estimated that a total of 27,383 civilian veterans resided in Stanislaus County as of 2011. The State of California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit extrapolated data of the ACS report and found that an estimated 12,274 veterans, or 44.82% of the total County veteran population) reside in Modesto.

About 68% of the County veteran population resides within the Highway 99 corridor including the cities of Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, and Salida. The following table shows the estimated 2011 veteran population of Stanislaus County geographically.

Stanislaus County Civilian Veterans' By Community



Size of Circle = Relative size of civilian veteran population by city or Census Designated Place (CDP)

Legend

- Roads
- Rivers

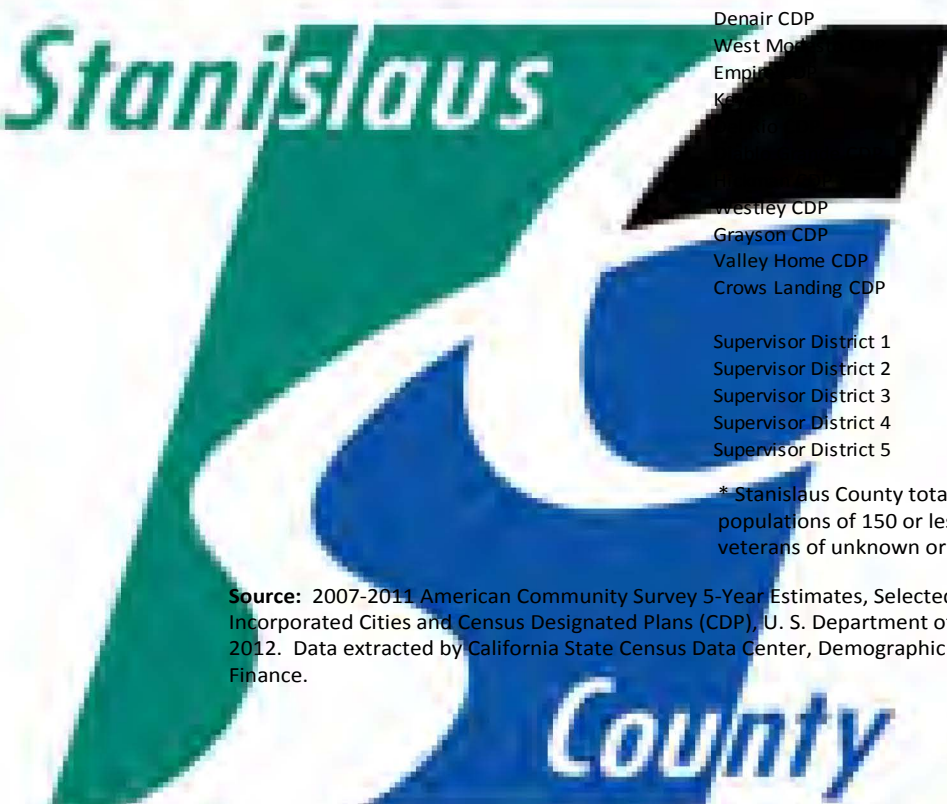
Cities

- CERES
- HUGHSON
- MODESTO
- OAKDALE
- PATTERSON
- RIVERBANK
- TURLOCK
- WATERFORD
- County Boundary

Community	Population	Percentage
Stanislaus County*	27,383	100.00%
Modesto city	12,274	44.82%
Turlock city	3,198	11.68%
Ceres city	2,078	7.59%
Oakdale city	1,178	4.30%
Riverbank city	901	3.29%
Patterson city	787	2.87%
Salida CDP	728	2.66%
Newman city	602	2.20%
Waterford city	359	1.31%
Hughson city	350	1.28%
East Oakdale CDP	293	1.07%
Denair CDP	279	1.02%
West Modesto CDP	173	0.63%
Empire CDP	142	0.52%
Keyes CDP	139	0.51%
Keyes CDP	92	0.34%
Keyes CDP	85	0.31%
Keyes CDP	48	0.18%
Westley CDP	39	0.14%
Grayson CDP	16	0.06%
Valley Home CDP	11	0.04%
Crows Landing CDP	10	0.04%
Supervisor District 1	2884	12.13%
Supervisor District 2	4,014	16.88%
Supervisor District 3	901	3.79%
Supervisor District 4	12,366	52.00%
Supervisor District 5	3617	15.21%

* Stanislaus County total includes 8 communities with civilian veteran populations of 150 or less (total of 594) plus an estimated 3,007 civilian veterans of unknown or unspecified address.

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Social Characteristics, California, Counties, Incorporated Cities and Census Designated Plans (CDP), U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, December 6, 2012. Data extracted by California State Census Data Center, Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance.



Smaller groups in Oakdale, Riverbank, Knights Ferry, Patterson, and Newman also meet and hold activities in smaller facilities or “borrowed” spaces (schools, churches, and other meeting facilities).

Transportation to and from veterans facilities and services was identified early on as a key issue. Access to public transportation such as bus routes and location at an “easy-to-find” site with ample parking were also identified as being important factors. Concern was expressed over having a site that was secure, well lighted and safe as many functions occur during evening hours.

The clear consensus of the veterans who participated in discussions was that a more “full service” veteran’s hall and service facility are the highest priority. A site for a Veterans Center should consider adjacency to other businesses that provide complimentary services and programs, including food services, pharmacies, groceries, and other places where veterans can make a “single stop” for routine needs.

Representatives of veterans groups on the west side of the County expressed a need to have local facilities more convenient to veterans living in that area, as veteran facilities are currently unavailable outside of the central portion of Stanislaus County and outside of the City of Modesto.

Respondents debated the need for multiple facilities and expressed concern that a single facility should be the initial focus, while agreeing that future, additional facilities could be considered in the long-term as resources allow once a centralized facility is completed.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Fall, 2012 Veterans Advisory Commission established the Facilities Committee.
- November, 2012 Developed and distributed a Facilities Needs Assessment Questionnaire. 75 were sent out for comment and approximately 17 veteran organizations responded, representing over 3000 veteran members.
- Feb. 2, 2013 Conducted a public workshop to discuss and receive comments on Veterans’ Facility Needs in Stanislaus County. Over 60 attendees. Discussed:
 - Lack of meeting space for many groups
 - Need for a single site for services, assistance and referral to services



- Need for an accessible site served by public transportation that is central to the veteran community
 - Possible functions to be included at a Veterans Center
 - Need to coordinate with other veteran services by many agencies
 - How a County Veterans Center could operate in a shared-facility environment
 - Other existing facilities resources for veterans
-
- March, 2013 Summarized findings to the Veterans Advisory Commission
 - April, 2013 Developed and presented a Draft Veterans Facility Needs Assessment and Program to the Veterans Advisory Commission
 - May, 2013 Finalized the Draft Veterans Facility Needs Assessment and Program and presented the report to the Veterans Advisory Commission.
 - June 2013 The Veterans Facility Needs Assessment presented to the Board of Supervisors for Adoption (Attachment #),

This draft report summarizes the facilities needs objectives of the Veterans Advisory Commission. It also provides a planning goal but does not identify how the suggested facilities are provided or how they should be provided. Once the facilities needs are established, the next step will be to investigate options for developing the needed facilities, determining the cost and feasibility of implementation.

Education and Job Placement

- Chairman: Douglas Miller, At Large Member
- Members: Tom Truax, District 2
- Meetings: The Committee meets as needed.

The Education and Job Placement Committee's emphasis is on developing a bridge between veterans and the organizations and agencies that provide education and job placement services. The intent was not to reinvent or duplicate what was already available, but to provide a link for veterans to these services. In 2012, the unemployment rate for male Gulf War-era II veterans age 18 to 24 was 20.0 percent, higher than the rate for non-veterans of the same age group (16.4 percent). The rate for male veterans age 25 to 34 was also higher than the rate for their non-veteran counterparts (10.4 and 8.1 percent, respectively). The Committee chose to focus on this age group, as the unemployment rate for older veterans is more similar to non-veterans of the same age.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- The Committee worked with Alliance Worknet in December 2012 to discuss the creation of a veteran's job fair, with resources and information focused on veterans' needs.
- A tri-fold brochure was developed that provided important information on veteran services available in Stanislaus County which included valuable contact information. These brochures were handed out at a recent EDD job Fair in May 2013. (see Appendix A- 2)
- Provided outreach to a new veterans group at CSU Stanislaus and invited them to participate in the VAC.

Outreach Committee

Chairman: Richard Gaytan, District 1

Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4

Meetings: Fourth Monday of every month at 3:30 p.m. in the Modesto Library Basement Community Room.

The Committee identified the need to reach out and educate the entire veteran community about services and programs available in the County for veterans of all ages. Even though there are many services available in various locations, the current system is fragmented and agencies and organizations do not communicate or coordinate services. The Outreach Committee identified the various sub-groups within the veteran community where they would focus their



efforts in the first year. These include homeless veterans, non-war veterans, senior veterans and the spouses and widows of veterans.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Develop and provide news releases to all area newspapers regarding Veteran Advisory Commission Meetings. Attendance at meetings has continued to grow, with many issues being brought before the Commission for discussion and follow up.
- Commissioners worked with the Stanislaus County Parks Department to develop a separate fee category for veterans that allowed for a 50% discount on entrance fees for all veterans and free entrance on Veterans Day and a Saturday in May in recognition of Memorial Day.
- In order to increase access for veteran constituents, the Commission acquired a domain name (stanvets.org) with email accounts that the public could utilize to contact Commissioners and business cards were created that Commissioners could hand out at events and veteran service organization meetings/fundraisers.
- The Outreach Committee is in the process of developing a survey to determine what resources are important to local veterans and the best method for accessing those resources.

Transportation Committee

Chairman: Joseph Madden, At Large

Members: Richard Barboza, District 3, Eric Andrews, Richard Madden, Mary Ormonde, Shawna Reid, and Margie Palomino

Meetings: Fourth Monday of every month at 10:00 a.m. at the Aging and Veterans Service Office

Commissioners identified the need for a viable transportation option for homebound and disabled veterans to attend Bay Area medical appointments. Currently the Veterans Administration Clinic provides some transportation to the health centers in Livermore and Palo Alto, but a significant number of veterans are unable to access these transportation services due to disability and/or the

rural nature of much of the County. In consultation with the Veterans Administration (VA), the Veterans Commission collaborated with the Department of Aging and Veterans Services, the Coordinated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA), and the staff of the VA's Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) program to address the needs of those veterans affected by the inability to use the existing transportation options.

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- The Committee determined that a door-to-door service was needed. The Department of Aging and Veterans Services and Veterans Advisory Commissioners met several times with Veterans Administration staff to try to acquire a vehicle for use in Stanislaus County.
- The staff of the CTSA obtained a van that can accommodate three ambulatory veterans and one veteran in a wheelchair. The vehicle was donated by Paratransit, Inc. and is estimated to be delivered to Palo Alto to start processing into the Veterans Administration records in early summer 2013.
- The VA has assumed all the costs for operating the van and has certified three veteran volunteers to drive the van. The van and the volunteers will be a part of the VA Voluntary Services at Livermore. The staff at the CTSA will coordinate the requests and the scheduling of the rides.
- The VA HBPC estimates that there are at least 80 veterans who would potentially use this service. Based upon that estimate, the VA staff is working towards securing another van and certifying two additional volunteer drivers.
- Outreach for this program will be handled by the VA Clinic in Modesto. In addition, the Modesto VA Clinic will be issuing press releases to the local papers and radio stations, distributing brochures through the various veteran organizations in Stanislaus County, and at information events. The brochures will be designed and published by the VA.
- The estimated date for this service to begin is the Summer of 2013.

Summary of Conclusions

The Veterans Advisory Commission has worked diligently to accomplish the Strategic Objectives established for the first year.



The Veterans Commission has served as a catalyst for collaboration and problem solving for issues facing the veterans community in Stanislaus County.

The Veterans Commission has become a focal point for collaboration of local representatives of the Veterans Administration, Congressman Denham's staff, local employment and educational representatives, member of various veterans' service organizations, and the veterans community at large.

The Commission's work on the concept of a "one stop" shop can enhance existing veteran services and programs and better leverage existing fiscal resources.

The Veterans Advisory Commission appreciates the support and direction of the Board of Supervisors as it seeks to establish a new level of collaborative problem solving, advocacy and effective partnerships for the Stanislaus Veterans Commission.

Recommended Next Steps:

1. Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Commission Report.
2. Direct the Commission to develop with County staff, options for implementation of the Facility Plan, seeking financial partnerships, grants and additional opportunities for collaboration and return to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall of 2013 with additional recommendations.
3. Approve the Board of Supervisors' continued support of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission.
4. Authorize the Area Agency on Aging / Home Care Services Office and the Chief Executive Office to support the efforts of the Commission with existing staff resources.



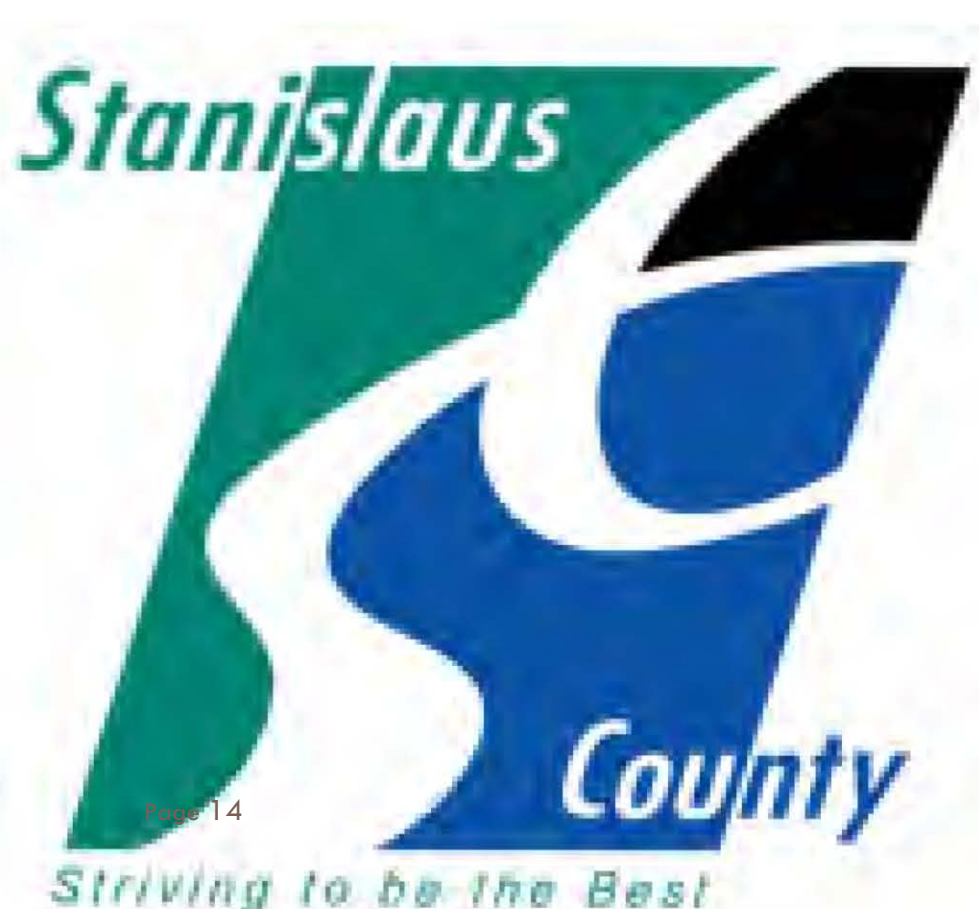


Veterans Advisory Commission

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT TO THE
STANISLAUS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

APPENDIX

Report of Veterans' Facility Needs and Recommended Facilities Program	A-1
Veterans' Brochure	A-2
Board of Supervisors Agenda Item B-10 April 3, 2012 Establishing the Commission	A-3





Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
Veterans Advisory Commission

Report on Veterans Facilities Needs and
Recommended Facilities Program

June 2013

Introduction

An estimated 27,383 veterans reside in Stanislaus County as of the 2011 American Communities Survey conducted by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. It is estimated that the current number of veterans in the county will increase as the general population increases and as veterans return from active duty during recent conflicts. As military activities wind down in the Middle East, new veterans are returning home in increasing numbers and changing the demography of our veteran community. Senior veterans and younger, new veterans alike share needs for assistance in housing, medical and counseling services, transportation and basic needs. Those returning to civilian life often need help finding employment, education and training, and connections/referrals to benefits. New and senior veterans need the ability to meet, provide mutual support for each other and to comfort each other through social interaction.

Stanislaus County proudly supports our veterans. The County's Veterans Service Office (with the Department of Aging and Veterans Services) is located at 121 Downey Street in Modesto. The Modesto Vet Center at 1219 North Carpenter Road and the newly constructed U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic located at 1225 Oakdale Road in Modesto provide a wealth of assistance, counseling and clinic services.

Federal Veterans Affairs services provide major benefit, medical and counseling services outside Stanislaus County as well. Many Stanislaus County veterans utilize the VA's Palo Alto Health Care System; the Fresno, Livermore, Menlo Park and San Francisco Medical Centers; and outpatient clinics in Modesto, Sacramento, Oakland and Stockton. A new VA Skilled Nursing Facility and Clinic is planned in Stockton. The nearest VA Veterans Benefit Regional Office is located in Oakland.

Many other programs and services are available, including these examples:

- Educational services to veterans through Modesto Junior College; California State University, Stanislaus; and University of California systems
- Employment and training services offered by Alliance Worknet; State of California Employment Development Department
- Several Armed Forces Recruiting Stations
- Stanislaus County Community Services and Health Services Agencies

Stanislaus County veterans are also fortunate to have over thirty service organizations/clubs that provide their members, including:

- American Legion (Post 74 Modesto, 74 Auxiliary, Post 491 Ceres and Post 872 Hughson, American Legion Riders and others)
- Disabled American Veterans
- Korean War Veterans (Modesto Chapter 316; War Dogs Chapter 203 Turlock)

- Marine Corps League (Detachment 019)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (Chapter 72)
- Pearl Harbor Survivors
- Stanislaus Voiture 653 – 40/8
- Valiant Knights – Big Valley Grace
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (10293 Ceres; Post 1051 Ripon and Post 3199)
- *And several more*

The membership of these organizations is estimated to be over 7,000 throughout the Stanislaus County region. Veterans service clubs provide social and service referral to members, recognition of our veterans and vitally needed 'networking' between members. These service clubs are an essential system of support for Stanislaus County veterans; yet many do not have a regular (or dependable) location in which to meet. Several larger organizations have limited facilities, but none have the facilities resources to provide coordinated services and assemblies at a single site. Some of the currently utilized buildings are difficult to access by public transportation, have safety or security concerns (often limiting use or attendance at facilities.)

Although many public and private, non-profit services are available; access to services is divided among many separate providers and locations. Stanislaus County Veterans Services, the Vet Center and many service organizations provide excellent assistance and referral to services. The Stanislaus County Veterans Services Office provides counseling to veterans and referral to a variety of services offered by State, Federal and private agencies, but the breadth of services provided by many difference agencies and at multiple locations makes access and coordination of care challenging. Stanislaus County Veterans Services strives to match veterans' needs with access to benefits and services in this system of care. Exhibit 1 provides an abbreviated list of services available to local veterans.

Exhibit 1

A Variety of Veterans Services

Health Related Services: Medical Service Benefits; Mental Health Counseling; Dental Services; Addiction and Treatment Programs; Hospital Care; Outpatient Care; Crisis Intervention; Agent Orange Programs; PTSD Assistance; Wounded Warrior & Warrior Care; Suicide Prevention; Fitness Programs.

Housing Services: Home Lending Assistance; Temporary or Transitional Housing; Veterans Home Assistance; Homeless Services; Stand Down Events.

Education: Counseling; Enrollment; Scholarships; Vocational Training; GED; Internship Programs.

Employment: Job Finding; Job Placement; Unemployment Assistance; Job Counseling; Vocational Rehabilitation.

Business Assistance: Small Business Assistance; Disadvantaged Veteran Business Enterprise Programs; Veteran Farmer Program.

Financial: Life Insurance; Survivor Benefits; Money Management; Disability Compensation; Disability Pension.

Family Life: Veterans' family services; spouse services; parenting assistance; marriage counseling; domestic violence prevention.

Veteran/Community Support: Transportation to services; group fund raising; Honor Guard; meeting information and coordination.

Veteran/Community Involvement: Peer/social networking; veterans memorial activities; outreach; public events and presentations; Honor Flight; patriotic community programs; recreational programs; youth activities; community service activities.

Military Service Support: Armed Forces information and recruiting; family relocation assistance; deployment information; Support Our Troops; commissary and exchange information.

Other/Miscellaneous: Burial services/benefits; military records, awards and metals; claims representation; veteran women's resources; minority veteran resources; legislative advocacy; vehicle special licensing.

Our local veteran's representatives have expressed a need to coordinate services, referrals and social activities to better serve our current and new veterans. Stanislaus County veterans seek to identify a way to provide a single "go to" place for coordination of veterans' benefits, services and activities that is accessible, safe, and established within the community.

Veterans Advisory Commission Facilities Committee

On May 8, 2012, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors established the County's first Veterans Advisory Commission with the appointment of seven distinguished members to represent the needs of County veterans. The Commission is represented by:

Chairperson Richard Edgecomb, Supervisorial District Four
Richard Sylvester, Supervisorial District One
Thomas Truax, Supervisorial District Two
Richard Barboza, Supervisorial District Three
Richard Gaytan, Supervisorial District Five
Joseph Madden, Member-at-Large
Doug Miller, Member-at-Large

During its first year, the Veterans Advisory Commission established a priority to determine facility needs for veterans. To pursue that priority, the Veterans Advisory Commission created a Facilities Committee comprised of Chairperson Richard Sylvester, Commissioner Richard

Edgecomb, and Commissioner Doug Miller. Information collected by the Facilities Committee was used to create a plan for providing those needed facilities to veterans groups.

Veteran's facilities needs have been the focus of local veterans over the past decade. In 2004 and 2005, veterans established a preliminary plan to develop a consolidated Veterans Service Facility. The current Veterans Advisory Commission has re-established that effort by surveying veterans groups and conducting a public workshop, culminating in this report.

Purpose of this Report

The initial objective of the Facilities Committee was to survey and update the needs for facilities for veterans. A survey was developed and distributed in December 2012; the results were tabulated in late January 2013. On February 2, 2013, a public workshop attended by over 50 veteran stakeholders, the Commissioners, County Veterans Services staff, and Chief Executive Office staff was held at the American Legion Hall in Modesto to discuss those findings and facilities needs.

This report is a compilation of the needs identified by both the survey and the public workshop, as well as discussions with members of the Facilities Committee. It provides a draft program of needs and addresses the principal objectives expressed for the operation of a centralized, shared-use Veterans Center – a single source for veteran's services and activities. Concurrent with these efforts, the United States Veterans Administration developed and opened a Modesto Veterans Clinic facility at 1225 Oakdale Road.

The need to develop a consolidated location to provide a source for referrals to veterans programs was clearly identified by the surveys, interviews, the workshop, and Committee discussions. The program of needs suggests the relocation of Stanislaus County Veterans Services, collocated with the Area Agency on Aging, into a proposed centralized facility within space owned (or to be owned) by Stanislaus County; thereby reducing reliance on leased space and consolidating veterans services at a single site.

This draft report summarizes the facilities needs objectives of the Veterans Advisory Commission as concluded by the Facilities Committee. It also provides a planning goal but does not identify how the suggested facilities are provided or where it should be provided. Once the facilities needs are established, the next steps will be to investigate options for developing the needed facilities and determining the cost and feasibility of implementation.

This Needs Assessment and Program provides an outline of needs for a future facility. The needs presented in this report are intended as a tool to enable a search for a suitable facility solution, whether an existing property or leased or acquired property; whether used "as is", remodeled or newly constructed. This search for facility solutions will be conducted as a future step to resolve the needs identified in this report.

The proposed facilities could potentially involve the acquisition (purchase or donation) of property; and renovation to meet veteran's needs. Once potential facility options are established, a conceptual cost estimate and schedule will need to be developed and a plan for funding the project will need to be established.

Facilities Needs

The information collected regarding facilities needs also suggested that several local veterans organizations lacked a consistent place to meet, conduct organization business, recruit membership, provide services, and interaction between members.

Many veterans' organizations have established meeting locations; however, there are few full-service facilities equipped with banquet or social facilities, kitchen/food preparation facilities, or places for special events that exist outside of Turlock and Modesto. Virtually none of the existing organizations' facilities provide a single place for veterans to obtain information, assistance, or referrals to services.

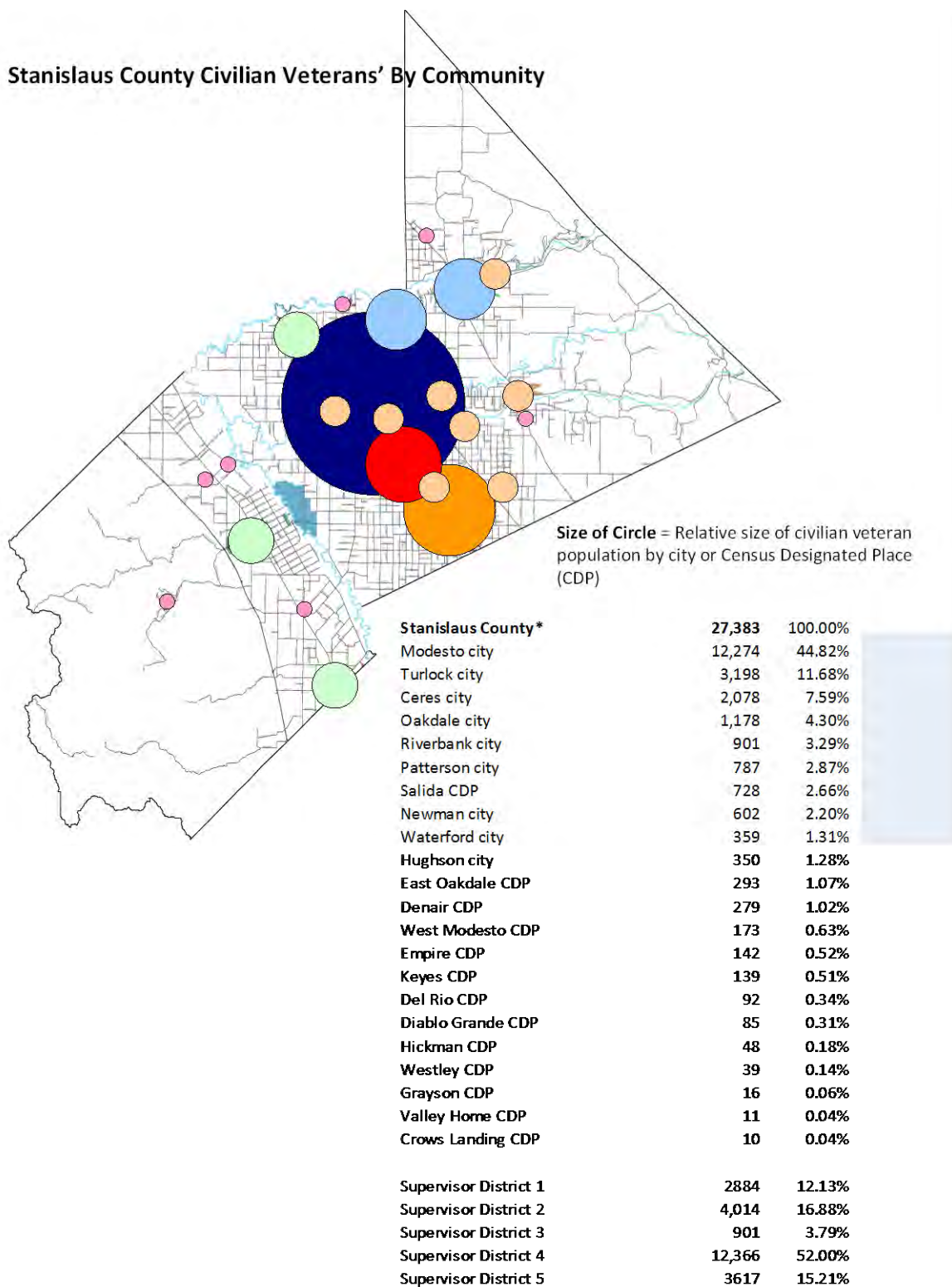
The largest existing facility operated by the American Legion at 1001 South Santa Cruz Avenue, and owned by the City of Modesto, lies within a severe flood zone adjacent to the Tuolumne River at Dry Creek. The City of Modesto has recognized that this facility is at risk; putting the many veterans organizations that use this facility subject to loss of artifacts, records, memorabilia, property, and a place to meet. The American Legion facility has historically and catastrophically flooded – most recently in the floods of 1997. The City also rents the property for other private functions; making the veterans hall inaccessible at times when other private events are held. This limitation closes the veteran's hall to those seeking assistance, referral to services, or to those seeking information.

Veterans responding to the survey or attending the facilities workshop indicated a need to have a common space for seeking assistance, information, or referral services – not dedicated to any single organization, but made available to all veterans on a shared use basis.

Location. The majority of members of veterans groups in Stanislaus County belong to organizations located along the central portion of Stanislaus County, primarily along the State Highway 99 corridor. The American Communities Survey (ACS) conducted by the U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census estimated that a total of 27,383 civilian veterans resided in Stanislaus County as of 2011. The State of California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit extrapolated data of the ACS report found that an estimated 12,274 veterans (or 44.82% of the total County veteran population) reside in Modesto. About 68% of the County veteran population resides within the Highway 99 corridor including the cities of Modesto, Turlock, Ceres, and Salida. Exhibit 2 plots the estimated 2011 veteran population of Stanislaus County geographically.

Exhibit 2

Stanislaus County Civilian Veterans' By Community



* Stanislaus County total includes 8 communities with civilian veteran populations of 150 or less (total of 594) plus an estimated 3,007 civilian veterans of unknown or unspecified address.

Source: 2007-2011 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Selected Social Characteristics, California, Counties, Incorporated Cities and Census Designated Plans (CDP), U. S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, December 6, 2012. Data extracted by California State Census Data Center, Demographic Research Unit, California Department of Finance.

Smaller groups in Oakdale, Riverbank, Knights Ferry, Patterson, and Newman also meet and hold activities in smaller facilities or “borrowed” spaces (schools, churches, and other meeting facilities).

Transportation to and from veterans facilities and services was identified as a key issue. Access to public transportation such as bus routes, location at an “easy-to-find” site, with ample parking were also identified as being important factors. Concern was expressed over having a site that was secure, well lighted and safe as many functions occur during evening hours.

The clear consensus of the respondents was that a more “full service” veteran’s hall and service facility are the highest priority. A site for a Veterans Center should consider adjacency to other businesses that provide complimentary services and programs, including food services, pharmacies, groceries, and other places where veterans can make a “single stop” for routine needs.

Representatives of veterans groups on the west side of the County expressed a need to have local facilities more convenient to veterans living in that area, expressing needs for veterans facilities that currently unavailable outside of the central portion of Stanislaus County and outside of the City of Modesto.

Respondents debated the need for multiple facilities, and expressed concern that a single facility should be the initial focus, while agreeing that future, additional facilities could be considered in the long-term as resources allow once a centralized facility is completed.

Integration of Veterans Services. High priority was expressed by members of the veteran’s organizations and by the Veterans Advisory Commission on the collocation of services for veterans and the veterans’ organizations. Many veterans programs exist, but are provided through a vast network of providers, including the federal Veterans Administration, the State of California, VA’s Palo Alto Health Services, VA’s new Modesto clinic, County Aging and Veterans Services, and many private, non-profit service organizations.

Exhibit 3 provides a partial list of government, educational and private veterans service organizations generally available to serve veterans needs in Stanislaus County. Many services are also available online, via telephone referral or offered by supportive non-veterans organizations such as church groups, hospitals and health providers, and many others. A list of local providers identified in Exhibit 3 is plotted geographically in Exhibit 4.

Exhibit 3

	General Assistance and Referral to Services	Counseling/Behavioral Health	Education	Employment	Housing	Medical Services
● Government Agencies						
Stanislaus County						
Veterans Service Office, 121 Downey Avenue, Modesto	■					
Alliance WorkNet, 251 E. Hackett Rd., Modesto				■		
Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, 800 Scenic Dr., Modesto		■				
Health Services Agency						
Modesto -- 830 Scenic Dr., Modesto						■
Ceres Medical Office, 3109 Whitmore Ave., Ceres						■
Hughson Medical Office, 2412 Third Str., Hughson						■
McHenry Medical Office, 1209 Woodrow Ave., Modesto						■
Paradise Medical Office and Urgent Care, 401 E. Paradise, Modesto						■
Turlock Medical Office, 800 Delbon Ave., Turlock						■
State of California						
Employment Development Department, 629 12th Str., Modesto				■		
Cal Vet -- Farm and Home Loans, Sacramento					■	
U. S. Veterans Affairs						
Modesto Vet Center, 1219 N. Carpenter Road, Ste 12, Modesto	■	■				
Modesto Clinic, 1225 Oakdale Road, Modesto						■
Palo Alto Health Care System, Palo Alto, CA						■
Stockton Outpatient Clinic and Community Living Center, French Camp					Planned	□
PTSD Clinic, 4951 Arroyo Road, Livermore, CA		■				
Northern California Health Care System, Mather, CA		■				■
San Francisco VA Medical Center, San Francisco, CA		■				■
Central California Health Care System, Fresno, CA		■				
■ Veteran Organizations						
American Legion						
Post 74, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Avenue, Modesto	■					
Post 88, 75 Bothun Rd., Turlock	■					
Post 168, Father Connors Hall, Patterson	■					
Post 491, 2801 W. Hatch Rd., Modesto	■					
Post 872, 6941 Hughson Ave., Hughson	■					
Disabled American Veterans, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Modesto	■					
Korean War Veterans						
Chapter 316, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Modesto	■					
Chapter 203 "War Dogs", Valley Hope Community Church, Turlock	■					
Marine Corps League, Detachment 019, 1001 S. Santa Cruz Ave., Modesto	■					
Military Order of the Purple Heart	■					
Pearl Harbor Survivors	■					
Stanislaus Voiture 653 -- 40/8	■					
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace Community Church, Modesto	■					
Veterans of Foreign Wars						
Post 10293, 1401 W. Linwood Ave., Turlock	■					
Post 1051, Ripon, CA	■					
Post 3199, 2801 W. Hatch Rd., Modesto	■					
▲ Educational Institutions						
Modesto Junior College, 435 College Ave., Modesto				■		
California State University, Stanislaus, One University Circle, Turlock				■		
University of California, Merced, 5200 Lake Road				■		

Exhibit 4

Stanislaus County Civilian Veteran Services

Sacramento

Cal Vet
Northern Calif HCS

Stockton

Clinc/Living Ctr

Ripon

VFW

Bay Area

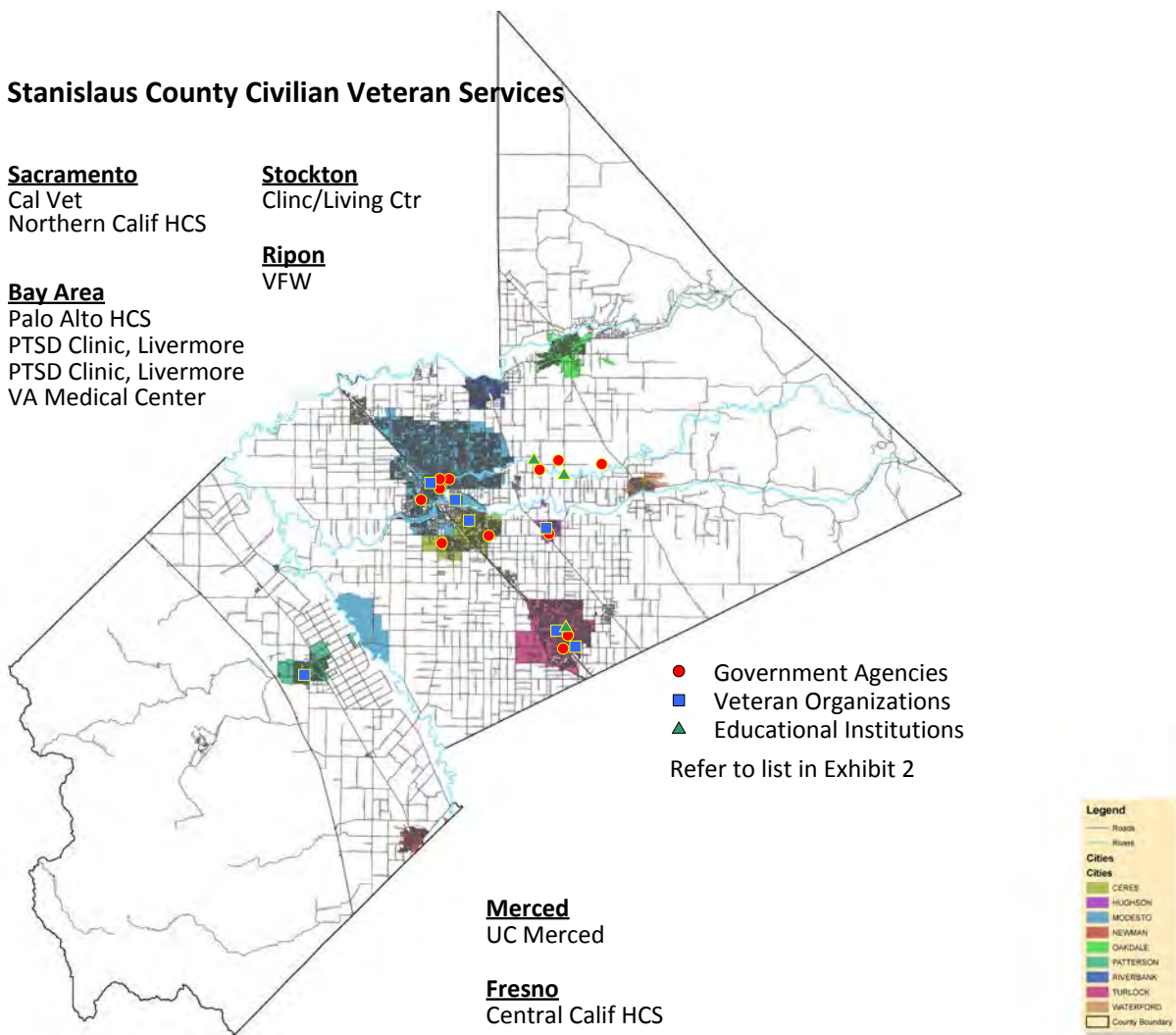
Palo Alto HCS
PTSD Clinic, Livermore
PTSD Clinic, Livermore
VA Medical Center

Merced

UC Merced

Fresno

Central Calif HCS



Physically combining these programs at a single facility is not practical, however, programs that provide referrals to services or which can provide part-time, on-site representatives in shared-use facilities are highly desired. Potential veteran users of these facilities often lack mobility and access to services whereby a centralized veteran’s center comprised of a veterans hall and veteran’s services would be most beneficial. A single, coordinated location or to participate in veteran’s organization activities and networking would provide a recognizable, permanent and identifiable resource that could assist new veterans seeking assistance and re-integration into civilian life.

A shared-use veterans facility could be developed to provide a single location to obtain services or referral to services provide for coordination of veterans activities and allow for social functions that promote networking and support of veterans. Conceptually, the combined location of County veterans’ services, shared-use offices, meeting and storage facilities could be

combined with assembly and event facilities to provide access on weekdays and weekends, days and evenings. Shared offices and multi-purpose meeting facilities could be used on a reservation basis for veterans' service organizations. Offices and multi-purpose rooms could be scheduled in advance for part-time service providers such as health screenings, vocational training, housing or financial assistance, employment fairs, group counseling sessions and a host of other services by a variety of providers at a single location.

Full-time use of some spaces would also be provided. Stanislaus County Veterans Services could be an integral component of a "one-stop shop" service facility while concurrently providing oversight of the facility during normal business hours.

Type of Space.

Several types of needs were identified for a Veteran's hall

General Meeting Space

A general assembly hall capable of hosting organization meetings, conventions, banquets, receptions, etc. for up to 500 persons (seated).

Shared Group Offices

Shared private office space to be used by veterans groups for the conduct of group business, counseling, referrals to service, or other interaction with veteran members.

Two types of offices are planned. Four 168 square foot private offices are planned to accommodate veteran's organization business activities. These offices would include two desks, two chairs, several side chairs and lockable storage cabinets that can be assigned to individual organizations.

Four additional smaller (120 square foot) offices are provided for shared use service functions on a part-time basis. Representatives of several organizations will be able to schedule regular days/hours for veteran's appointments or on a full-time basis for regular referrals. Recruitment offices are also needed.

It is hoped that representatives from the following interests could provide service referrals in these facilities at a minimum – other service providers would also be sought:

- State of California Employment Development Department
- Social Security Administration
- Stanislaus County Community Services Agency

- U. S. Housing and Urban Development Agency (for Cash Voucher program, assistance, etc.)
- Modesto Junior College Veterans Services
- California State University, Stanislaus, Veterans Services
- Veteran's Administration Veterans Center representative.

Multi-Purpose/Meetings

Provide shared-use multi-purpose meeting rooms in a variety of sizes ranging from 14 capacity to 40 capacity. These rooms may be used for service providers, organizational activities and smaller meetings, counseling, training, etc.

Storage Space

For veterans groups to store materials used in the conduct of organization business, such as flags, clothing, lending of durable medical equipment, armory, etc.

Banquet/Food Preparation

Kitchen for preparing food and hosting banquets, and available for rental to others as a source of revenue for Veteran's benefit.

Service Offices

Consolidation of County Veterans Services collocated with the Area Agency on Aging, to provide veterans assistance services and referrals.

Social Gathering

A lounge for social networking of veterans and a safe place for veterans to seek assistance.

Veteran's services would be enhanced significantly by collocation of the Stanislaus County Aging and Veterans functions, currently located in leased space at 121 Downey Avenue in Modesto.

Facilities Committee. Once public veterans' input was received, the Veterans Advisory Commission's Facilities Committee reviewed the result of the workshop and survey used the information to develop a conceptual facility program to identify and establish a goal for a centralized, full service veteran's center.

The Committee's recommended concept was refined into a program of needs documented in this report, including a list of space needs and conceptual adjacency diagrams provided in Attachments 1 and 2.

The total estimated needs based on the program equal 36,623 square feet. This program assumes that 31,130 net square feet, plus other non-occupiable space (restrooms, corridors,

mechanical, electrical, janitorial spaces) of roughly 85% net-to-gross area efficiency is created. Site areas for parking (up to 250 vehicles), outdoor activities (barbeque, dining, social activities, gardens, artifacts, etc.) would be needed in addition to interior space needs.

The facility program includes the relocation of Stanislaus County Area Agency on Aging and Veterans Services from its current location to a proposed new Veterans Center. Aging and Veterans Services require approximately 8,000 net square feet of office space, and would provide a weekday presence at the proposed site.

ATTACHMENT A

Facility Needs Program

- 1.1 Veterans Hall
- 1.2 Veterans Services
- 1.3 Exterior Area

1.0 Veterans Hall

Stanislaus County

Workstation and Space Requirements Database

Line Nbr	Description/ Priority Code [A, B, C]	Code/ Std SF	Quantity			Square Feet				
			2015	2020	2025	2015	2020	2025		
3.1.1.0	Entry Vestibule [A]					-	-	-		
3.1.1.1	Information/Exhibit Floor Display	Directory	DSP40	40	1	1	1	40	40	40
3.1.1.2	Flags, Artifacts		DSP40	40	2	2	2	80	80	80
3.1.1.3	Vestibule		OA200	200	1	1	1	200	200	200
3.1.2.0	Veterans Organization Offices [A]									
3.1.2.1	Shared Private Office	Shared Use	SPO5	168	4	4	4	672	672	672
3.1.2.2	Storage with Lockable Partitions	Club Storage	ER400	400	1	1	1	400	400	400
3.1.2.3	Shared Temporary Service Office	Shared Use	SPO3	120	4	4	4	480	480	480
3.1.2.4	Conference Room 16 Persons	Multi Use	CNF16	320	1	1	1	320	320	320
3.1.2.5	Conference Room 30 Persons	Multi Use	CNF30	600	2	2	2	1,200	1,200	1,200
3.1.2.6	Conference Room 40 Persons	Multi Use	CNF40	800	1	1	1	800	800	800
3.1.2.7	Armed Forces Recruiting Office	Multi Use	PO3	120	4	4	4	480	480	480
3.1.3.0	Assembly Hall/Multi-Purpose [A]	Cap. 500	ER7500	7500	1	1	1	7,500	7,500	7,500
3.1.4.0	Day Room/Activity Room [C]									
3.1.4.1	Sofa/Couch 3 Seats		SOFA3	36	2	2	2	72	72	72
3.1.4.2	Sofa/County 4 Seats		SOFA4	48	2	2	2	96	96	96
3.1.4.3	Coffee Table		COFT	14	4	4	4	56	56	56
3.1.4.4	Television		OA40	40	1	1	1	40	40	40
3.1.4.5	Worktable Acc 4 Sides; 36" x 72"		WTO36	88	3	3	3	264	264	264
3.1.4.6	Gaming		OA60	60	4	4	4	240	240	240
3.1.4.7	Partitioned Workstation (Unassigned)	Shared Computer	USF1	48	2	2	2	96	96	96
3.1.4.8	Printer Stand		PRTR	13	1	1	1	13	13	13
3.1.4.9	Side Chair		SC	12	4	4	4	48	48	48
3.1.5.0	Beverage Bar [B]	Lockable								
3.1.5.1	Cocktail Table	4 seats ea	WTO33	64	6	6	6	384	384	384
3.1.5.2	Workcounter Acc 2 Side; 36"w 36"d	30 l.f.	WSC36	24	10	10	10	240	240	240
3.1.5.3	Counter seating		OA15	15	10	10	10	150	150	150
3.1.5.6	Storage Room		ER400	200	1	1	1	200	200	200
3.1.6.0	Kitchen [A]									
3.1.6.1	Serving Area		ER800	800	1	1	1	800	800	800
3.1.6.2	Clean-Up/Scullery		ER650	650	1	1	1	650	650	650
3.1.6.3	Commercial Kitchen/Food Prep Area		ER900	900	1	1	1	900	900	900
3.1.6.4	Dry Food Storage		ER400	400	1	1	1	400	400	400
3.1.6.5	Walk-In Refrigerator		ER250	250	1	1	1	250	250	250
3.1.6.6	Walk-In Freezer		ER250	250	1	1	1	250	250	250
3.1.7.0	Movable Furniture Storage [A]		ER240	240	1	1	1	240	240	240
Subtotal, Workstations and Square Feet								17,561	17,561	17,561
Circulation Allowance						30% Average Allowance		5,274	5,274	5,274
Total Net Square Feet								22,835	22,835	22,835
Total Workstations and Net Square Feet								22,835	22,835	22,835

1.2 Veterans Service Office

Stanislaus County

and County Area Agency on Aging

Workstation and Space Requirements Database

Line Nbr	Description	Code/ Std SF	Quantity			Square Feet			
			2015	2020	2025	2015	2020	2025	
3.2.1.0	Reception/Shared Veterans and AAA								
3.2.1.1	Waiting Area 12 Persons; Stack Seating	WAIT12	192	1	1	1	192	192	192
3.2.1.2	Information/Exhibit Floor Display	DSP40	40	1	1	1	40	40	40
3.2.1.3	Coffee Station	COF	15	1	1	1	15	15	15
3.2.2.0	Public Counter/Veterans Services								
3.2.2.1	Receptionist	SF3	80	1	1	1	80	80	80
3.2.2.2	Partitioned Workstation (Unassigned) Volunteer	USF3	80	4	4	4	320	320	320
3.2.2.3	Photocopier Medium; Freestanding	PCO2	42	1	1	1	42	42	42
3.2.2.4	Workcounter Acc 1 Side; 36" w 24" d	WCA36	14	4	4	4	56	56	56
3.2.2.5	Fax/Typewriter Stand	TYPE	7	1	1	1	7	7	7
3.2.3.0	Public Counter/Area Agency on Aging								
3.2.3.1	Receptionist	SF3	80	1	1	1	80	80	80
3.2.3.2	Partitioned Workstation (Unassigned) Volunteer	USF3	80	2	2	2	160	160	160
3.2.3.3	Typewriter Stand	TYPE	7	1	1	1	7	7	7
3.2.3.4	Workcounter Acc 1 Side; 36" w 24" d	WCA36	14	4	4	4	56	56	56
3.2.4.0	Copy/Work Room								
3.2.4.1	Photocopier Large; Production	PCO3	172	1	1	1	172	172	172
3.2.4.2	Worktable Acc 1 Side; 36" x 72"	WTA36	33	2	2	2	66	66	66
3.2.4.3	Workcounter Acc 1 Side; 36" w 24" d	WCA36	14	3	3	3	42	42	42
3.2.5.0	Storage - General								
3.2.6.0	Storage - Brochure/Referral Information								
3.2.7.0	Veterans Representative	ER140	140	1	1	1	140	140	140
3.2.8.0	AAA Manager	ER80	80	1	1	1	80	80	80
3.2.9.0	AAA Counselor	PO3	120	4	5	5	480	600	600
3.2.10.0	AAA Outreach Volunteer	PO4	140	1	1	1	140	140	140
3.2.11.0	AAA Volunteer	PO3	120	1	1	1	120	120	120
3.2.12.0	AAA Volunteer	PO3	120	1	1	1	120	120	120
3.2.12.0	File Room								
3.2.12.1	File Cabinet, Vertical 4 Drawer; Legal	SPO3	120	1	1	1	120	120	120
3.2.12.2	Worktable Acc 1 Side; 36" x 72"	SPO3	120	1	1	1	120	120	120
3.2.12.3	Storage Cabinet 2 Dr; 24" d x 48" w Lock	FVB4	9	16	18	20	144	162	180
3.2.13.0	Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy (AAA)								
3.2.13.1	Senior Information/Assistant Specialist	WTA36	33	1	1	1	33	33	33
3.2.13.2	Volunteer Coordinator	SCB	22	2	2	2	44	44	44
3.2.14.0	Prevention & Early Intervention (AAA)								
3.2.14.1	Lead Worker	SF4	100	1	1	1	100	100	100
3.2.14.2	Social Worker	SF4	100	2	2	2	200	200	200
3.2.14.3	Administrative Assistance	SF4	100	1	1	1	100	100	100
3.2.15.0	Director								
3.2.16.0	Program Manager								
3.2.17.0	Multi Senior Services Program (MSSP)								
3.2.18.0	Program Manager								
3.2.18.1	Account Clerk	PO3	120	1	1	1	120	120	120
3.2.18.2	Social Worker	SF4	100	3	3	3	300	300	300
3.2.18.3	Nurse	SF4	100	1	1	1	100	100	100
3.2.18.4	Social Worker/Intrem	SF2	64	2	2	2	128	128	128
3.2.18.5	File Cabinet, Lateral 5 Drawer; Letter; 48" w	FLB5	16	4	4	4	64	64	64
3.2.18.6	Workcounter Acc 1 Side; 36" w 24" d	WCA36	14	2	2	2	28	28	28
3.2.18.7	File Cabinet, Vertical 4 Drawer; Legal	FVB4	9	2	2	2	18	18	18
3.2.18.8	Printer Stand	PRTR	13	1	1	1	13	13	13
3.2.18.9	Coffee Station	COF	15	1	1	1	15	15	15
3.2.19.0	Healthy Aging Program								
3.2.19.1	Healthy Aging Program Coordinators	SF4	100	4	4	4	400	400	400
3.2.19.2	Storage Closet Locking	STG40	40	1	1	1	40	40	40
3.2.19.3	Photocopier Small; Convenience	PCO1	30	1	1	1	30	30	30
3.2.20.0	Break Room								
3.2.20.1	Kitchenette 14' w w/ Sink, Refrig., Micro.	KIT2	77	1	1	1	77	77	77
3.2.20.2	Workcounter Acc 1 Side; 36" w 24" d	WCA36	14	4	4	4	56	56	56
3.2.20.3	Worktable Acc 4 Sides; 36" x 84"	WTO37	96	2	2	2	192	192	192
3.2.20.4	Vending Machine	VEND	15	2	2	2	30	30	30
3.2.20.5	Conference Room 24 Persons	CNF24	480	1	1	1	480	480	480
3.2.21.0	Large Conference Rooms								
3.2.22.0	Conference Room 20 Persons	CNF20	400	1	1	1	400	400	400
Subtotal, Workstations and Square Feet				28	29	29	6,215	6,353	6,371
Circulation Allowance				29% Average Allowance			1,810	1,847	1,853
Total Net Square Feet							8,025	8,200	8,224
Total Workstations and Net Square Feet				28	29	29	8,025	8,200	8,224

1.3 Veterans Hall (Exterior Area)

Stanislaus County

Workstation and Space Requirements Database

Line Nbr	Description	Code/ Std SF	Quantity			Square Feet		
			2015	2020	2025	2015	2020	2025
3.X.1.0	Artifact Display	OA10000 10000	1	1	1	10,000	10,000	10,000
3.X.1.1	Table Seating Area, 15 x 4 cap ea	WTO48 117	15	15	15	1,755	1,755	1,755
3.X.1.2	Outdoor Grill/BBQ Area	OA1500 1500	1	1	1	1,500	1,500	1,500
3.X.1.3	Memorial Garden	OA10000 10000	1	1	1	10,000	10,000	10,000
						-	-	-
Subtotal, Workstations and Square Feet						23,255	23,255	23,255
Circulation Allowance						8,139	8,139	8,139
Total Net Square Feet						31,394	31,394	31,394
Total Workstations and Net Square Feet						31,394	31,394	31,394

Veterans Facility

Stanislaus County

Space Requirements Database Summary

Section	Description	Total Net Square Feet		
		2015	2020	2025
3.1	Veterans Hall	23,105	23,105	23,105
3.2	Veterans Service Office	8,025	8,200	8,224
Summary -- Enclosed Building Area -- Net Square Feet		31,130	31,304	31,328
	Est. Building Efficiency (Net-to-Gross Area)	85.00%		
		5,493	5,524	5,529
	Est. Gross Square Feet	36,623	36,828	36,857

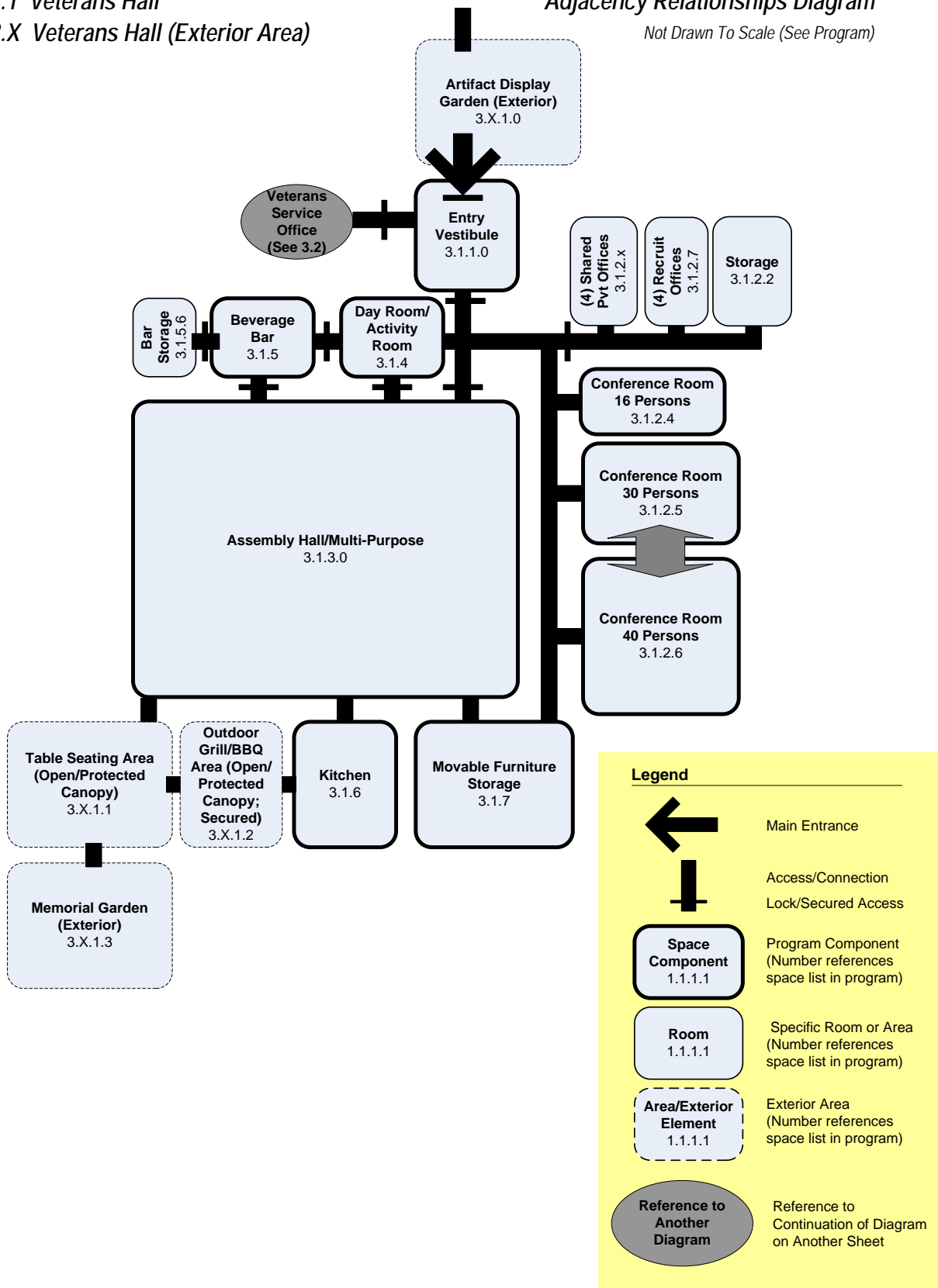
ATTACHMENT B

Adjacency Diagrams

3.1 Veterans Hall
3.X Veterans Hall (Exterior Area)

Adjacency Relationships Diagram

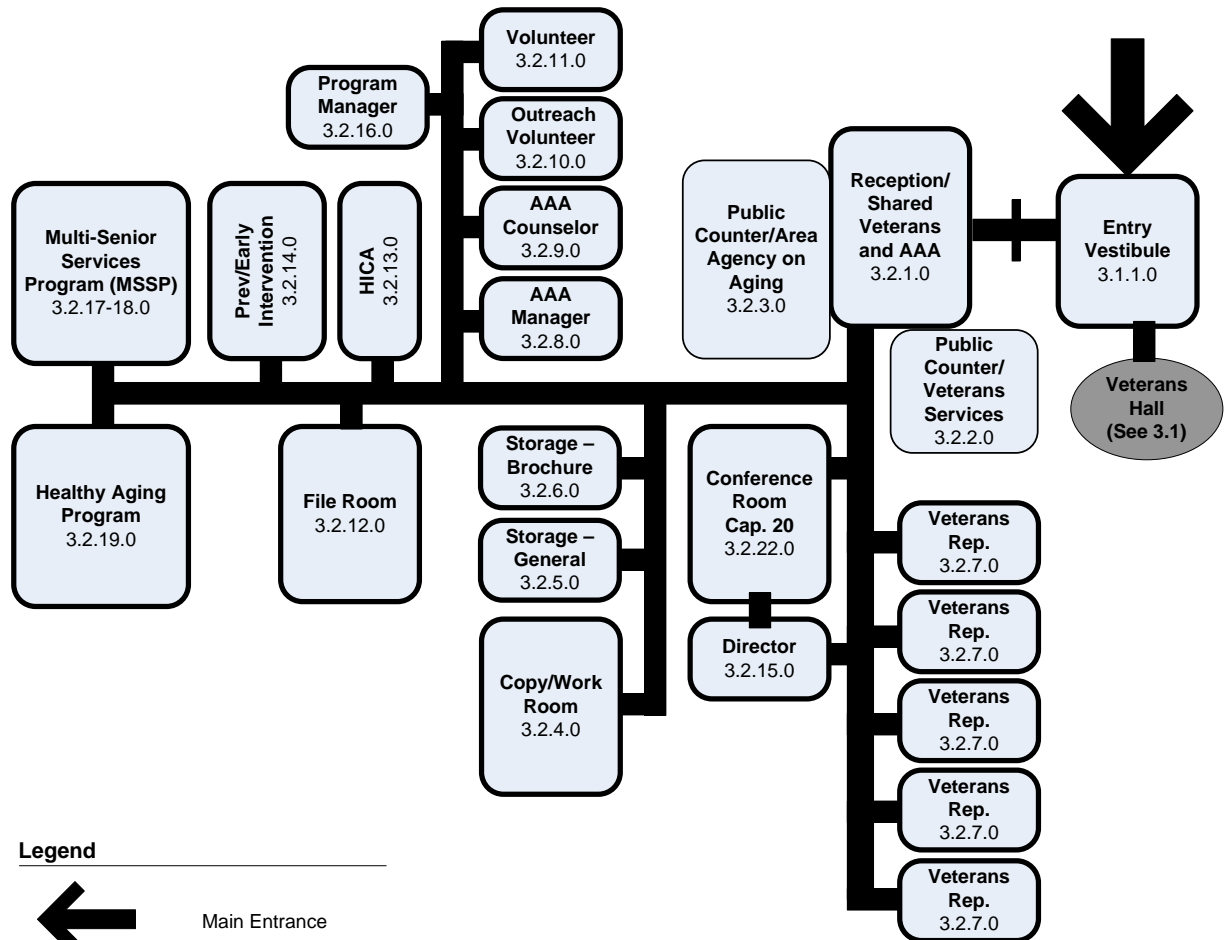
Not Drawn To Scale (See Program)



3.2 Veterans Service Office

Adjacency Relationships Diagram

Not Drawn To Scale (See Program)



Legend



Main Entrance



Access/Connection
Lock/Secured Access



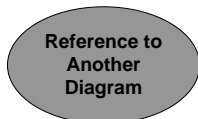
Program Component
(Number references
space list in program)



Specific Room or Area
(Number references
space list in program)



Exterior Area
(Number references
space list in program)



Reference to
Continuation of Diagram
on Another Sheet

ATTACHMENT C

**Facilities Planning Workshop
Discussion and Summary
February 2, 2013**

Workshop Outline

INTRODUCTIONS AND PRESENTATION

- I. Welcome and Introductions (Richard Edgecomb, Chairperson, Veterans Advisory Commission)
- II. Introduction of the Veteran's Advisory Commission
 - a. About the Veteran's Advisory Commission (Patricia Hill Thomas, Stanislaus County Chief Operations Officer)
 - b. Introduction of the Facilities Committee of the Veterans Advisory Commission (Richard Sylvester, Chairperson, Facilities Committee)
 - c. Purpose of the Workshop
 - i. Priorities established by the Commission include:
 - Facilities for Veterans [Focus of this Workshop]
 - Transportation
 - Employment
 - Outreach
- III. Identifying Facilities Needs (Tim Fedorchak, Stanislaus County CEO-Capital Projects)
 - a. Process for Identifying and Prioritizing Facilities Needs
 - i. Previous Survey of Needs in 2004/2005.
 - Input from Veterans to Update the Needs Assessment.
 - Understand and Plan for needs of all Veterans groups.
 - ii. Update Survey Issued in December, 2012.
 - Returned address: Please ensure your contact information is correct with the Veterans Services office.
 - 17 completed surveys were returned by January 18, 2013.
 - iii. Survey Findings Will Be Reported to the Facilities Committee and to the Veterans Advisory Commission at their next meeting.
 - iv. This input will be considered in the development of a report of findings (Facilities Needs Assessment) by the Facilities Committee.
 - v. The Veterans Advisory Commission will report its findings and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

SURVEY RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- IV. Basic Information About Respondents
 - a. Group membership: Average responding group had 153 members; ranging from 10 to 800 members.
 - a. Group meeting frequency: Responding groups meet either twice monthly or weekly.
 - b. On average, 19 persons regularly attend group meetings; ranging from 4 to 35 members.
 - c. Existing meeting locations were identified:
 - i. American Legion Hall (1001 South Santa Cruz Avenue, Modesto) [7 groups]
 - ii. American Legion Hall – Ceres
 - iii. VFW Posts in Ripon and Ceres (West Hatch Road)

- iv. Church facilities in Modesto, Patterson and Turlock
 - v. Modesto Junior College East Campus
 - vi. IOOF Hall in Hughson
 - vii. Two groups had no regular meeting place (meeting location varies)
- V. On-Site Food and Beverage Services
- a. 86% of member¹ respondents currently provide food services.
 - b. One group wants, but does not currently provide food services.
 - c. Four groups current provide food service, but do not indicate a need to do so in the future.
 - d. Four groups (representing 947 veterans) indicated that delivered or catered food service is needed.
 - e. 11 of 17 responding groups provide non-alcoholic beverages.
 - f. Eight indicated that alcoholic beverages were served.
 - g. Three indicated that providing beverages is desired.
 - h. Discussion:
 - i. Define food services:
 - Full kitchen, barbeque
 - Helps with fund raising
 - Needed for awards dinners/recognition ceremonies
 - Can be conducted in coordination with schools
 - Should be centralized/located in a central place
 - Should include a bar
 - May include food basket preparation
 - Should accommodate large gatherings of 200+ persons
 - Needs bus services
 - Needs a large dining hall
 - Should be available for rent by non-veteran groups
 - Maximum size should be 300 to 500 persons
 - Minimum size should be 200 persons
 - Turlock has a facility for up to 300 persons
 - Needs adequate parking
 - Facility and parking should be well lit
 - Must be accessible
 - Would facilitate events – Invite Commanders’ meetings
 - Should accommodate conventions
 - ii. Food services and facilities:
 - Non-alcoholic beverages should be served
 - Dispenser/Vending can be used
 - Should have television, tables
 - Merced has an excellent example facility
 - Serving alcohol increases liability, control and use issues
 - Alcohol service may affect insurance costs

¹ Percentage of veteran members represented by the responding groups.

- Centralized facility would mean longer driving distances
- Alcohol/bar use events should be limited to special uses only
- The bar revenue supports the Post in Turlock
- Special license would be needed for veterans
- Would require special rules applicable to alcohol consumption
- Would require additional security

VI. Social Gatherings

- a. 26% of the represented membership had facilities available for audio-video presentations.
- b. 51% of the membership indicated a need for “training” or “presentation” type facilities.
- c. Discussion:
 - Facility should support network access
 - Should have an appropriately high ceiling for group events such as “movie night.”
 - Ceiling-mounted projection screen is needed
 - Floor-mounted power and data outlets should be provided for projection equipment
 - Projection equipment may be ceiling mounted
 - Should provide for a dais or panel seating
 - Should accommodate officers
 - Should provide capability to show DVDs, multimedia

VII. Facilities for Services and Programs

- a. Three groups currently provide assistance programs, education services and counseling services to veterans (representing 24% of the responding groups’ membership.)
- b. 51% of the membership indicated a need to provide assistance or service referral programs, education, and counseling.
- c. Three groups currently provide health referral assistance programs (representing 24% of members.)
- d. Ten percent of the membership indicated a need to provide health service referral programs.
- e. One group provides recreational programs, day use, lounge or social facilities (less than 1% of the responding groups’ membership.)
- f. 58% indicated a need to provide social, day use or recreational facilities.

g. Discussion:

- Should provide wireless access
- Should include private or confidential meeting spaces (providing services to persons in need or with confidential issues)
- Food pantry is needed (for food distribution services)
- Should provide 24-hour assistance to veterans with emergencies
- Can provide high school programs, junior high programs and other children's programming
- Should provide for coordination of sports activities
- Should be collocated with the County Veterans Services office
- A standard reference guide, a "Veterans Resource Book" is needed
- Should include representation (full- or part-time) from:
 - a. State of California Employment Development Department
 - b. Social Security
 - c. U. S. Veterans Administration
 - d. Colleges
 - e. Courts
- USO (Welcoming) centers are needed
- Airports regionally are lacking adequate USO facilities

VIII. Location, Geography and Centralization of Services

- a. Is there a public benefit to "centralizing" services, program and activities at a single site?
- b. Would having a single "central" location provide opportunities, public benefits or concerns?
- c. What should be considered in determining where facilities would be located?
 - Should provide a "one-stop shop" for veterans services or referrals
 - Should provide a Veteran's column in Sunday newspapers
 - Provide an information outlet on social media (Facebook?)
 - Could use "teleminder" information distribution
 - Need to find best outreach methods possible to find veterans
 - One-Stop Shop / Central location is needed
 - One location would avoid duplication of services
 - All roads would lead to one, central location for:
 - a. Veterans Service Office
 - b. Employment Development Department
 - c. VA Medical Services
 - Potential scheduling of [above] services at designated days/times
 - Single location would maximize the public benefits
 - One location should be provided in a safe area (esp. evening events)
 - Transportation to/from facilities is important
 - Need to seek participation of younger veterans
 - Coming together will increase overall membership
 - Coming together will have a financial benefit

IX. Examples of Other Facilities

- a. What other facilities have you seen that are good examples of facilities, programs or services?
- b. What should be avoided? Examples?
 - i. Good examples
 - Amador County facility is privately-owned. Example of a donor-opportunity.
 - Clovis Veterans Facility
- c. Other Comments and Concerns
 - Will this workshop be offered at satellite locations?
 - How will this facility(ies) be funded?
 - What is “central”
 - Map is needed at Veterans Advisory Commission
 - Transportation to facilities is essential

X. NEXT STEPS

- a. Report to the Veterans Advisory Commission on Monday, February 25, 2013 at 5:30 p.m., Modesto Main Library Auditorium, 1500 I Street, Modesto – Basement level.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

ATTACHMENT D

Summary of Veterans Facilities Needs Survey

2013 Survey of Veteran Services Groups and Facilities
Conducted by Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission

Introduction and Instructions

The following survey of Veterans' facilities needs is provided to give individual Veterans and Veterans organizations a way to provide input into the planning for future facilities. A similar survey was conducted in 2004-2005 which resulted in the formation of a Veteran's Advisory Commission to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

This survey is intended help document current needs of veterans in Stanislaus County to assist in the planning for development of a future facility to serve veterans in our community. The survey is intended to provoke your thoughts; please add additional pages and information.

It is our hope that each Veterans organization in Stanislaus County will discuss the needs of its members and to provide information to the Veterans Advisory Board about facility needs by January 18, 2013. The Advisory Board is also planning on conducting a public workshop to allow individuals and groups to discuss veterans' facility needs in Stanislaus County.

When you've completed the survey, please return it:

By mail or in person to:

Veterans Advisory Commission – Facilities Subcommittee
121 Downey Street, Suite 102
Modesto, CA 95354

By fax to: Fax (209) 558-8648

Or by e-mail to: fedorct@stancounty.com

Thank you for your participation and interest!

2013 Survey of Veteran Services Groups and Facilities
Conducted by Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission

The Veterans Advisory Commission to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors is re-evaluating the potential to develop facilities to support Stanislaus County's veterans. This questionnaire is designed to collect information about the number and types of facilities and services provided to veterans at various locations throughout Stanislaus County and the region. Each Veteran's service group is asked to provide a summary of your organization's current and future needs.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated! Please complete and return this questionnaire **by Friday, January 18, 2013** to:

Veterans Advisory Commission – Facilities Subcommittee
121 Downey Street, Suite 102, Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 558-7825 Fax (209) 558-8648

Name of Your Group: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip Code: _____

Contact Name: _____

Contact Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Contact E-Mail Address: _____

Approximate Current Number of Members Locally (within Stanislaus County): _____

How Frequently Does Your Group Meet? _____ Times Monthly.

Average Number of Attendees at Regular Meetings? _____ People (total).

Where do you normally meet? _____

(Name and Address of Meeting Facility)

_____ People (Capacity) of the meeting room.
Approx. Capacity of this Meeting Facility

{Please continue on the following page.}




Veteran's Facilities Survey

Group: _____

Page Two

1. **At your Regular Meetings, do you provide any of the following?** (Please check all that apply)

From the list below, please identify those services and facilities your group provides to veterans **current by checking the boxes in Column A.**

Currently Provided Services 	Currently Needed Services 	Would Likely Be Used If Provided At A Central Place 
(Check all that apply)	(Check all that apply)	(Check all that apply)
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Prepared On-Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Delivered By A Caterer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Alcoholic Beverages.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Alcoholic Beverage/Bar	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Audio-visual Presentations.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Veterans Benefit Assistance Programs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational Programs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Employment/Training Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Counseling Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Assistance Services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Recreational programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Day-use / TV room / Lounge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Housing/Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Showers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Laundry.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide transportation to/from facility.....	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Other</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Using the same list, please check those services or facilities **in Column B that you believe are needed** but that are not necessarily provided at this time.

Finally, please check those services or facilities **in Column C that you believe would be used by veterans if provided at a single facility located centrally within Stanislaus County.**

Veteran's Facilities Survey

Group: _____

Page Three

2. What services *that you currently do not have available* would be the most important to provide in the future?

3. Does your organization serve veterans in a specific geographical area?

- All of Stanislaus County
- Central Stanislaus County (Modesto, Ceres, Hughson, Empire)
- North County (Oakdale, Riverbank, Salida, Valley Home)
- South County (Turlock, Keyes)
- West County (Newman, Patterson, Westley, Grayson)
- Other (*please identify*): _____

4. What is the most important factor in determining WHERE a new Veterans facility should be located?

5. What activities, programs or services would best attract new members and provide the greatest benefit to your organization that should be considered in designing a new Veterans' facility?

If you have other ideas or comments, please attach additional pages to your survey.

Please return this completed survey to Stanislaus County Veterans Services at the address or fax number shown on the first page.

Thank You. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

SURVEY RESULTS

Survey of Veterans Needs
Compiled January 31, 2013

Responding Organizations

	Approximate Number of Members	Nbr. of Meeting Times/Year	Average Nbr. of Mtg. Attendees	Regular Meeting Location	Reg. Mtg. Rm. Capacity
	Nbr.	Times/Year	Number	Location	Capacity
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace	13	48	7	Big Valley Grace Community Ch	18
VFW Post 1051, Ripon	50	12	30	12455 W. Ripon Rd, Ripon	150
VFW Post 3199	481	12	15	VFW, W. Hatch Rd, Modest	188
American Legion Post 168	72	12	10	Father Connors Hall, Patterson	95
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316	18	12	14	Post 74 (Modesto); Small Hall	100
Marine Corps League Det 019	65	12	35	Am. Legion 74, Modesto	60
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8	78	12	30	Am. Legion 74, Modesto	110
Am. Legion Post 74	800	60	30	Am. Legion 74, Modesto	75
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary	90	36	20	Am. Legion 74, Modesto Aux	25
Am. Legion Riders	32	24	22	Am. Legion 74, Modesto	40
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72	10	4	4	Honor of the Brave, Varies	75
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres	115	24	10	Am. Legion Hall, Ceres	250
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203	25	12	15	Valley Hope Com Chrch, Tur	30
Disabled American Veterans	250	12	20	Am. Legion 74, Modesto	75
Pearl Harbor Survivors			8	Unknow n	
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center	N/A	240	30	435 College Ave, Modesto JC	30
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson	200	36	25	IOOF Hall, 6941 Hughson Ave, H	60
Total / Percentage	2,299	568	---		
Average	153	36	19		86
Minimum	10	4	4		18
Maximum	800	240	35		250

SURVEY RESULTS

Food Service, Catering, Non-Alcoholic Beverage Services

	Food Service Prepared On-Site			Food Service Delivered/Catered			Non-Alcoholic Beverages Served		
	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally
Total Number of Members Are Listed Where Facility/Service is Provided or Needed									
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace									
VFW Post 1051, Ripon	50						50		
VFW Post 3199	481			481			481		
American Legion Post 168		72	72	72	72	72	72	72	72
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316	18	18	18				18		
Marine Corps League Det 019	65		65			65	65		65
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8	78						78		
Am. Legion Post 74	800	800	800		800	800	800	800	800
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary	90	90	90				90	90	
Am. Legion Riders	32	32		32			32	32	
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72			10			10			
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres	115		115				115		
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203									
Disabled American Veterans	250						250		
Pearl Harbor Survivors									
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center									
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson		200		200			200		
Total / Percentage	86.1%	52.7%	50.9%	34.1%	37.9%	41.2%	97.9%	43.2%	40.8%
Average	198	202	167	-	436	237	188	249	312
Minimum	18	18	10	32	72	10	18	32	65
Maximum	800	800	800	481	800	800	800	800	800

SURVEY RESULTS

Alcoholic Beverages, Audio-Video Presentations, Veterans Assistance Programs

	Alcoholic Beverage / Bar			Audio-Visual Presentations			Veterans Assistance Prgms		
	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally
Total Number of Members Are Listed Where Facility/Service is Provided or Needed									
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace									
VFW Post 1051, Ripon	50			50			50		
VFW Post 3199	481			481			481		
American Legion Post 168		72	72	72	72	72		72	72
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316	18						18		
Marine Corps League Det 019	65		65		65	65		65	65
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8	78							78	
Am. Legion Post 74	800	800	800		800	800		800	800
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary	90	90						90	
Am. Legion Riders	32				32				32
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72						10		10	
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres									115
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203									
Disabled American Veterans									
Pearl Harbor Survivors									
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center									30
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson		200			200			200	200
Total / Percentage	70.2%	50.5%	40.8%	26.2%	50.8%	41.2%	23.9%	57.2%	57.2%
Average	202	291	312	201	234	237	183	188	188
Minimum	18	72	65	50	32	10	18	10	30
Maximum	800	800	800	481	800	800	481	800	800

SURVEY RESULTS

Educational Programs, Counseling Services, Health Assistant Programs

	Educational Programs			Counseling Services			Health Assistnce Programs		
	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally
Total Number of Members Are Listed Where Facility/Service is Provided or Needed									
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace									
VFW Post 1051, Ripon	50			50			50		
VFW Post 3199	481			481			481		
American Legion Post 168		72	72		72	72		72	72
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316				18			18		
Marine Corps League Det 019		65	65		65	65		65	65
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8		78			78			78	
Am. Legion Post 74		800	800		800	800			
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary			90			90			
Am. Legion Riders			32			32			32
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72		10			10			10	
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres	115		115			115			
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203								25	25
Disabled American Veterans									
Pearl Harbor Survivors									
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center	30			30					30
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson		200			200	200			
Total / Percentage	29.4%	53.3%	51.1%	25.2%	53.3%	59.8%	23.9%	10.9%	9.7%
Average	169	204	196	-	204	196	-	50	45
Minimum	30	10	32	18	10	32	18	10	25
Maximum	481	800	800	481	800	800	481	78	72

SURVEY RESULTS

Recreation, Day Use/Lounge, Temporary Housing or Shelter

	Recreational Programs			Day-Use/TV Room / Lounge			Temp. Housing or Shelter		
	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally
Total Number of Members Are Listed Where Facility/Service is Provided or Needed									
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace									
VFW Post 1051, Ripon			50			50			50
VFW Post 3199				481			481		
American Legion Post 168		72	72		72	72			72
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316	18	18		18				18	
Marine Corps League Det 019		65	65		65	65			
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8		78				78			
Am. Legion Post 74		800	800		800	800			
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary		90	90		90	90			
Am. Legion Riders			32		32				
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72		10				10			10
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres									
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203									
Disabled American Veterans									
Pearl Harbor Survivors				8		8			
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center			30	30		30			30
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson		200			200				200
Total / Percentage	0.8%	58.0%	49.5%	23.4%	54.8%	52.3%	20.9%	0.8%	15.7%
Average	-	167	163	134	210	134	-	18	72
Minimum	18	10	30	8	32	8	481	18	10
Maximum	18	800	800	481	800	800	481	18	200

SURVEY RESULTS

Showers, Laundry, Transportation

	Showers			Laundry			Provide Transport. to/fr Facility		
	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally	Currently Provided	Currently Needed	Would Be Used if Provided Centrally
Total Number of Members Are Listed Where Facility/Service is Provided or Needed									
Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace									
VFW Post 1051, Ripon			50			50			50
VFW Post 3199							481		
American Legion Post 168			72			72		72	72
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316							18		
Marine Corps League Det 019								65	65
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8								78	
Am. Legion Post 74		800	800					800	800
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary						90			
Am. Legion Riders								32	
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72								10	
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres			115						
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203									
Disabled American Veterans									
Pearl Harbor Survivors									
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center									30
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson		200			200			200	
Total / Percentage	0.0%	43.5%	45.1%	0.0%	8.7%	9.2%	21.7%	54.7%	44.2%
Average	-	500	259	-	200	71	250	180	203
Minimum	-	200	50	-	200	50	18	10	30
Maximum	-	800	800	-	200	90	481	800	800

SURVEY RESULTS

Notes – Other Services

Other Services: (C) Current; (N) Needed; (U) Used

Valiant Knights-Big Valley Grace	(C) Self-help and Counseling Program (12-Steps)
VFW Post 1051, Ripon	(U) Employment Training, (N) Public Transportation Access
VFW Post 3199	(U) Suicide Prevention and Blood Drive (Counseling), (U) Family Space
American Legion Post 168	(U) BBQ Grill, (U) Counseling, (U) Round trip transportation, (N) Wi-Fi, (N) Computers, (N) AV Sys, ((U) Benefits Counseling, (U) Nursery, (N) ADA, Physically Impaired Access
Korean War Veterans, Mod Ch 316	(N) Storage Room
Marine Corps League Det 019	(N) Flag Poles to Attract New Members
Stan. Voiture 653 - 40/8	(U) Multi-use dayroom for AV-TV and Counseling, (N) Public Transit, (U) Kitchen/Dining, Museum
Am. Legion Post 74	(U) Full kitchen and bar, (N) Seating for 200+, (U) AV Room and Dance Hall
Am. Legion Post 74 Auxillary	(N) Public Transit Route, (N) ADA Parking, (U) Activities Room/Space
Am. Legion Riders	(U) Dinner Hall and Kitchen to serve 250 to 300
Military Order/Purple Heart Ch 72	(N) Employment Training, (U) Parking
VFW 10293 & AL 491-Ceres	(N) Meeting Space with Safety Improvements (N) Counseling, (N) Shower, (N) Low Cost Meals
KWVA War Dogs Ch 203	(N) Medical Health Programs
Disabled American Veterans	(N) Group Meeting Space
Pearl Harbor Survivors	(N) Transportation
MJC Veteran's Resouce Center	(N) Employment Training Program
Amer. Legion Post 872 Hughson	(N) Food Storage, Patio, BBQ, Office/Conference Space, Private Office, (U) RV/Bus Access

Did You Know...

Veterans Advisory Commission
was created by the Board of Supervisors on
April 3, 2012.

Mission statement:

*To represent all veterans in Stanislaus County
by advising the Board of Supervisors and staff
on matters pertaining to veterans.*

**The Commission meets the Fourth Monday
of every month.**

**The Stanislaus County Veterans
Services Office**

Provides the following services:

- Assists with Veteran Benefits at the Federal, State, and County level.
- Advocacy to the Veterans in our community regarding entitlement rights.
- Compensation/Pensions, Medical, Burial, and Military records request.
- Information on Education Programs, Hospitalization, Alcoholism and Drug treatment programs.
- Referrals for PTSD counseling, SSA Benefits, Medi Care/ Medi Cal benefits.
- Dependent and Survivors of Veterans Services.

Sponsored by:

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors
Stanislaus County Veterans Services Office
The Veterans Advisory Commission



Veterans Services Stanislaus County



There are many services available to Veterans. The following guide is a quick reference you can use to find the resources you need.

**The Stanislaus County
Veterans Services Office
(209) 558-7380
www.stancounty.com**

**"Honor is the reward to those who
answer the call to serve."**

Michael Nichols



Employment Assistance

EDD Modesto (209) 576-6118

- Job Searches
- Resume Assistance
- Employment Benefits

Education

- **G.I. Bill (888) 442-4551**
www.gibill.va.gov
- **Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) (888) 442-4551**
www.fedshirevets.gov
- **VA Vocational Rehab Program**
- Chapter 31 (800) 827-1000 www.va.gov
- **Modesto Junior College Vet Rep**
(209) 575-6017
- **CSU Stanislaus Vet Rep (209) 667-3081**
- **CDVA Students Fee Waiver Program**
CVSO (209) 558-7380 www.calvet.ca.gov

Health Services

- **VA Modesto Clinic (209) 557-6200**
- **Vet Center Modesto (209) 569-0713**
(Counseling Services)
- **VAMC Palo Alto, Ca. (650) 493-5000**
(800) 455-0057
- **VAMC Menlo Park Detox/ Recovery Programs (650) 617-2734 (866) 717-1978**
- **VA Suicide Hot Line (800) 273-8255**
- **Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) (800) 848-7254**
- **Medically Indigent Assistance (MIA Program) (209) 558-7232**

Services Available to Veterans

- **VARO Regional Office, Benefits (800)-827-1000**
- **VA Pension: Center St. Paul, Mn. (877) 294-6380**
- **VA Debt Center: St. Paul, Mn. (800) 827-0648**
- **VA Insurance Center SGLI / VGLI (800)-669-6947**
- **Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (800) 829-4833**
- **Special Issues i.e. Agent Orange etc. (800)749-8387**
- **VA Fiduciary Issues (801)708-7306**

California Department of Veterans Affairs

- **CDVA Veterans Retirement Homes (800) 952-6952**
- **Cal Vet Home Loans (866)653-2510**
- **CDVA Student Fee Waiver Programs**
- **VA Certificate of Eligibility**
www.va.gov

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
ACTION AGENDA SUMMARY

DEPT: Chief Executive Office

BOARD AGENDA # B-10

Urgent

Routine

AGENDA DATE April 3, 2012

CEO Concurs with Recommendation YES NO
(Information Attached)

4/5 Vote Required YES NO

SUBJECT:

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Veterans Advisory Commission and Approval of Commission By-Laws

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Adopt the resolution authorizing the formation of the Veterans Advisory Commission.
2. Approve the Veterans Advisory Commission By-laws.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There will be minimal costs associated with the start-up of the Veterans Advisory Commission. The Aging and Veterans Services Department's Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Adopted Final Budget included \$332,305 for the Veterans Services Division.

BOARD ACTION AS FOLLOWS:

No. 2012-149

On motion of Supervisor Withdraw , Seconded by Supervisor Monteith

and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, De Martini, and Chairman O'Brien

Noes: Supervisors: None

Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None

Abstaining: Supervisor: None

1) X Approved as recommended

2) Denied

3) Approved as amended

4) Other:

MOTION:

ATTEST:


CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk

File No. BD-85-1

DISCUSSION:

On August 17, 2004, representatives from local veterans' organizations addressed the Board of Supervisors requesting assistance in the development of new facilities to serve the needs of those who have served in the nation's armed forces. The Board directed staff from the Chief Executive Office, (CEO) and the Veterans Service Office (VSO) to work with these local veteran organizations to identify potential options that might address their facility needs. Currently there are approximately 35,000 veterans in Stanislaus County.

On October 11, 2005, the Board approved the County-wide Veterans Memorial District and Facilities Master Plan, supported the Stanislaus County Veterans Memorial District Committee to proceed with collecting signatures for the formation and election of District Officers and directed staff to return to the Board upon the collection of the required number of valid signatures needed to qualify for the ballot process.

On February 3, 2012, local veterans' organizations presented the required number of validated signatures to the Clerk-Recorder required by law to proceed with the formation of the district. On February 14, 2012 the Board of Supervisors accepted the Clerk-Recorder's Certified Statement of the results of the petition and set a public hearing on March 6, 2012 at 9:10 a.m. to consider the matter. On March 6, 2012, at the conclusion of the public hearing, the Board of Supervisors ordered a special election to vote on the formation of the district and to elect the members of the first board of directors, and directed the County Elections Official to place the measure on the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary election ballot.

On March 9, 2012, the veterans' organizations that sponsored the petition for the Memorial District presented a letter to the Chief Executive Officer requesting the Board of Supervisors withdraw the order for the special election to form a Veterans Memorial District and instead, requested that a local Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission be created. After meeting with staff from the Chief Executive Office and County Counsel, the group felt that the formation of the district would be a tremendous financial burden on the citizens of Stanislaus County. The advisory commission would provide a way to advise the Board of Supervisors and staff on matters pertaining to veterans and facilitate the continued discussions regarding veterans' facility needs.

On March 13, 2012, the Board of Supervisors rescinded prior approval and withdrew the order to hold a special election on the formation of the district and election of the members of the board of directors, adopted an order pursuant to Military and Veterans Code section 1178 abandoning the creation of the proposed district, and directed staff to work with the Veterans organizations and return to the Board of Supervisors with suggestions on how the county may

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Veterans
Advisory Commission and Adoption of Commission By-Laws
Page 3

assist in establishing their goal of creating a more formal organization as well as identifying facility needs.

On March 29, 2012, staff met with members of the veterans organizations that sponsored the petition to discuss the formation of the Veterans Advisory Commission. Based upon these discussions, staff is recommending that the Board adopt the resolution (Attachment A) authorizing the formation of the Veterans Advisory Committee, to include the following:

Purpose of the Veterans Advisory Commission

Commissioners will represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff generally on matters pertaining to veterans, hold informal public meetings, provide the public with information and receive comments relative to veterans' issues.

Membership

Seven commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors; one from each Supervisorial District and two Public At-large representatives appointed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Commissioners must be a resident of Stanislaus County and an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States of America.

Term

Regular members of the Veterans Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors for a term of two years. Four of the original seven members shall serve a single one-year initial term, after which the standard two-year term will apply. At-large members of the Veterans Advisory Commission shall be appointed for a term of one year, and shall be nominated by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Approval of each member shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. Commission members are subject to a limit of six consecutive years of service on the Commission. Former members of the Commission who have termed out may be reappointed to a vacant seat if two years have passed since the expiration of their final term.

Meetings

Meetings will be held monthly. A regular meeting time and location shall be designated by the Commission Chair, and may be amended from time to time.

Approval to Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Formation of the Veterans
Advisory Commission and Adoption of Commission By-Laws
Page 4

Upon approval of the formation of Veterans Advisory Commission, the Clerk of the Board will post the commission vacancies. Candidates for the commission will be returned to the Board for approval on May 8, 2012.

County staff will meet with the Commission or it's designated representative veterans to review the availability of potential facilities and veteran's needs by evaluating:

- 1) Existing locations used or available to veteran service groups throughout the Stanislaus County area. Current meeting locations were identified in a survey conducted in 2004 and will be updated, then geographically plotted for discussion.
- 2) Existing County facility sites and properties to determine if any County facilities may be well suited for dedicated use by veterans.
- 3) Short-term and long-term needs in terms of size, type, location and accessibility. These needs will be documented to serve as a guide in searching for other (non-County) facilities solutions.

Staff will return to the Commission to report the findings of this analysis. Depending on the outcome of the search for meeting facilities, staff will recommend further actions needed to secure long-term facilities for veterans use.

Staff is also recommending the adoption of the attached Veterans Advisory Commission by-laws (Attachment B).

POLICY ISSUE:

Approval of this request supports the Board's priorities of A Healthy Community and the Efficient Delivery of Public Services by providing a mechanism to support local veterans in our community in an efficient and effective manner.

STAFFING IMPACT:

Existing staff from the Chief Executive Office and Department of Aging and Veterans will provide support to the Veterans Advisory Commission.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Patricia Hill Thomas, Chief Operations Officer/Assistant Executive Officer
525-6333

ATTACHMENT B
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION BY-LAWS

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF STANISLAUS
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Date: April 3, 2012

2012-149

On motion of Supervisor Withrow Seconded by Supervisor Monteith
and approved by the following vote,
Ayes: Supervisors: Chiesa, Withrow, Monteith, DeMartini, and Chairman O'Brien
Noes: Supervisors: None
Excused or Absent: Supervisors: None
Abstaining: Supervisor: None

THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED:

Item # B-10

**RESOLUTION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION
AND ADOPTION OF THE BY-LAWS**

Whereas, on March 13, 2012, the Board of Supervisors directed staff to work with veterans organizations to assist in establishing a more formal organization to represent veterans; and,

Whereas, the Veterans Advisory Commission will advise the Board of Supervisors on matters pertaining to veterans; and,

Whereas, the members of this commission will represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff generally on matters pertaining to veterans, hold informal public meetings, provide the public with information and receive comments relative to veterans' issues; and,

Whereas, members of the Veterans Advisory Commission must be a resident of Stanislaus County and an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States of America.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Stanislaus Board of Supervisors does hereby create the Veterans Advisory Commission composed of seven commissioners appointed by the Board of Supervisors; one from each Supervisorial District, and two At-Large representatives appointed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Board of Supervisors.

ATTEST: CHRISTINE FERRARO TALLMAN, Clerk
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors,
State of California



File No. BD-85-1



Attachment B

**STANISLAUS COUNTY
VETERANS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this body shall be the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission. Wherever the term "Commission" is used in these Bylaws, it shall mean the Stanislaus Veterans Advisory Commission.

ARTICLE II

Authority

The authority of the formation and operation of this Commission is set forth by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors' Resolution #2012-XX dated April 3, 2012.

ARTICLE III

Purpose

The purpose of this Commission shall be to represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and County staff generally on matters pertaining to veterans, hold informal public meetings, provide the public with information and receive comments relative to veterans' issues.

ARTICLE IV

Membership

- a. The composition of the Commission shall consist of seven appointed voting members, one from each Supervisorial District and two members from the public at-large.
- b. Members of the Commission shall be residents of Stanislaus County and honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States.
- c. Regular members of the Veterans Advisory Commission shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors for a term of two years. Four of the original seven members shall serve a single one-year initial term, after which the standard two-year term will

Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission
Bylaws

apply. At-large members of the Veterans Advisory Commission shall be appointed for a term of one year, and shall be nominated by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Approval of each member shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Supervisors. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. Commission members are subject to a limit of six consecutive years of service on the Commission. Former members of the Commission who have termed out may be reappointed to a vacant seat if two years have passed since the expiration of their final term.

- d. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.
- e. Members of the Commission shall acknowledge and adhere to all applicable County policies including but not limited to Non-Discrimination; Code of Ethics; Conflict of Interest; Harassment, Discrimination and Retaliation; and Political Activities.

ARTICLE V
Officers

- a. The Commission shall, at its regular meeting in July of each year, elect a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. These persons shall serve for one year.
- b. The duties of the Chair are to preside over all Commission meetings.
- c. The duties of the Vice Chair are to assume the duties of the Chair when he/she is absent.
- d. The duties of the Secretary are to record and maintain the minutes and other records of the Commission, and to receive communications and correspondence addressed to the Commission.

ARTICLE VI
Meetings

- a. The Commission shall hold regular monthly meetings on a schedule to be established and announced by the Commission. A regular meeting time and location shall be designated by the Chair.
- b. The Commission may, through public notification, call for those special meetings it deems necessary.
- c. All special and regular meetings of this Commission shall comply with California Government Code Sections 54950 et seq (The Brown Act).

**ARTICLE VII
Committees**

There shall be such standing, special and ad hoc committees or task forces as the Chair shall appoint with the approval of the Commission.

**ARTICLE VIII
Parliamentary Rules**

- a. The meetings of the Commission shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order* (Revised Edition) and the Brown Act.
- b. Four of the total voting membership at the time of the meeting shall constitute a quorum.
- c. A majority of the Commission members present and voting, provided there is a quorum, shall constitute the vote required for action.
- d. Members are expected to attend all meetings of the Commission. A member who is unable to attend a meeting shall give advance notice of his/her inability to attend to the Chair of the Commission.

**ARTICLE IX
Conflict of Interest**

- a. Commission members shall not make, participate in making, or in any way attempt to use their position to influence a decision in which he/she knows or has reason to know he/she has a financial interest. In all such cases, the affected member shall disclose their interest in the records of the Commission and shall refrain from participating in all discussions and votes concerning the matter in which they have a financial interest.
- b. As an advisory commission to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, members shall refrain from using the Commission or their individual status as members of the Commission, to advocate for or support issues of personal interest.
- c. Commission members shall not use their status on the Commission to support political activities of any kind (this includes use of official County or Commission letterhead, that might imply official endorsement).

Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission
Bylaws

- d. Commission members shall not use, promise, threaten or attempt to use their County position or official authority to influence the political actions of other County officers or employees or those seeking County employment.

ARTICLE X
Amendments

The Veterans Advisory Commission may amend its Bylaws in the following manner: (1) the amendment must be submitted in writing at the monthly meeting preceding the one at which it is to be voted upon, with a copy for each Commission member; (2) at the next monthly meeting the amendment shall be placed on the agenda, for discussion and vote; (3) adoption of the amendment shall be by a majority of the votes cast by the Commission, a quorum being present; and (4) upon approval by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, the amendment will be considered adopted and the Bylaws amended.

ARTICLE XI
Vacancies

Vacancies on the Commission shall exist on the death, resignation or removal of any member, and whenever the number of authorized members is increased. The Commission members may declare vacant the seat of a Commission member who has missed three unexcused absences from the regular meeting dates, during any twelve month period, or has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or has been convicted of a felony. Any member may resign effective upon giving written notice to the Chair of the Commission or the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation.

Vacancies on the Commission may be filled by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors.

June 18, 2013

Veterans Advisory Commission
First Annual Report to the
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Introduction

June 18, 2013

Veterans Advisory Commission
First Annual Report to the
Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors



Mission:

To represent all veterans in Stanislaus County by advising the Board of Supervisors and staff on matters pertaining to all veterans.



- Stanislaus County proudly supports our veterans.
- Over 27,000 veterans reside in Stanislaus County
- Further growth anticipated as many return from active duty in recent conflicts.
- Many in need of employment assistance, education and training programs, benefits, housing, medical and counseling services, and transportation connections.



Stanislaus County is home to over 30 veteran service organizations (over 7,000 members)

- Provide support to veterans
- Many have no regular (or dependable) location in which to meet.



- In August 2004, local veteran organizations requested the County's assistance in the development of new veteran facilities.
- The Board of Supervisors directed staff from the Chief Executive Office and the Veterans Service Office to work with local veteran groups.



- At that time there was planning and discussion about the possible creation of a Veterans Memorial District to support veteran activities in the community and on April 3 2012 the Board established the Veterans Advisory Commission (VAC)



- In May the following were appointed:
 - District #1 – Richard Sylvester (one year term)
 - District #2 – Tom Truax (two year term)
 - District #3 – Richard Barboza (one year term)
 - District #4 – Richard Edgecomb (two year term)
 - District #5 – Richard Gaytan (two year term)
 - Members At Large:
 - Joseph Madden (one year term)
 - Douglas Miller (one year term)



Accomplishments

- At first meeting on May 17, 2012 the Veterans Advisory Commission elected the following officers:

Chairman - Richard Edgecomb

Vice-Chairman – Richard Gaytan

Secretary – Tom Truax



Accomplishments

- The Commission has held 13 public meetings.
- Two Saturday workshops and many committee meetings.
- The public participation has continued to grow for each meeting. At the meeting in May, there were approximately 50 people in attendance.



Needs

Veterans Advisory Commission was formed around the discussion on facility needs, other important issues include:

- Awareness of services available to veterans.
- Door-to-door transportation for disabled homebound veterans, especially for transportation to the Bay Area for medical appointments.



Needs

- Affordable housing for all veterans.
- Outreach and services for homeless veterans.
- Employment and income assistance for all veterans, particularly younger veterans coming back from war who do not have a job or a place to live.



Needs

- Centralized referral system with coordination and communication among all agencies/organizations providing services.



Strategic Plan

On August 25, 2012, the Veterans Advisory Commission held a strategic planning session. The following priorities were created:

1. Define facility purpose/needs within Stanislaus County and implement a strategy to address those needs.
2. Identify and partner with existing education and job placement programs.
3. Develop and implement an outreach strategy.
4. Improve access for veterans to transportation.



Education and Job Placement Committee

Chairman: Douglas Miller, At Large Member

Members: Tom Truax, District 2



Education and Job Placement

- Emphasis on developing a bridge between veterans and the organizations and agencies that provide education and job placement services.
- The intent was not to reinvent or duplicate what was already available, but to provide a link for veterans to these services.
- Focus on veterans 18-34, as the unemployment rate for older veterans is more similar to non-veterans of the same age.



Education and Job Placement

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Worked with Alliance Worknet to discuss the creation of a veterans' job fair with resources and information focused on veterans' needs.
- Developed a tri-fold brochure to provide important information on veteran services available in Stanislaus County along with contact information.



Education and Job Placement

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- These brochures were handed out at a recent EDD job Fair in May 2013. (Attachment B). Over 300 attended the job fair and received the brochure, as well as contact referrals and information from the Veterans Service Office.
- The Committee provided outreach to a new veterans group at CSU Stanislaus and invited them to participate in the VAC.



Outreach Committee

Chairman: Richard Gaytan, District 5

Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4

- All Veteran Advisory Commissioners involved in outreach efforts.



Outreach

- Need to reach out and educate the entire veteran community about services and programs available in the County.
- With a focus on Homeless, senior and non-war veterans and the spouses of veterans.
- Many services available in various locations, but the current system is fragmented and agencies and organizations do not communicate or coordinate services.



Outreach

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Developed news releases to all area newspapers regarding Veterans Advisory Commission meetings.
- Attendance at meetings has continued to grow, with many issues being brought before the Commission for discussion and follow up.



Outreach

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Worked with the Stanislaus County Parks Department to develop a separate fee category for veterans that allowed for a 50% discount on entrance fees for all veterans and free entrance on Veterans Day and a Saturday in May in recognition of Memorial Day.



Outreach

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- Acquired a domain name (stanvets.org) with email accounts that the public could utilize to contact Commissioners.
- Business cards were created that Commissioners could hand out at events and veteran service organization meetings/fundraisers.



Transportation

Chairman: Joseph Madden, At Large Member

Members: Richard Barboza, District 3
Eric Andrews, Richard Madden, Mary Ormonde,
Shawna Reid, and Margie Palomino



Transportation

- Need for a viable transportation for homebound and disabled veterans to attend Bay Area medical appointments.
- Veterans Administration Clinic provides some transportation to the health centers in Livermore and Palo Alto
- A significant number of veterans are unable to access these transportation services due to disability and/or the rural nature of much of the County.



Transportation

- Door-to-door service was needed.
- The Department of Aging and Veterans Services and Veterans Advisory Commissioners met several times with Veterans Administration staff to try to acquire a vehicle for use in Stanislaus County.



Transportation

Activities in Fiscal Year 2012-2013

- CTSA obtained a van that can accommodate three ambulatory veterans and one veteran in a wheelchair.
- Donated by Paratransit, Inc. and is estimated to be delivered to Palo Alto to start processing into the Veteran Administration records this week.



Transportation

- Thanks to the efforts of staff from Congressman Denham's Office and the VA, a second van was obtained from Welcome Home Heroes.



Transportation

- The VA has assumed all the costs and liability for operating the vans and has certified two veteran volunteers to drive the vans.
- Estimated that approximately 80 veterans will potentially use this service.
- Additional volunteer drivers are needed.



Facilities Committee

Chairman: Richard Sylvester, District 1

Members: Richard Edgecomb, District 4
Douglas L. Miller, At Large Member



Facilities Committee

Veterans Facility Needs:

- Lack of meeting space for many groups.
- Need for a single site for coordination of services.
- Accessible by public transportation that is central to veterans.



Facilities Committee

Veterans Facility Needs:

- Consolidation of functions and services by many agencies.
- Shared facility environment; all veteran organizations can utilize facility.



Facilities Committee

Process to Understand Veterans Needs:

- Survey of Veterans Needs distributed December 2012.
- 17 organizations representing 2,300 veteran members responded.



Facilities Committee

Process to Understand Veterans Needs:

- Two-hour Public Workshop conducted on February 2, 2013 with about 60 attendees.
- Veterans Advisory Commission reviewed Draft report in May, 2013.
- Report is attached to the Board agenda item.



Facilities Committee

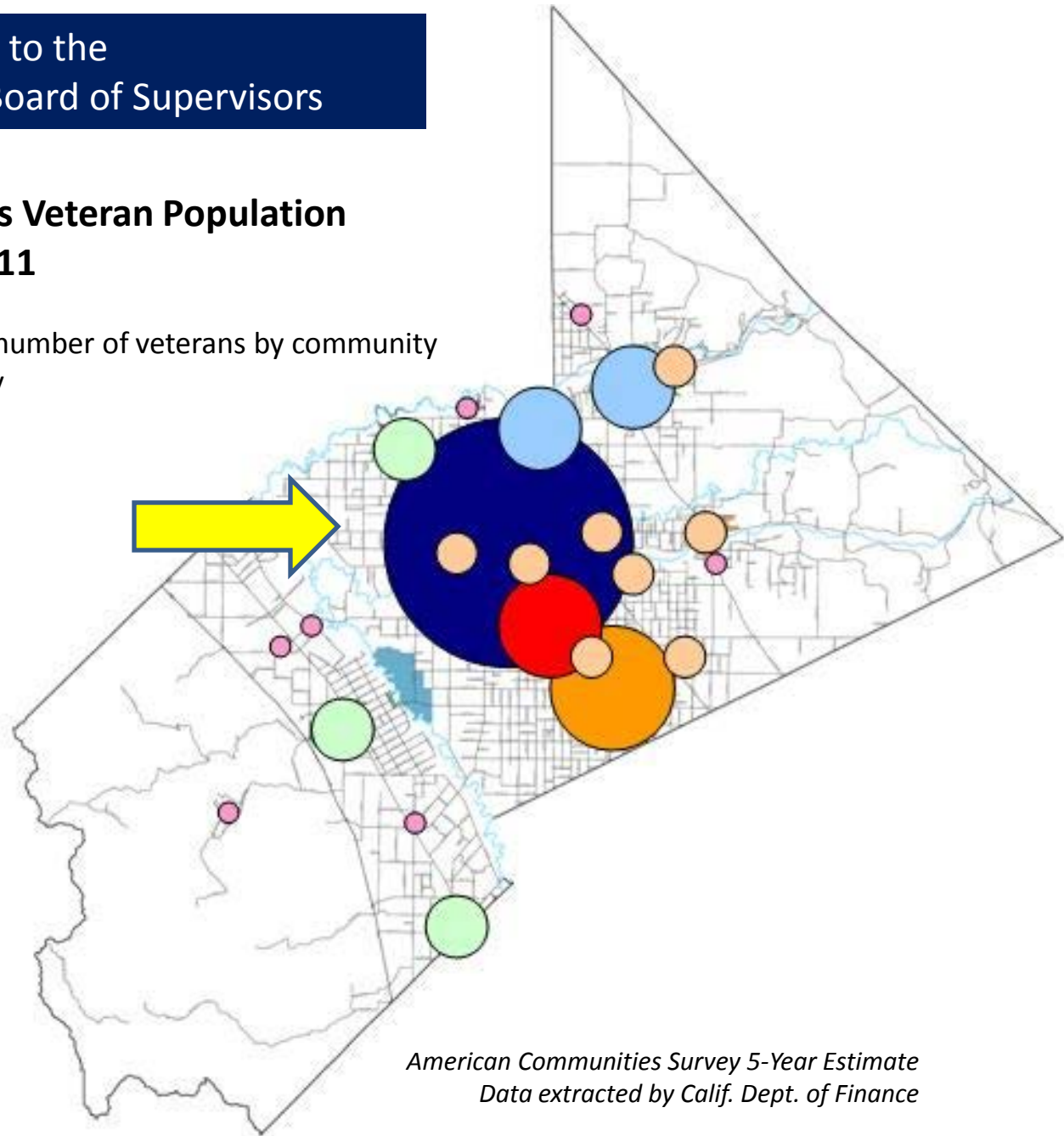
Key Findings:

- Stanislaus County's Veteran population will increase as new veterans returning from service.
- Nearly 45% of the County's veteran population lives in Modesto.

First Annual Report to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors

Stanislaus County's Veteran Population By Community, 2011

Circles indicate relative number of veterans by community within Stanislaus County





Facilities Committee

Key Findings:

- A wide variety of services are available to veterans, but they are delivered by a number of agencies at many sites throughout Northern California.

Medical Services

Housing Assistance

Home Lending

Education

Employment

Business Assistance

Financial Assistance and Counseling

Family Life and Supportive Services

Veterans Community Support

Military Service Support



Facilities Committee

Commission's Recommendations:

- A single, accessible facility will provide for efficient collaboration, and coordination of services.
- Concept of a “one stop” shop can enhance existing veteran services and programs and better leverage existing fiscal resources.



Facilities Committee

Recommendations:

- A shared use space facility will allow various veteran organizations to share information and utilize meeting and event activities.
- Co-locating the County Veterans Services Office and various other veteran organizations and agencies provides access to multiple services and information.



Facilities Committee

Recommendations:

- Provide multi-purpose assembly hall space for up to 500 persons with dining/food services capability.
- Provide space for “on call” services (examples: benefits coordinators, medical screening or immunizations, training classes, etc.)



Facilities Committee

Recommendations:

Total Space Needs: 36,623 square feet estimated

Veterans Hall (Shared Use Space):
23,105 net sq. ft.

County Aging/Veterans Services Office:
8,025 net sq. ft.



Facilities Committee

Next Steps:

- Identify existing facilities and properties that can provide some or all of the needed programs.
- Identify remaining needs that are currently not being met.



Facilities Committee

Next Steps:

- Create Implementation strategy with a cost and funding plan.
- Return to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall with recommended Facility Plan.



Summary

- The Veterans Advisory Commission has worked diligently to accomplish the Strategic Objectives.
- The commission has become a place for collaboration and problem solving for issues facing the veterans community in Stanislaus County.



Summary

- The Veterans Advisory Commission has worked with the Veterans Administration, Congressman Denham's staff, local employment and educational representatives, member of various veteran service organizations, and the veteran community at large.



Thank you to the Board of Supervisors
for your support!



Recommendations

1. Accept the First Annual Veterans Advisory Report.
2. Direct the Commission to develop, with County staff, options for implementation of a Facility Plan, seeking financial partnerships, grants and additional opportunities for collaboration and return to the Board of Supervisors in the Fall of 2013 with additional recommendations.
3. Provide continued support of the Stanislaus County Veterans Advisory Commission.



Questions