

COUNTY OF NEVADA  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



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Julie Patterson Hunter,  
Clerk of the Board

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
Board Agenda Memo

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**MEETING DATE:** November 16, 2021  
**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Julie Patterson Hunter  
**SUBJECT:** Resolution designating the Chinese Cemetery, located at 9 Kidder Court, Nevada City, CA 95959 (APN 037-050-071) as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-06

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**RECOMMENDATION:** Adopt the attached Resolution.

**FUNDING:** N/A

**BACKGROUND:** The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) submitted an application to the Board of Supervisors on September 17, 2021, requesting that the Board approve the designation of the Chinese Cemetery as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

The earliest Chinese pioneers came to California in 1849 and 1850. The 1852 state census recorded 3,396 Chinese living in Nevada County, about 20% of its total population. Soon, anti-Chinese sentiment forced the Chinese to establish their own segregated cemetery. They then began conducting burials at the site of the present Chinese Cemetery. While the land was then owned by the Bureau of Land Management, it was common practice at that time for cemeteries to be placed on public lands without obtaining permission.

The Ramey family, which previously owned the parcel on which the cemetery is located, restored the cemetery to its original look. The large wooden gates were accurately rebuilt, along with the white picket fence at the entrance. There are hollows in the ground where the Chinese were buried and, due to Chinese traditional practices, often later exhumed and returned to China. The cemetery spirit shrine (altar) and the incinerator have been carefully restored as well. There are other relics and historic artifacts around the site including ceramics and stoneware. This site has a direct connection to Nevada County's gold mining history from 1850-1900.

Dan and Erin Thiem, managing members of property's owner, Inn Town Development LLC (now also the site of the Inn Town Campground, adjacent to the cemetery) have pledged financial support and labor to maintain the cemetery with Chinese Historical Society of America (CHSA) guidance. The CHSA also requires that the site be designated as a historical landmark. The goal is to maintain the cemetery and surrounding environs in order to keep local history alive, contribute to the local economy, and serve as an attraction for the neighboring campground and visitor center that they manage and run.

Therefore, the Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors designate this site as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

**Item Initiated by:** Sarah Holyhead, Administrative Analyst II  
**Item Approved by:** Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board  
**Submittal Date:** October 29, 2021