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NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: July 13, 2021
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Julie Patterson Hunter
SUBJECT: Resolution endorsing and certifying the North San Juan Protestant Cemetery located at 27994 Cemetery Alley, North San Juan, CA 95960 (APN 060-092-002-000) as Nevada County Historical Landmark NEV 21-04.

RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached resolution.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND: The Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission (NCHLC) submitted a letter to the Board of Supervisors on May 23, 2021, requesting that the Board approve the designation of the North San Juan Protestant Cemetery as a Nevada County Historical Landmark.

Founded in 1851 as a Protestant cemetery, this is the largest property within the District with the most burials. The cemetery is an almost complete representation of Christian grave symbolism at the time. The historical designation of this cemetery is part of the Historical Landmarks Commission's work to designate all local cemeteries with historical significance.

Under the care of the Nevada Cemetery District (NCD), this unusually large and beautiful cemetery has served as a place of internment since 1851. It holds the remains of hundreds of individuals with many life stories related to the Gold Rush. Since the cemetery lies next to Highway 49, its easy access makes it a choice for visitation by Nevada County residents and visitors, alike. Its unusual size, with numerous headstones in place, makes it particularly interesting.

As an example of the importance and significance of the cemetery to the community, Eagle Scout and Ghidotti High School student Jonathan Beck chose this cemetery as a project to complete his rank in 2016. Beck surveyed and mapped the entire cemetery. Prior to that, NCD had no known map of the plots -- they only had an inventory of what they were able to write down from the headstones. Beck's map has been added to NCD's files and helps greatly in their efforts to assist the public looking for specific graves.

Attached to this report is the NCHLC submittal to the Board with its recommendation to designate this site, including their application and supporting documents. Staff recommends the Board proceed with this historical landmark designation.

Item Initiated by: Sarah Holyhead, Administrative Analyst II

Item Approved by: Jeffrey Thorsby on behalf of Julie Patterson Hunter, Clerk of the Board

Submittal Date: June 28, 2021

Revision Date: June 30, 2021