

Fact Sheet

June 22, 2011

Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 (VPEA) Master Plan – Final Ruling

On January 19, 2011, The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) published a notice in the Federal Register inviting public comment on the Draft Master Plan for the West Los Angeles (WLA) Veterans Affairs Medical Center, the largest facility within VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System (GLA). After review of the comments, VA is presenting the final Master Plan to Veterans, stakeholders, and the public.

This Master Plan supports the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' goal to end homelessness among Veterans by 2015 and expand potential modernization projects that are available for therapeutic and supportive housing for homeless Veterans. When completed, Buildings 205, 208, and 209 will add to the existing on-campus housing currently available to Veterans through our partnerships with the non-profit organizations New Directions, Inc. and The Salvation Army. In addition to these on-campus services, VA will continue to provide off-campus housing opportunities for Veterans facing homelessness through HUD-VA Supported Housing and VA Grant and Per Diem programs in the community.

The WLA Master Plan incorporates the work of previous planning studies and sets forth priorities and guiding principles that will serve as tools to address future development for the unplanned portions of the campus. The Plan is based on the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services process and the new Strategic Capital Investment Planning process, a VA-wide planning tool for facilities and infrastructure. This Plan also satisfies the legislative mandate of the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998, which required "...the development of a master plan for the use of the lands...over the next 25 years and over the next 50 years."

Outlined in the Plan are potential modernization projects that provide direct benefit for Veterans through VA programs and services at the WLA campus. Projects under consideration as funds become available include:

- Constructing a new inpatient tower (clinical expansion)
- Centralizing the research activities and locating them adjacent to the clinical area
- Collocating the VA Regional Office staff onto WLA grounds
- Expanding the Los Angeles National Cemetery onto the campus

The Master Plan conforms to the relevant laws in effect on the date of publication. A change in law, such as the Administration's proposed Civilian Property Realignment Act, could impact this property. If these laws change, VA will update the Master Plan accordingly. In addition, this plan is intended to be flexible and does not provide an implementation schedule, nor does it commit funding for specific projects.

The above initiatives ensure that VA is offering Veterans comprehensive services in one location.

The Master Plan supports the goal of creating a therapeutic and Patient-Centered Care environment at WLA. Under the Master Plan, GLA will maintain current land use agreements and lease arrangements. As each agreement expires, renewal will be based upon priorities and guiding principles as established in the Master Plan. These priorities include direct benefit for Veterans, fulfillment of VA's mission, and compatibility with the community. All future land use agreements will contain language that allows for VA to reclaim any shared property if VA determines it necessary to support Veterans programs.

The Master Plan will be available for public viewing Wednesday at www.losangeles.va.gov.

To view the Final Notice available Wednesday visit: www.federalregister.gov/learn/public-inspection-desk

The Master Plan will be published in the Federal Register Thursday: http://www.ofr.gov/OFRUpload/OFRData/2011-15739_PI.pdf