

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**



ITEM: 2.2
(ID # 30628)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, June 02, 2026

FROM : EXECUTIVE OFFICE

SUBJECT: EXECUTIVE OFFICE: Report back on Expansion of Veterans Behavioral Health Services at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, District 4 [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Approve the plan as outlined.
2. Direct staff to continue outreach and develop a coordinated strategy aimed at improving access to behavioral health and wellness resources for veterans at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park.

ACTION:Consent

Jeff Van Wagenen, County Executive Officer 5/28/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Perez, seconded by Supervisor Washington and duly carried by unanimous vote, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Washington, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: None
Date: June 2, 2026
xc: EO

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By:
Deputy

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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment:	No
			For Fiscal Year:	26/27

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On April 14, 2026, Supervisor Perez presented Agenda Item 3.3 recommending that the Executive Office work with the Veterans Services Department, Riverside University Health System-Behavioral Health (RUHS-BH), and the Regional Park and Open Space District (Parks), to jointly explore the expansion of veterans' behavioral health services at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park.

Veterans in Riverside County face a range of behavioral health challenges, including post-traumatic stress, depression, substance use, and social isolation. While Riverside County provides a variety of services through RUHS-Behavioral Health, Veterans Services, and other departments, there is an opportunity to strengthen coordination and expand supportive environments that promote wellness and recovery.

Riverside County re-named our Lake Cahuilla Park as Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park in 2017 in recognition of the service of our veterans. The County has made over \$10 million dollars in investments to beautify and upgrade Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park over the last few years to enhance public access and public health and wellness, including adding community event spaces, shade structures, renovating the swimming pool, improving campground spaces, and many others. The Park serves as preventative health infrastructure that supports mental, emotional and social wellbeing. As we continue to expand our services to our Veterans and their families, Lake Cahuilla offers a unique opportunity for programming services and events that utilize this thriving, revitalized park space.

Currently, Parks offers the following events and access specifically for veterans and their families:

- RivCo Salutes Veteran Pass:
RivCoParks offers several annual veteran pass options that provide free or discounted access to Riverside County parks, trails, and facilities for eligible veterans, including veterans and disabled veterans. These passes support access to self-guided recreational activities such as fishing, hiking, picnicking, camping, and enjoying scenic outdoor spaces independently or with family and friends. To date, more than 800 veteran passes have been issued, reflecting continued interest in park-based recreation and wellness opportunities for the veteran community.

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- Veterans Fishing Derbies at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park:
Parks assists Supervisor Perez and veterans organizations with the annual Veterans Fishing Derby, an event that provides free access to veterans and their families and with all funds raised going to benefit local veterans' organizations. This derby has now been held five times in the spring. In addition, Parks organizes a Catfish Derby in the fall near Veterans Day weekend.

Beyond the current activities, a collaborative plan between RUHS Behavioral Health, Parks, and the Veterans Services Department will identify opportunities to integrate behavioral health support, wellness programming, and outdoor recreation resources to better serve veterans at Lake Cahuilla. This plan will include targeted outreach and ongoing engagement with the veteran community and partner organizations to better understand service needs, identify gaps, and inform the development of programs that are responsive to the interests and priorities of those being served. Examples of potential programming include:

Behavioral Health (RUHS – BH)

- Mobile Crisis Management Team (MCMT) to launch monthly mobile behavioral health outreach by July 2026 to deliver screenings, wellness check-ins, resource navigation, and peer engagement. RUHS BH will take the mobile crisis van and set up for a half day of walk-in, or scheduled, services as outlined.

Complete full BH assessment for mental health and substance use disorder needs based on screening findings for members, upon completion of assessment appropriate linkages and placements will be made for members willing to engage in services.

- Research Unit to conduct a veteran behavioral health needs assessment and service gap analysis by December 2026 to inform future programming and resource allocation.

Veterans Services

- Conduct ongoing outreach, engagement, and behavioral health-focused listening sessions with veterans, veteran service organizations, the Veterans Administration, and community partners beginning summer 2026 to help maintain a current understanding of the community's vision, wellness priorities, and desired programming for Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, including outreach to younger and underserved veterans not currently connected to traditional support services.
- Incorporate veteran benefits assistance, Whole Person Health Score screenings, and supportive service navigation into community-based events and wellness programming beginning Fall 2026.
- Coordinate an annual veterans recognition and resource event beginning November 2026 focused on honoring veterans while increasing awareness of available county, state, federal, and community-based resources.

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Parks

- Assess opportunities for dedicated veteran parking areas and associated signage by July 2026.
- Expand the existing fishing derbies and community events into resource fairs in partnership with Veterans Services and RUHS-BH, beginning November 2026.
- Assist with outreach and engagement efforts through communication campaigns in partnership with Veterans Services and RUHS-BH, beginning in summer 2026.
- Include specific infrastructure and facility assessments for supporting physical and mental wellness oriented outdoor programming within the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan currently underway (estimated completion in Summer 2027).
- Coordinate with local service providers to host outdoor recreation and wellness activities beginning November 2026.

Recommendations outline potential program development, cross-department alignment, and opportunities to leverage existing resources at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park, which could also serve as pilot program to be expanded to other County parks and local recreation service providers in the future.

Impact on Residents and Businesses

Approval of this item will direct staff to develop a coordinated strategy aimed at improving access to behavioral health and wellness resources for veterans at Lake Cahuilla Veterans Regional Park. Strengthening collaboration among County departments and community partners can help improve outcomes for veterans, support their reintegration into civilian life, and enhance overall community well-being.

Fiscal Impact

There is no immediate significant fiscal impact associated with this action. Implementation of the measures in the plan may require additional fiscal support, to be identified at such future time as elements of the action plan are adopted.