

**STAFF REPORT**

**72**

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P. Huber

**CONSIDER CESSION OF CONCURRENT CRIMINAL LEGISLATIVE JURISDICTION  
PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 126  
OVER LANDS AT THE SEPULVEDA AMBULATORY CARE CENTER AT 16111  
PLUMMER STREET, LOS ANGELES, LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

**PARTY:**

United States, Department of Veterans Affairs

**AREA, LAND, TYPE, AND LOCATION:**

Sepulveda Ambulatory Care Center (SACC), 16111 Plummer Street, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County.

**BACKGROUND:**

Pursuant to Government Code section 126, the Commission is authorized, on behalf of the State of California, to cede concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction to the United States. Legislative jurisdiction is the authority to make and enforce laws within a geographic area. When the State cedes concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction, it grants the federal government authority to enforce State criminal law over federal property yet retains its enforcement authority. The United States seeks these cessions because criminal law of the United States is limited, whereas State criminal law is much more comprehensive. The State, generally, has the authority to exercise its criminal law on federal lands, but the United States cannot do the same without receiving a cession of legislative jurisdiction. This concurrent, or shared, authority provides for greater flexibility in enforcing criminal law. State or local law enforcement officials may struggle to access large or remote federal properties, such as military bases or national parks. However, if the state cedes concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction over such properties, federal law enforcement officials may respond to incidents, ensuring a timelier response while reducing strain on state and local officials.

The Commission may cede concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction only upon finding:

- A. The United States has requested such cession in writing.
- B. The federal lands are held for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards and other needful buildings within the purview

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of clause 17, section 8, article I of the United States Constitution or other federal purpose.

- C. The cession is made pursuant to and in compliance with the laws of the United States.
- D. A notice of the proposed cession has been given to the clerk for the board of supervisors of the county in which the federal lands are located at least 15 days before the proposed cession.
- E. The proposed cession is in the best interests of the State of California.
- F. The United States has agreed to bear all costs and expenses incurred by the Commission in making the cession.

Upon making these findings and the Commission having made a cession, the State and the United States will equally share the State's criminal legislative jurisdiction over lands affected by the cession. The cession shall continue only so long as the lands are owned by the United States and used for the purposes for which jurisdiction is ceded or for 10 years, whichever period is less. In ceding concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction, the State reserves its full civil legislative jurisdiction including its jurisdiction over the land, water, and use of water with full power to control and regulate the acquisition, use, control, and distribution of water with respect to the land affected by the cession.

**PROPOSED ACTION:**

By letter signed by Ezra R. Sadie, Acting Executive Director of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, dated February 6, 2018, the United States has requested that the State of California cede concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction over the lands at the SACC, more particularly described in Exhibit A, for a 10-year period for federal purposes. The SACC provides medical care for 1.4 million U.S. military veterans living in northern Los Angeles.

The United States owns these lands comprising the SACC in Los Angeles County. If approved, this would be the first cession of concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction made over the SACC. Local law enforcement has indicated its support for the proposed cession by written correspondence.

Staff sent notice of the proposed cession to the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors for Los Angeles County on October 3, 2019.

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The United States has agreed to bear all costs and expenses incurred by the Commission in making the cession.

Staff believes all pertinent federal law has been complied with, and the United States has accepted the cession, as required by 40 U.S.C. section 3112, which will be effective upon recordation with the Los Angeles County recorder's office.

**STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION:**

**Authority:**

Government Code section 126.

**State's Best Interests Analysis:**

Ceding concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction over the SACC to the United States will share the State's authority to make and enforce criminal law with the United States. Accordingly, the United States could independently enforce criminal law for crimes committed on the SACC instead of relying on local law enforcement to respond and enforce the law. Thus, the proposed cession would alleviate the burden on local law enforcement agencies while preserving their authority to enforce the law for crimes committed on the SACC, if needed. For these reasons, staff believes that the cession of concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction is in the best interests of the State.

**OTHER PERTINENT INFORMATION:**

1. Approval or denial of the requested cession is a discretionary action by the Commission. Each time the Commission approves or rejects a cession, it exercises legislatively delegated authority. If the Commission denies the requested cession, all legislative jurisdiction will remain with the State. If the Commission approves the requested cession, the United States will share concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction with the State but have no right to a new cession upon expiration of the requested cession.
2. This action is consistent with Strategy 3.1 of the Commission's Strategic Plan to "foster, improve, and enhance relationships, to engage the legislature, public, local, state and federal agencies, legislative grantees, Commission lessees, potential applicants, non-governmental organizations, and the regulated community."
3. The subject cession of jurisdiction is not a project as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act because it is an administrative action that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

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Authority: Public Resources Code section 21065 and California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15378, subdivision (b)(5).

**EXHIBIT:**

- A. Land Description

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

It is recommended that the Commission:

**AUTHORIZATION:**

1. Find that the following requirements of Government Code section 126 have been satisfied:
  - A. The United States has requested in writing that the State cede concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction over the lands described in Exhibit A attached and by reference made a part hereof, said lands being within Los Angeles County, State of California.
  - B. The lands are held by the United States for the erection of forts, magazines, arsenals, dockyards, and other needful buildings within the purview of clause 17 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution of the United States, or for another federal purpose.
  - C. The cession is made pursuant to and in compliance with the laws of the United States.
  - D. A notice of the proposed cession has been given to the clerk for the board of supervisors of Los Angeles County, in which the federal lands are located, at least 15 days before the proposed cession.
  - E. The proposed cession is in the best interests of the State.
  - F. The United States has agreed to compensate the State of California for its cost incurred in processing the cession.
2. Cede concurrent criminal legislative jurisdiction to the United States over the lands identified in Exhibit A, Los Angeles County, for so long as the lands are owned by the United States and used for federal purposes or for 10 years, whichever period is less.

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3. Authorize the Executive Officer or her designee to execute a Resolution of Cession of Concurrent Criminal Legislative Jurisdiction and have it recorded in the Official Records of Los Angeles County.

# EXHIBIT A

LAND TITLE DESCRIPTION  
VA N.P. HOSPITAL SITE  
LOS ANGELES (SEPULVEDA), CALIFORNIA

That certain land located in the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, and consisting of Lots 1 to 4, 13 to 20, and 29 to 32 of Block 20, Porter Land and Water Company, Subdivision No. 1 as recorded in the land records of Los Angeles County, California, MR. 31, pages 3 to 6, and more fully described as follows:

Commencing at a Standard Traverse monument, Reference CEFB 14705, pages 44 and 45, located at the intersection of the center lines of Plummer Street and Haskell Avenue; thence, N  $0^{\circ}32'04''$  E along the center line of Haskell Avenue a distance of 20 feet; thence, N  $89^{\circ}28'00''$  W a distance of 20 feet to an iron pipe which marks the southeast corner of Lot No. 29 and the TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING; thence, N  $0^{\circ}32'04''$  E along the westerly line of Haskell Avenue a distance of 2600.37 feet to an iron pipe on the southerly line of Lassen Street, which point is also the northeast corner of Lot No. 4; thence, N  $89^{\circ}27'53''$  W along the southerly line of Lassen Street, a distance of 2600.05 feet to an iron pipe on the easterly line of Woodley Avenue, which point is also the northwest corner of Lot No. 1; thence, S  $0^{\circ}32'02''$  W along the easterly line of Woodley Avenue a distance of 2600.45 feet to an iron pipe on the northerly line of Plummer Street, which point is also the southwest corner of Lot. No. 32; thence, S  $89^{\circ}28'00''$  E along the northerly line of Plummer Street a distance of 2600.01 feet to the point of beginning and contains approximately 155.21 acres.