

RUSSIAN RIVER CEMETERY DISTRICT  
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May 23, 2025

Senate Appropriations Committee  
California State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 2206  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Opposition to Senate Bill 777 (Menjivar) – Abandoned Endowment  
Care Cemeteries**

Dear Chair and Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee,

On behalf of the Russian River Cemetery District, I am writing to respectfully express our strong opposition to Senate Bill 777, which would require public cemetery districts to assume ownership and ongoing responsibility for abandoned endowment care cemeteries identified by their county's LAFCO.

SB 777 proposes to transfer title, records, and remaining endowment care funds of these cemeteries to local districts, while mandating perpetual care, maintenance, and embellishment. Crucially, this bill offers no additional funding, equipment, or staffing resources to fulfill these obligations.

As a small district in rural Mendocino County, we operate on limited budgets and a lean workforce. SB 777 would force us to take on unfunded liabilities that could jeopardize the care of our existing cemeteries and the sustainability of our operations. Without proper funding mechanisms, this bill imposes a significant fiscal burden on local agencies and constitutes an unfunded state mandate.

We urge the Senate Appropriations Committee to consider the financial impact of SB 777 on small public cemetery districts and to oppose advancing this bill in its current form. We respectfully request that any future discussions on this topic include provisions for state funding or local opt-out authority.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Dana Kornegay  
Office Manager  
Russian River Cemetery District