

Cemeteries

Administration Fee – references to this fee were removed from the plot sales sections and moved to the Miscellaneous Fee section at the end of the cemetery fees section. It is more appropriate that this fee be charged at the time of an interment rather than when a plot is purchased. This fee will replace the Companion Fee, which has been deleted.

Permanent Marker Installation Deposit – this new fee will provide a mechanism for the County to enforce the requirement that a marker be installed within one year of an interment. A significant number of interments have not been marked, and the County has no way to ensure that markers are installed. The marker deposit allows the County to move forward with installing a small marker, without impacting the General Fund to cover the cost. All but \$50 of the marker fee deposit would be refunded if, after one year, a marker has been installed. The \$50 withheld will cover the cost to the County for tracking the deposit and processing a refund. The marker fee was determined by using the lowest cost stone and plaque, totaling a little under \$200. The County's burial services provider agreed to install these markers for a cost of \$200. The rest of the fee covers the cost to the County to track the deposit and purchase a marker if one is not installed within one year of an interment. A survey of six other cemeteries was conducted to determine their practices related to the installation of markers; these practices included no marker requirement, the use of temporary markers, the use of other devices to mark a plot (a sunken vase holder), installation of a marker paid for by the cemetery, and a \$500 refundable deposit (with a \$50 charge for a temporary marker).

Cremains plot fee – the option to purchase plots sized to contain cremains, which has been on the fee schedule for cemeteries in the Georgetown Zone of Benefit, is now extended to all cemeteries in which the County handles plot sales. The fee for the sale of a cremains-sized plot is based on a reduction from the fees for larger sized plots. The fee amount follows the pattern of the partial plot fee (defined as half of a full plot), which is slightly more than fifty percent of the cost of a full plot. The cremains plot, which will be 2'x2' or 3'x3' (depending on the cemetery), is also slightly more than fifty percent of the cost of a partial plot. This fee is lower than the average of similar fees for cemeteries in Nevada and Placer County (average for those fees is \$534). Because most cemetery fees charged in El Dorado County are lower than surrounding counties, a fee study will be conducted to determine if all fees should be adjusted when the fee schedule is reviewed again in 2021.

Endowment Care fee, Georgetown Cemeteries fees – when the fee schedule was updated in 2016, the endowment care fee was not intended to include Georgetown Pioneer Cemetery. At the time the fees were changed, plots were not being sold in Pioneer, so it was not excluded from the list that referenced "the Georgetown Cemeteries." However, there is a small amount of open space, so we are able to sell a plot occasionally (for instance, when a

family member wishes to be buried adjacent to a family plot that is full). Because there are so few plots, the endowment care fee should not be applied, as the funds would never total more than an insignificant amount.

Some small changes were made in various sections to clarify or define information:

- F. Under County-Operated fees – language added to define cremains plots in the Veteran’s Urn Garden at the Placerville Union Cemetery from regular cremains plots in other locations.
- I. Under County – Operated Cemeteries and E. under Georgetown Cemeteries – “in ground” added to Opening/Closing fees for cremains to distinguish in ground interments from those in niches.
- * After Miscellaneous Cemetery Fees section – because some private cemeteries accept prepayment of opening and closing costs at the time of a plot purchase to lock in a lower cost for an interment, a statement indicating that El Dorado County does not accept prepayment of interment costs was added.
- Notes 1 and 2 after Miscellaneous Cemetery Fees section – clarifies that property owners, well as residents, are excluded from paying non-resident fees.
- Note 3 – clarifies that two sets of cremains can be interred in one cremains plot only if they are interred at the same time. To avoid disturbing a previous interment, a second set of cremains cannot be interred at a later date.
- Note 4 – explains the process for handling the refund of the marker deposit.
- Under Cemeteries Division Additional Fees – Maps / GIS fees were deleted as they do not pertain to the division.