



May 19, 2021

**NOTICE OF DECISION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Director of Community Development of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has approved, with conditions, a Special Use Permit to allow Green Hills Memorial Park to stay open until 9:00 p.m. (two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m.) and to conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified live music on Sunday, May 30, 2021, in coordination with an invitation-only Memorial Day presentation to commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The event will comply with Los Angeles County Public Health COVID-19 protocols and Los Angeles Fire Department requirements (Case No. PLSU2021-0002).


**LOCATION: 27501 S. Western Avenue**

**APPLICANT/  
LANDOWNER: Green Hills Memorial Park**

Said decision is subject to the Conditions of Approval set forth in the attached Exhibit A.

This decision may be appealed, in writing, to the Planning Commission, and the appeal would be heard at a special meeting. The appeal shall set forth the grounds for appeal and any specific action being requested by the appellant. Any appeal letter must be filed within five (5) calendar days of the approval date, or by 5:30PM on Monday, May 24, 2021. A \$2,275.00 appeal fee must accompany any appeal letter. If no appeal is filed timely, the Director's decision will be final at 5:30PM on Monday, May 24, 2021. In light of COVID-19 response measures from the Governor of the State of California and the Los Angeles County Public Health Department, and in the interest of the health and well-being of residents and City employees, City Hall is limiting counter hours and walk-ins by appointment only. Appeals should be filed electronically and directed to the Project Planner listed in this notice or to [planning@rpvca.gov](mailto:planning@rpvca.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this application, please contact Amy Seeraty at (310) 544-5231 or via email at [amys@rpvca.gov](mailto:amys@rpvca.gov).

  
Ken Rukavina, PE  
Director of Community Development


Enclosure

Cc: Applicant/Property Owner  
Interested Parties



## MEMORANDUM

**TO: KEN RUKAVINA, PE, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**FROM: AMY SEERATY, SENIOR PLANNER** 

**DATE: MAY 19, 2021**

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL USE PERMIT (CASE NO. PLSU2021-0002)**  
**LAND OWNER: GREEN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK;**  
**ADDRESS: 27501 S. WESTERN AVENUE**

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Approve a Special Use Permit (SUP) to allow Green Hills Memorial Park to stay open until 9:00 p.m. (two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m.) and to conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified live music on Sunday, May 30, 2021, in coordination with an invitation-only Memorial Day presentation to commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, subject to the Conditions of Approval contained in the attached Exhibit A.

### **BACKGROUND**

On January 21, 2020, the City Council approved Revision "E" to the approved Conditional Use Permit No. 55, which, among other things, added Condition 20.5 to allow a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial to be displayed on the property, subject to the following conditions:

- a. *The Moving Wall shall be allowed to remain on display for no more than 10 days per calendar year.*
- b. *Security. The Moving Wall shall be monitored 24 hours a day by security staff hired by the property owner. Any visitors wishing to visit the Wall after the hours of operation detailed in Condition No. 20b shall be escorted on and off the property.*
- c. *Plans. At least 60 days prior to the installation of The Moving Wall on the property, the property owner shall notify the Director of Community Development where The Moving Wall is proposed to be placed.*

*d. Lighting. Any temporary lighting proposed for The Moving Wall shall comply with Mitigation Measures A- 1, A-2, and A-3 as detailed in Condition No. 22.*

On April 23, 2021, a Special Use Permit (SUP) (Case No. PLSU2021-0002) application was submitted to the Community Development Department requesting approval to allow Green Hills Memorial Park to stay open until 9:00 p.m. (two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m.) and to conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified music in coordination with an invitation-only Memorial Day presentation on Sunday, May 30, 2021, to commemorate the display of “The Moving Wall”. Staff deemed the application complete for processing on April 26, 2021.

On April 29, 2021, a public notice was mailed to all property owners within a 500-foot radius of the project site, residences in adjacent Homeowner’s Associations, and to listserv subscribers. Staff received several public comments in response to the public notice, which is discussed under Criteria No. 3 of the “Code Considerations and Analysis” section below and is attached as Exhibit D.

### **SITE DESCRIPTION**

Green Hills Memorial Park is a cemetery located at 27501 South Western Avenue in the northeast corner of the City, bordering the cities of Lomita, Rolling Hills Estates, and Los Angeles. The property is approximately 121 acres in size and is a privately owned and operated cemetery facility within the City’s Cemetery Zoning District. The cemetery is bordered by residential uses to the north and south, a major street to the east (South Western Avenue), and Rolling Hills Covenant Church and the Palos Verdes Reservoir to the west. The operation of the cemetery is governed by a Conditional Use Permit approved by the City Council on January 21, 2020, pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-03. The cemetery operates Monday through Sunday, 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, and 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, and consists of ground interments, mausoleum buildings, an office building, mortuary, chapel, flower shop, and a maintenance yard and related buildings.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The Applicant proposes to:

- Stay open two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m. (until 9:00 p.m. at the latest);
- Conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified live music on Sunday, May 30, 2021, to commemorate the display of “The Moving Wall”.

The fireworks display, which will be set to live music, will begin at sunset, allowing those attending the event to vacate the park by 9:00 p.m. While the site will not be fully closed to the public, the Memorial Day presentation prior to the fireworks will be by invitation-only, and will be located at the Medal of Honor flag site, where “The Moving Wall” will be installed. The fireworks display will be launched from the Belltower area on Hillcrest Drive, located in Area 8 of the cemetery. Medal of Honor flag site.. For reference, the proposed locations for the launching of the fireworks (red star icon) and the Memorial Day presentation (yellow star icon) are located as shown in the diagram below:



## CODE CONSIDERATIONS AND ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code (RPVMC) §17.62.020(A), temporary use of land involving the erection of temporary structures such as fences, booths and tents, or other outdoor activities, require the review and approval of a SUP subject to the following criteria:

1. That the site is adequate in size and shape to accommodate the proposed special use.

The subject property is approximately 120 acres in area, and the proposed fireworks launch site will be located in Area 8 of the Memorial Park, as shown in the diagram below. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and State require a fireworks debris fallout area<sup>1</sup> with a radius of 175 feet. As shown in the diagram on the next page, the subject property accommodates the required fallout area over improved and irrigated landscape, which is located at least 580 feet from the nearest residential property.

<sup>1</sup> The designated area in which hazardous debris is intended to fall after a pyrotechnic device is fired.



**Proposed  
fireworks  
launch site-  
enlarged  
view**

The distance between neighboring properties and the fireworks launch site, and the Memorial Day presentation area varies from approximately 795 feet to 1,000 feet, respectively as outlined in the aerial map below, which will help buffer and mitigate adverse impacts to these properties.



The Applicant is estimating there will be approximately 200 by invitation-only attendees for the Memorial Day presentation and fireworks for which there is ample parking onsite. Guests visiting the park will have access to the available parking in other areas of the site.

Staff is of the opinion that with appropriate Conditions of Approval that locate these events to occur towards the center of the park, that the overall site is of adequate size and shape to accommodate the special event.

Additionally, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff has proposed an additional Condition of Approval that will require the proposed events to comply with the most current Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) current guidelines as well as any California Department of Public Health (CDPH) restrictions. Given the above discussion, this criterion can be met.

**2. That the proposed special use would not adversely interfere with existing uses on the subject property; and would not impede or adversely impact pedestrian access ways and/or vehicular circulation patterns.**

Approximately 200 guests have been invited to the Memorial Day presentation and fireworks display; Green Hills Memorial Park will have over 100 staff members on-site to assist with traffic flow, parking and security. As mentioned in Finding No. 1 above, there is adequate parking onsite for the invited guests, as well as any other members of the public who wish to visit their families' gravesites during the presentation.

The proposed events will not adversely interfere with the existing use of the subject property as a cemetery, because the special event is proposed to take place outside of the regular

hours of operation. Furthermore, Green Hills Memorial Park typically holds Memorial Day events with many times as many people, and these events have not significantly impeded or adversely impacted pedestrian access ways and/or vehicular circulation patterns in the past.

Staff is of the opinion that with adequate Conditions of Approval, the proposed fireworks display and Memorial Day presentation will not adversely impact pedestrian and vehicular patterns, and thus this criterion can be met.

**3. That the proposed special use would not result in a significant adverse effect on adjacent property.**

Based on the public notice, staff received a number of comments expressing concerns regarding the potential adverse impacts of the requested SUP. The following section outlines these concerns along with staff's responses to the comments:

Noise

The proposed Memorial Day presentation will have minimal impact on adjacent properties with the implementation of appropriate conditions, except with the fireworks display, which will be visible and heard for some distance away. However, although the fireworks display with associated music may create some noise impacts to property owners along San Ramon Drive and Vista del Mar, this portion of the Memorial Day events will last a maximum of about 15 minutes. As the entire proposed special event will be temporary and no longer than two hours, staff is of the opinion that these events will not result in significant adverse impacts to the properties that are adjacent to the site. Staff will also send out notifications to interested parties ahead of the event, so as to provide pet-owners an opportunity to secure their pets inside for safety.

Negative Precedent

Staff received several comments from neighboring residents that if the Memorial Day special event fireworks display is approved, this will set a precedent for allowing the site to remain open past the normal operating hours, and for future fireworks displays that will continue to disturb the neighborhoods. Each Special Event Permit application that the City receives is considered on its own merits. However, staff will discuss with Green Hills representatives, their desire for future fireworks displays, and may present information regarding this matter in the annual CUP review.

Fire Hazard

Staff received several comments from neighboring residents and HOAs regarding their concerns about the potential fire hazard that the proposed fireworks display may pose, due to the drought and dry brush in the area. Although the entire City of Rancho Palos Verdes is within a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone, Staff is of the opinion that with adequate safety measures, including review and approvals from the Los Angeles County Fire Department, the proposed fireworks display will not cause a significant adverse effect in the form of a fire hazard. Green Hills Memorial Park is proposing to use the services of Fireworks & Stage FX America, which is a professional fireworks company. They have advised staff of the required

safety measures, which are listed in the attached outline (Exhibit B). These include having a Los Angeles County Fire Inspector onsite during the show, and either having fire trucks onsite or direct radio contact with fire dispatch. These measures also include having a 500-gallon filled water truck onsite, and situating the FAA-required firework debris fallout area well within perimeter of the developed and irrigated landscaped areas of the park. The area will also be monitored by staff with pressurized water extinguishers. Staff has included a Condition of Approval requiring all Fire Department and other pertinent permits be obtained prior to the proposed event, and that if weather conditions warrant, the Fire Department/Inspector has the ability to cancel the fireworks display. However, the Memorial Day presentation would still be able to take place.

#### Fireworks Inappropriate for Memorial Day

Staff received several comments from adjacent residents, some of whom are veterans themselves, stating that they believe the proposed fireworks display is not an appropriate way to observe Memorial Day. They stated that Memorial Day should be a somber holiday, and not be celebrated with fireworks. They also mentioned the possibility of veterans suffering from PTSD, and that the fireworks noise could possibly exacerbate that. As the fireworks display is intended to commemorate the "Moving Wall", which will be on-site during Memorial Day weekend, Green Hills reached out to the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America to obtain their opinion regarding the proposal. While they of course do not represent all veterans, this local chapter of veterans stated in a letter to the City (Exhibit C) that they are in support of the fireworks display.

Staff is of the opinion that due to the physical layout, the location of the proposed event in relation to the surrounding properties, the proposed events, as conditioned, will not result in significant adverse impacts to neighboring properties. Therefore, this criterion can be met.

#### **4. That by requiring certain safeguards as conditions of approval, the proposed special use would not be detrimental to the public health, safety and welfare.**

The proposed event is temporary in nature, as it is proposed to take place between 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. on Sunday May 30, 2021. Conditions of approval have been added to ensure that no significant impacts occur to adjacent properties, traffic, circulation and parking, and to ensure that if the events proceed, they comply with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 restrictions. The conditions include location of the event, hours of the event, and requiring approvals from Los Angeles County Fire as well as any other pertinent agencies, prior to the event. Based on the proposed conditions, which will minimize impacts to neighboring properties, Staff believes that the events will not be detrimental to the public health, safety, and welfare, and as conditioned, this criterion can be met.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

#### Public Comments

Staff received several comments as result of the public notice, which are discussed in Finding No. 3 above.

### CEQA Compliance

Staff has determined that the proposed project is Categorically Exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), under Article 19, Section 15304(e) of the California *Guidelines for Implementation of the CEQA*. This project has been determined not to have a significant impact on the environment because it consists of temporary uses of the land including amplified sound and fireworks.

### Permit Decision Deadline

RPVMC §17.62.060 requires that the Director make a decision regarding a Special Use Permit application no later than 30 days after the application for the Special Use Permit is deemed complete. As the application was deemed complete on April 26, 2021, the decision deadline is May 26, 2021.

### CONCLUSION

Based upon the discussion above, staff recommends that the Director of Community Development approve a Special Use Permit application to Green Hills Memorial Park to stay open until 9:00 p.m. (two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m.) and to conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified live music on Sunday, May 30, 2021, in coordination with an invitation-only Memorial Day presentation to commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, subject to the Conditions of Approval contained in the attached Exhibit "A".

### ALTERNATIVES

The following alternatives are available for the Director to consider in addition to Staff's recommendation:

- 1) Deny, without prejudice, Special Use Permit (Case No. PLSU2021-0002).

Approved pursuant to staff's recommendation:



Ken Rukavina, PE  
Director of Community Development

Date: 05/19/2021

### ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A – Conditions of Approval
- Exhibit B – Fireworks Company Event Outline
- Exhibit C – Vietnam Veterans of America Letter
- Exhibit D – Public Correspondence

**Exhibit "A"**  
**Conditions of Approval**  
**Case No. PLSU2021-0002**  
**(Special Use Permit)**  
**Green Hills Memorial Park**

**General**

1. The Applicant shall indemnify, protect, defend, and hold harmless, the City, and/or any of its officials, officers, employees, agents, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof, from any and all claims, demands, lawsuits, writs of mandamus, and other actions and proceedings (whether legal, equitable, declaratory, administrative or adjudicatory in nature), and alternative dispute resolutions procedures (including, but not limited to arbitrations, mediations, and other such procedures) (collectively "Actions"), brought against the City, and/or any of its officials, officers, employees, agents, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof, by persons other than the Applicant, that challenge, attack, or seek to modify, set aside, void, or annul, the action of, or any permit or approval issued by, the City and/or any of its officials, officers, employees, agents, departments, agencies, and instrumentalities thereof (including actions approved by the voters of the City), for or concerning the project.
2. Approval of this permit shall not be construed as a waiver of applicable and appropriate zoning regulations, or any Federal, State, County and/or City laws and regulations. Unless otherwise expressly specified, all other requirements of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code shall apply.
3. Pursuant to Section 17.78.040 of the Rancho Palos Verdes Municipal Code (RPVMC), the Director of Community Development is authorized to make minor modifications to the approved plans and any of the conditions of approval if such modifications will achieve substantially the same results as would strict compliance with the approved plans and conditions. Substantial changes to the project shall be considered a revision and require approval by the final body that approved the original project, which may require new and separate environmental review and public notification.
4. Failure to comply with and adhere to all of these conditions of approval may be cause to revoke the approval of the project pursuant to the revocation procedures contained in RPVMC Section 17.86.060 or administrative citations as described in RPVMC Section 1.16.
5. In the event that any of these conditions conflict with the recommendations and/or requirements of another permitting agency or City department, the stricter standard shall apply. Unless specified in these or other conditions of approvals, all remaining Council-adopted conditions of approvals and mitigation measures for Conditional Use Permit No. 2020-03 shall remain in full force and effect.

Project Specific Conditions:

6. This approval shall allow Green Hills Memorial Park to stay open until 9:00 p.m. (two hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 p.m.) and to conduct a 15-minute fireworks display with amplified live music on Sunday, May 30, 2021, in coordination with an invitation-only Memorial Day presentation to commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Those attending shall vacate the park by 9:00 p.m. While the site shall not be fully closed to the public, the Memorial Day presentation located at the Medal of Honor flag site shall be by invitation only.
7. The events associated with the Sunday, May 30, 2021 Memorial Day ceremony shall comply with all conditions of approval detailed in City Council-adopted Resolution No. 2020-03.
8. All proposed events shall comply with the most current Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) restrictions regarding COVID-19.
9. All applicable permits required by Los Angeles County Fire Department and any other pertinent agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration shall be obtained by Friday May 28, 2021, prior to the proposed fireworks display on May 30, 2021. Copies of these permits shall be provided to the City's Community Development Department before close of business day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, May 28, 2021.
10. The Los Angeles County Fire Department shall have the ability to cancel the fireworks display if hazardous weather conditions exist the day of the event.
11. Green Hills Memorial Park shall submit before close of business day (4:30 p.m.) on Friday, May 28, 2021, an operational plan to highlight on-site traffic coordination, parking and security.
12. Amplified noise levels shall not exceed 65 decibels, as measured at the closest property line.

Fireworks America  
Matt Biolchino  
Regional Manager  
714-875-0307  
matt@fireworksamerica.com



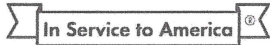
Outline of information for Green Hills Memorial Park fireworks show on May 30, 2021 at approximately 8:15 PM.

Key points to help mitigate any potential issues during the show.

1. LA County Fire Inspector on site during show
2. Fire Inspector has fire assets at the ready on premise or has a direct two-way radio contact with fire dispatch
3. 5000 gallon water truck filled and at the ready on site
4. Firework fall out area cordoned off at 175' with staff and fireworks personal
5. Area monitored by staff with pressurized water extinguishers.

On the map below shows the fireworks setup and state required fallout area (Yellow Circle) of 175 foot radius. There are also property line measurements (Red Lines) showing the distances to the three closest edges of Green Hills Memorial Park in relation to the edge of the fallout area. The closest one being 580 feet from the edge of the fallout area.





**Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**  
**S O U T H B A Y C H A P T E R 5 3**

The City of Rancho Palos Verdes  
City Clerk's Office  
30940 Hawthorne Boulevard  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

May 14, 2021

**RECEIVED**  
CITY OF RANCHO PALOS VERDES

MAY 17 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

RE: Green Hills Memorial Park Fireworks Permit (Pending)

**CITY CLERK'S OFFICE**

On behalf of our Veterans' organization I am writing today in support of Green Hills Memorial Park's request for a brief fireworks display on May 30, 2021. The matter was informally presented to our Board of Directors and approved by a general consensus.

Green Hills (GHMP) has provided it's annual Memorial Day ceremony for many years and I believe this is the 35th year. Our Chapter has been involved for approximately 20 years providing a Color Guard and/or assisting with the Vietnam War Moving Wall which will be present this coming Memorial Day Weekend.

Though a solemn and respectful holiday it is also a time when we celebrate the Freedom we enjoy as a Nation because of the dedication, bravery and sacrifices of our Service Members, too many who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice. As we recover from Covid-19 GHMP has chosen to downscale the event to a Sunday evening the day before Memorial Day.

We were asked if Veterans, many of whom have heard the booms of war, would be upset by the sounds of the fireworks. When we are aware, we enjoy the sounds of Freedom!

Sincerely,

Dennis Wild, President

<http://vva53.org/>

c: GHMP

**Amy Seeraty**

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**Subject:** FW: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

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**From:** Ara Mihanian

**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 6:58 PM

**To:** David Turner <[davevturn@aol.com](mailto:davevturn@aol.com)>; Vincent Reher <[vreh@cox.net](mailto:vreh@cox.net)>

**Subject:** RE: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

Thank you, Dave.

I will make sure your suggestions are forwarded to Green Hills.

County health orders may limit how many guests can be at the park for the event.

Please keep in mind that a Special Use Permit will be processed.

I will keep you and Vince updated.

Ara

**Ara Michael Mihanian**

City Manager

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30940 Hawthorne Blvd.

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

310-544-5202 (telephone)

310-544-5293 (fax)

[aram@rpvca.gov](mailto:aram@rpvca.gov)

[www.rpvca.gov](http://www.rpvca.gov)



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**From:** David Turner <[daveturn@aol.com](mailto:daveturn@aol.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 6:55 PM

**To:** Vincent Reher <[vreher@cox.net](mailto:vreher@cox.net)>; Ara Mihranian <[AraM@rpvca.gov](mailto:AraM@rpvca.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Hi Vince & Ara,

I don't object to a fireworks display to support the Veteran's Wall. My only suggestion would be that Green Hills use sawhorses or other means to block off access to the Inspiration Slope area so that traffic is confined towards the center of the park.

I am out of town but will be back tomorrow, Friday.

Dave Turner

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

On Thursday, April 22, 2021, 4:50 PM, Vincent Reher <[vreher@cox.net](mailto:vreher@cox.net)> wrote:

Ara,

I think Dave is out of town and may not be able to weigh in a timely fashion.

From my point of view, there should be no concern as long proper notices are sent out. We will do our part to notify our neighbors in advance in addition to the notifications that the RPV and Green Hills send out.

Vince

P.S. We are witness to a lot of local fireworks displays, both legal (e.g. Port of L.A.) and illegal. Last summer was pretty crazy but I think neighbors who don't normally like sudden loud noises are pretty good sports about things when they are not take by surprise.

**From:** [Ed OBrien](#)  
**To:** [Amy Seeraty](#)  
**Subject:** permit PLSU2021-002  
**Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 1:07:01 PM

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**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Hi, live on Avenida Aprenda, no problem on the fireworks.  
Thanks, Ed and Nancy O'Brien

**From:** [Vince Dileva](#)  
**To:** [Amy Seeraty](#)  
**Subject:** Special Use Permit (PLSU2021-0002)- Firework Show  
**Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 10:44:43 AM

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**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

Hi Amy,

I am writing this email to inform you of my **support** for the Green Hill Memorial Park Firework Show on May 30th, 2021. I live just one street south of the park and I think this idea will only bring joy and positivity to our neighborhood and surrounding communities. Events like these are just one of the many family oriented gatherings that Green Hills puts on during the year. As we all know, for over a year now, most families have been stuck in their homes due to the pandemic. This is an opportunity for the community surrounding the park to pull out their beach chairs, sit in their driveways with their kids/families, and get an almost personal firework show. Not to mention, to honor the Vietnam Veterans and all other Veteran's that have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country- for that reason alone, this event should be granted without hesitation. I'm pretty positive there are checks and balances in place for the event through the City of RPV, so I am not too concerned about the safety and/or fire hazards that come along with the display. Many cities, amusement parks, and sporting events have been doing these types of event for years and I've yet to hear any negative feedback or disastrous outcomes that have resulted from such events.

Thank you for your time,

Vince Dileva  
1920 Avenida Feliciano

**Amy Seeraty**

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**From:** Mark Knoernschild <knoernschildm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Cc:** Knoernschild Mark  
**Subject:** Green Hills /special Use Permit PLSU2021-0002

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Hi, My name is Mark Knoernschild and I live at 2117 Avenida Aprenda, Rancho Palos Verdes. I am not in favor of granting the permit for Green Hills. My immediate concerns are the effects of nearby fireworks on household pets and the potential for fire, especially in those brushy areas around the water facility.

As a veteran of Vietnam, I am rather surprised that those who arranged for the wall memorial at Green Hills would want to include fireworks, which are celebratory in nature, and rather a strange contrast to the solemn ceremonies that usually mark Memorial Day.

## Amy Seeraty

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**From:** Jane Gualeni <janegualeni@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 8:33 AM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Cc:** Chris Martin; lisascotto@pacbell.net; Glenn Cornell; Ara Mihranian; Ken Rukavina  
**Subject:** Re: Green Hills Memorial Park Memorial Day Fireworks Display Special Use Permit Submitted

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

Amy,

We support the concerns raised by Chris Martin. The neighbors whom I've spoken with have expressed some of the same concerns, primarily the fire hazard and the setting of a precedent that would lead to more fireworks in the future.

Sincerely,  
Jane Gualeni

On Apr 29, 2021, at 5:49 PM, Amy Seeraty <AmyS@rpvca.gov> wrote:

Hi Chris-

Thank you very much for your comments. I am taking in all the comments and will be incorporating them into the report. I will keep you apprised of the permit status. Thank you.

Sincerely,

<image003.png> Amy Seeraty <image004.jpg>  
*Senior Planner*  
[amys@rpvca.gov](mailto:amys@rpvca.gov)  
Phone - (310) 544-5231

**City of Rancho Palos Verdes** <image005.png>  
**30940 Hawthorne Blvd.**  
**Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275** <image006.png>  
**Website: [www.rpvca.gov](http://www.rpvca.gov)**

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*City Hall is open to the public during regular business hours. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19, visitors are required to wear face coverings and adhere to physical distancing guidelines. Some employees are working on rotation and may be working remotely. If you need to visit City Hall, please schedule an appointment in advance by calling the appropriate department and follow all posted directions during your visit. Walk-ups are limited to one person at a time. Please note that our response*

*to your inquiry could be delayed. For a list of department phone numbers, visit the [Staff Directory](#) on the City website.*

---

**From:** Chris Martin <chris\_martin@ahm.honda.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty <AmyS@rpvca.gov>  
**Cc:** lisascotto@pacbell.net; Glenn Cornell <gcornell6@gmail.com>; janegualeni@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: Green Hills Memorial Park Memorial Day Fireworks Display Special Use Permit Submitted

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

Amy,

As a resident living adjacent to Green Hills, I am opposed to the proposed fireworks display for a number of reasons.

- 1) Although I've been told that they are taking precautions, there is still an unacceptable fire risk associated with fireworks, especially during this extremely dry year. Green Hills sits right beside California Water Service property that is overgrown with dry brush around the reservoir, and a stray wind, a poorly aimed firework or an unexpected malfunction could ignite this brush, putting all of our homes at risk. Green Hills also has its own share of dry brush in Area 6 and elsewhere that could be a direct risk to my home. It is frankly irresponsible to even consider a fireworks display given the current weather situation and Rancho Palos Verdes being in an Elevated fire risk category. (See fire risk map below)
- 2) I worry about setting a precedent for Green Hills, potentially leading to more fireworks displays with large crowds near our homes. Green Hills is a cemetery, not a public park, and the CUP does not appear to contemplate fireworks or their impact on the surrounding community.
- 3) Personally, fireworks don't seem appropriate either in a cemetery or in honor of fallen veterans. Many living veterans who experienced combat have PTSD, and utilizing fireworks could at worst cause them harm and at best simply exclude them from this event. It just doesn't seem to fit the respectful mood one would expect in observance of this memorial wall.

All of these objections were separately provided to city manager, Ara Mhuranian, by Glenn Cornell, a representative of our HOA. Ara asked for our HOA's concerns prior to posting the request, and it's not clear from this process if those were already considered in the approval process. Ultimately, I'm hopeful that the City will respect local residents' wishes and decline this application from Green Hills.

<image007.png>

Chris Martin  
2081 Avenida Feliciano  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

---

**From:** City of Rancho Palos Verdes <[listserv@civicplus.com](mailto:listserv@civicplus.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** Chris Martin <[chris\\_martin@ahm.honda.com](mailto:chris_martin@ahm.honda.com)>  
**Subject:** Green Hills Memorial Park Memorial Day Fireworks Display Special Use Permit Submitted

[View this in your browser](#)

On April 23, 2021, Green Hills Memorial Park submitted a Special Use Permit application, requesting to stay open 2 hours past the usual Daylight Savings closing time of 7:00 PM, in order to conduct an invitation-only 15-minute fireworks display on Sunday, May 30, 2021. The fireworks show is to commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A public notice describing the proposed special event will be published in the Peninsula News and will be mailed to the adjacent neighborhoods on Thursday April 29, 2021. Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the notice. For more information about the Special Use Permit request, please contact Senior Planner, Amy Seeraty at (310) 544-231 or via email at [amys@rpvca.gov](mailto:amys@rpvca.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Amy Seeraty

---

**From:** Mike Bilinski <michael.images@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 11:56 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Subject:** Fire Works at Green Hills

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.

To: City of Rancho Palos Verdes May 1, 2021

Community Development Department

Attention Amy Seeraty

I am writing with respect to the special permit for Green Hills to conduct their fire works on the Memorial day.

Memorial Day is for giving honor to our Fallen Heroes that gave their life's for this country and typically they are honored with a prayer, a moment of silence and perhaps a gun salute. Since they are planning to have a color guard, a gun salute would be a better way to express our appreciation for their contribution to this country. But, I find fireworks to be very inappropriate since it sounds more like celebrating their death. Many who survived the wars came back with permanent disabilities without much recognition either, fireworks is the wrong thing to do.

Another consideration should be in terms of fire hazard, I believe there is a lot of dry brush in the back of Green Hills. We don't need any more wild fires in California. I believe that California has announced that we are entering wildfire season, fire works at Green Hills would add to the problem.

Sincerely

Mike Bilinski  
310-200-2051  
RHRHA

## Amy Seeraty

---

**From:** Chris Martin <chris\_martin@ahm.honda.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 5:15 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Cc:** lisascotto@pacbell.net; Glenn Cornell; janegualeni@gmail.com  
**Subject:** FW: Green Hills Memorial Park Memorial Day Fireworks Display Special Use Permit Submitted

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

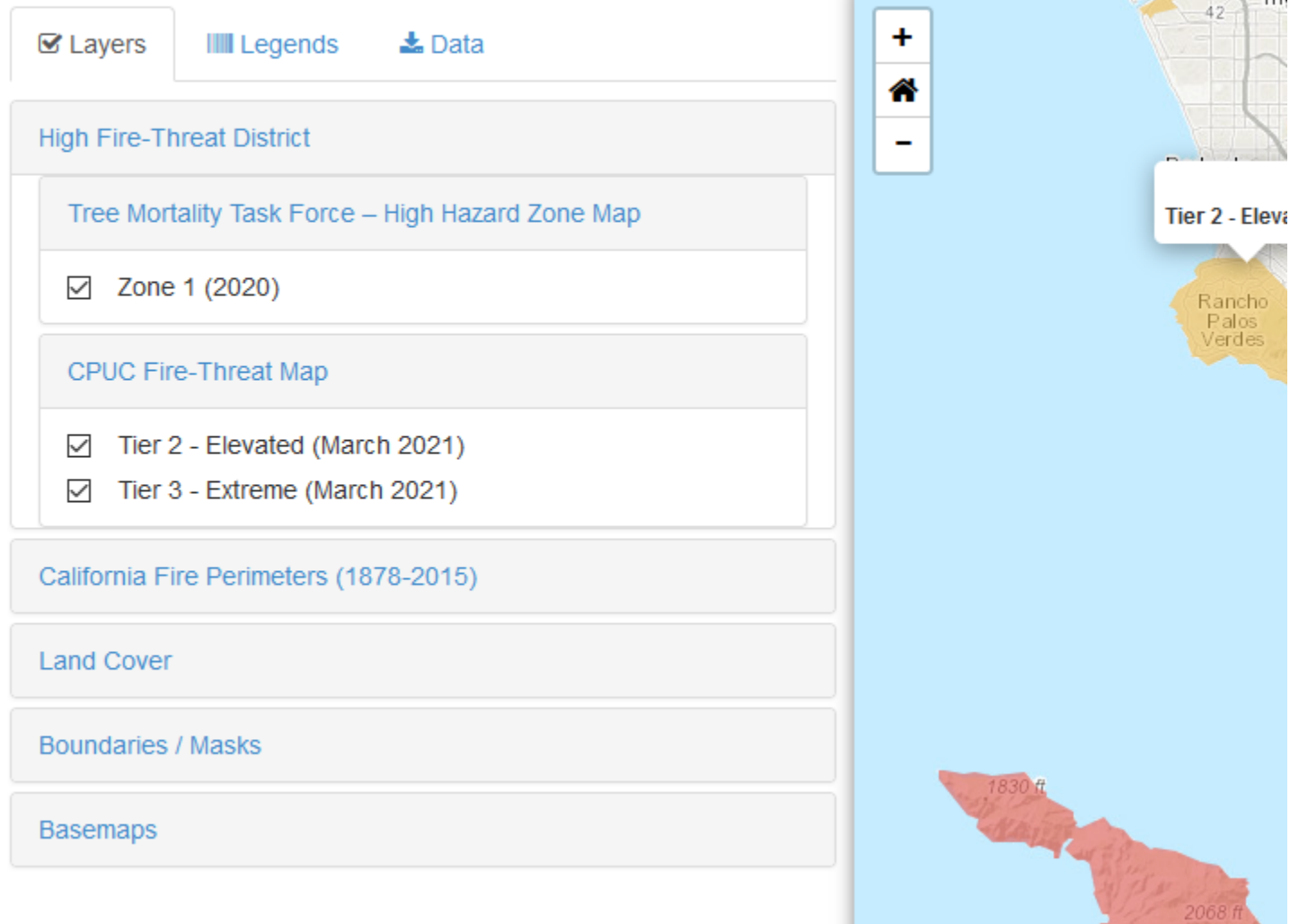
Amy,

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- 1) Although I've been told that they are taking precautions, there is still an unacceptable fire risk associated with fireworks, especially during this extremely dry year. Green Hills sits right beside California Water Service property that is overgrown with dry brush around the reservoir, and a stray wind, a poorly aimed firework or an unexpected malfunction could ignite this brush, putting all of our homes at risk. Green Hills also has its own share of dry brush in Area 6 and elsewhere that could be a direct risk to my home. It is frankly irresponsible to even consider a fireworks display given the current weather situation and Rancho Palos Verdes being in an Elevated fire risk category. (See fire risk map below)
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# CPUC FireMap



Chris Martin  
2081 Avenida Feliciano  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

---

**From:** City of Rancho Palos Verdes <listserv@civicplus.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:09 PM  
**To:** Chris Martin <chris\_martin@ahm.honda.com>  
**Subject:** Green Hills Memorial Park Memorial Day Fireworks Display Special Use Permit Submitted

---

[View this in your browser](#)

---

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commemorate the display of "The Moving Wall", which is a traveling half-size replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A public notice describing the proposed special event will be published in the Peninsula News and will be mailed to the adjacent neighborhoods on Thursday April 29, 2021. Please click [here](#) to view a copy of the notice. For more information about the Special Use Permit request, please contact Senior Planner, Amy Seeraty at (310) 544-231 or via email at [amys@rpvca.gov](mailto:amys@rpvca.gov).

\*\*\*\*\*

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## Amy Seeraty

---

**From:** Richard Wagoner <rwagoner@me.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 12:07 AM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Subject:** Green Hills Fireworks

Re: Special Use Permit PLSU2021-0002 Green Hills Fireworks Special Use Permit for Memorial Day

I am a fireworks fanatic. I love fireworks. My whole family from my Dad, my brothers and sisters and through to me are (were) the same. So it may be odd that I would write a letter opposing the request from Green Hills to have fireworks as part of a "Memorial Day Celebration."

The problem with the request is that it is a bad idea. Perhaps the planners at Green Hills are too young, or perhaps they just never put much thought into it. But Memorial Day is *supposed* to be a somber day of remembrance. it is **not** a day of celebration. I do not believe it is fitting to have a fireworks show on Memorial Day.

If they would like to have them on Independence Day, it would make more sense. Maybe even New Year's Eve. But Memorial Day? Are they kidding me?

Thank you,

Richard Wagoner  
2026 Delasonde Drive  
RPV 90275  
310-521-1946

## Amy Seeraty

---

**From:** Elizabeth Hoffman <Elizabeth.Hoffman@csulb.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 4:09 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Subject:** Green Hill's request for a fireworks permit

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

I am a resident of the neighborhood in East View adjacent to Green Hills Memorial Park, and I strongly object to the City of RPV approving a Special Use Permit to allow a fireworks show on the evening of Memorial Day. First of all this is a noisy fire hazard. We have a neighborhood full of dry brush. But more importantly a fireworks festivity is not the way to honor and remember veterans and first responders. My father and husband were both combat veterans, and to our family Memorial Day is a solemn day.

Let's leave fireworks to well-run big shows open to everyone on July 4th or New Year's Eve!!

I ask the City of RPV to deny Green Hills' unnecessary and inappropriate special request. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Elizabeth Hoffman  
Avenida Aprenda, Rancho Palos Verdes

## Amy Seeraty

---

**From:** Elizabeth Hoffman <Elizabeth.Hoffman@csulb.edu>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 14, 2021 4:19 PM  
**To:** Amy Seeraty  
**Subject:** Fw: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

---

**From:** Glenn Cornell <gcornell6@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 27, 2021 5:03 PM  
**To:** Elizabeth Hoffman <Elizabeth.Hoffman@csulb.edu>  
**Cc:** Mark Knoernschild <knoernschildm@gmail.com>; Maria Todora-Denue <MTD4Homes@aol.com>; Bill Spinelli <wmspinelli48@gmail.com>; Richard Wagoner <rwagoner@me.com>; Kathryn and Corey Kong <kathrynkong@icloud.com>; Connie Malstrom <connie.malstrom@gmail.com>; Matthew L Vitalich <vitalichforrpv@gmail.com>; Mike Bilinski <michael.images@yahoo.com>; Jane Gualeni <janegualeni@gmail.com>; Lisa Scotto <lisascotto@pacbell.net>; Chris Martin <chris\_martin@ahm.honda.com>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

**CAUTION: This email was sent from an external source.**

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Glenn Cornell <[gcornell6@gmail.com](mailto:gcornell6@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 27, 2021 at 5:01 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks  
**To:** Ara Mihranian <[AraM@rpvca.gov](mailto:AraM@rpvca.gov)>

Ara,  
I appreciate your update but want to make it clear that our HOA opposes Green Hills' use of fireworks and hopes city staff will re-consider its decision to permit them.  
Thank you,  
Glenn.

On Fri, Apr 23, 2021 at 4:42 PM Ara Mihranian <[AraM@rpvca.gov](mailto:AraM@rpvca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Glenn,

I want to inform you that Green Hills submitted a Special Use Permit application to consider allowing a fireworks display on Sunday, May 30 (Memorial Day weekend).  
As I previously mentioned, this event will take place in the evening as part of the Moving Memorial Wall display.

The event will be organized in compliance with County Health Orders and LA County Fire Department.

A public notice will be issued within the coming week notifying adjacent property owners.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Best,  
Ara

**Ara Michael Mihranian**  
City Manager

---



30940 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275  
310-544-5202 (telephone)  
310-544-5293 (fax)  
[aram@rpvca.gov](mailto:aram@rpvca.gov)  
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---

**From:** Ara Mihranian  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 2:19 PM  
**To:** Glenn Cornell <[gcornell6@gmail.com](mailto:gcornell6@gmail.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

Hi Glenn,

Thank you for the quick response.

I appreciate it.

The concerns regarding a fireworks display to honor our Veterans on Memorial Day was a question I and others have asked including Green Hills.

They reached out to the local Veterans Affairs, and they were supportive of this tribute in combination of the moving wall.

Concerns regarding fire risk was also raised and will be addressed in coordination with LA County Fire through the permitting process.

Additionally, the City will condition the Special Use Permit (SUP).

I will forward your email to Green Hills and will let you know if they decide to submit the SUP application.

Thank you again,

Ara

**Ara Michael Mihanian**

City Manager

---



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**From:** Glenn Cornell <[gcornell6@gmail.com](mailto:gcornell6@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 22, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** Ara Mihranian <[AraM@rpvca.gov](mailto:AraM@rpvca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Proposed Memorial Day Fireworks

**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the City of Rancho Palos Verdes.**

Ara,  
I didn't have to wait long to get a number of replies to your inquiry.  
All make it clear that they support appropriate ceremonies to honor those who have served our country.  
However, all question whether a fireworks display should be part of those ceremonies.  
As they point out, Memorial Day is set aside to honor those who have served. It isn't exactly a day of celebration.  
Two residents, one a Vietnam vet, raised a question about the use of fireworks in any ceremony in which at least some of the honorees may still suffer from PTSD.  
Others added their concern about possible fire safety, especially in light of current near-drought conditions and the fact that Green Hills abuts an area in which there is a considerable amount of brush.  
I hope this helps. Please don't hesitate to contact me at (310) 831-3033 if you would like to discuss this matter further.  
Glenn  
.

On Wed, Apr 21, 2021 at 4:09 PM Ara Mihranian <[AraM@rpvca.gov](mailto:AraM@rpvca.gov)> wrote:

Hi Glenn and Jane,

I hope this message finds you well.

I am writing you because I was recently contacted by Green Hills regarding a proposed fireworks show at the park grounds over the upcoming Memorial Day weekend.

Specifically, Green Hills is exploring having a 10-15 minute fireworks show on Sunday, May 30 around 9pm as part of the display of the moving Veterans Wall to honor veterans and for the community to enjoy.

This proposal would require the processing a Special Use Permit that requires public notification. But, if the neighbors are opposed of this event, I would suggest to them not to proceed.

If at all possible, please let me know your initial thoughts over the next 24 hours.

Please do not hesitate to contact me directly with any questions. The details and logistics are still being developed, so I may not have all the answers.

Thank you,  
Ara

**Ara Michael Mihranian**  
City Manager

---



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