

**RESOLUTION (NO. 21-02) OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF IRVINE
TO COMMENCE CONSTRUCTION OF THE VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK & CEMETERY
AT THE CITY-OWNED “ARDA” SITE AT THE GREAT PARK**

Whereas, beginning in 2014, the people of the City of Irvine have repeatedly and consistently expressed their overwhelming approval and their determination to expedite construction of the Southern California Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery at the City-owned 125-acre ARDA site at the northern edge of the Great Park; and,

Whereas, the will of the people was manifest most recently with adoption of the **Build the Great Park Veterans Cemetery Initiative** — an official citizens’ initiative petition signed by 19,790 Irvine residents — which zones the City-owned ARDA site at the Great Park as the exclusive location for the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery; and,

Whereas, the Initiative further provides for inclusion of certain features as part of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery — preservation of historic structures, such as the aircraft control tower and airplane hangars, and creation of a 2.5-mile perimeter system of trees, trails and memorial gardens to surround the entire ARDA site; and,

Whereas, the features prescribed in the Initiative have been incorporated in the **Build It NOW! Plan**, a plan which calls for expedited construction of the Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery, beginning with City-ordered demolition, cleanup and clearance of the ARDA site, preservation of historic features, and creation of the perimeter system of trails and memorial gardens — with costs to be reimbursed by the State.

Therefore, be it resolved — as a first step in implementing the **Build It NOW! Plan** — that the City Council of the City of Irvine does hereby direct the City Manager to return to the Council within 20 days with a demolition, cleanup and site clearance plan for the ARDA site, including a start-date for on-site demolition to commence on or before January 31, 2021.

Be it further resolved that the City-incurred costs to implement the **Build It NOW! Plan**, estimated at \$15 million, shall be paid from the City’s Great Park Development Fund (Account No. 180), to be reimbursed by the State as part of the negotiated ARDA Site Transfer Agreement with the State of California to complete construction and commence operation by Veterans Day (November 11, 2023) of what will be the State-owned, State-operated and State-funded Southern California Veterans Memorial Park & Cemetery.