



## **Veterans Affairs Background**

### **New Veterans Administration Hospital Background**

- The United States Department of Veterans Affairs is constructing a new state-of-the-art, 1.1 million square foot Veterans Affairs campus consisting of inpatient hospital beds, a community living center, a spinal cord injury center and outpatient services. The total cost of the new facility is \$800 million (additional money will be needed to furnish the buildings) and construction is slated to begin in June 2010 with a completion of September 2013 and to begin operations in January 2014. The Veterans Affairs campus will be located on the southeast edge of the Anschutz Medical Campus and Fitzsimons Life Sciences District on the northwest corner of Colfax Avenue and Fitzsimons Parkway in Aurora. Colorado's Congressional delegation, in addition to business and civic leaders and veterans organizations have lobbied for nearly 15 years for a new hospital. The campus will employ 1,800 full time employees.
- The new medical center will provide Rocky Mountain area veterans with a full range of medical, laboratory, research and counseling services, including services for veterans with spinal cord injuries (SCI) and other disabilities. The new facility will include a 30-bed, state-of-the-art SCI center providing services to veterans throughout the Veterans Affairs Rocky Mountain Network, which includes Montana, Wyoming, Utah and Colorado, plus parts of five other states.
- The Department of Veterans Affairs will also create new Health Care Centers, which provide ambulatory care and same-day surgical services, in Colorado Springs, Colo., and Billings, Mont. The Colorado Springs facility will be managed in collaboration with the Department of Defense. The Department of Veterans Affairs also plans to add eight new health care facilities in rural areas throughout the region.
- In September 2009, Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki announced the award of a \$936,276 contract by the Department of Veterans Affairs to a Washington state company for demolition and site clearing of the new Veterans Affairs medical center in Aurora.
- In 2008, the Department of Veterans Affairs spent more than \$2.2 billion in Colorado on behalf of the state's 426,000 Veterans. In Colorado, the Department of Veterans Affairs operates medical centers in Denver and Grand Junction, 13 outpatient clinics, four vet centers and two national cemeteries.
- Preliminary planning indicates that multiple buildings will be constructed in a phased approach. These buildings include outpatient clinic buildings, an inpatient tower, a research building, a diagnostic and treatment building, a nursing home facility, remodeling of the University Physicians, Inc. (UPI) building and parking garages.

### **New Veterans Administration Cemetery in Southern Colorado Background**

- The VA is in the first stage of the site evaluation process and has initiated a formal Environmental Assessment (EA) of Kane Ranch. The EA is anticipated to take four to five months to complete, once a contract is awarded. VA staff met with El Paso county officials and confirmed the Kane Ranch property could be transferred to VA through a donation and with no covenants or restrictions.
  - According to the VA, the Kane Ranch is considered to be the “leading potential site” to serve veterans in the area.
- There are several planning phases that must be completed before construction begins. The VA estimates it will be two years before groundbreaking, and construction begins in earnest.
- The VA recently completed a market survey of potential architect/engineer suppliers to support the new cemetery. The VA’s market survey targeted small businesses, including Service Disabled Veteran Owned, Veteran Owned, 8(a), HUBZone, Woman Owned, and Small Disadvantaged Businesses. A number of Colorado suppliers have responded to the VA’s market survey.