



U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System  
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## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System (VASNHCS) Long Term Expansion Plan Revealed

On August 29, 2019, VASNHCS Director Lisa Howard announced VA is exploring the potential to replace and expand the Reno VA Medical Center at a new location. While the promising opportunity of a replacement medical center is being pursued, the medical center's largest capital investment, Project Nevada's Heroes, which consists of significant demolition activities and construction of a new building on the main campus, is under reconsideration. Alternatives include potentially revising Project Nevada's Heroes to advance the project towards completion, as well as concurrently accomplishing the study for the replacement medical center.

"The region's growth is highly likely to be sustained for some time. Reno VA needs to grow in concert with the community to meet increased Veteran health care needs. Given hospital site constraints, along with the projected costs of necessary upgrades to operate at the existing location over the next 15 years, there is a strong justification for building a new medical center on an appropriately sized piece of property. We are excited VA is supporting a formal study to develop options for a potential replacement facility," stated Director Howard.

VASNHCS fulfills its mission to Provide World Class Care and Service to America's Heroes every day. To support the needs of today's Veterans, the health care system will continue to renovate and improve its current facilities. The following construction projects will proceed as planned: north campus clinic (new site of care), intensive care unit renovation, new parking garage, radiology modernization, inpatient mental health improvements, and pharmacy compounding hood upgrade.

Ensuring patient safety and ease of access, while delivering high quality care to Veterans, are integral to operating a successful VA medical center. Director Howard further shared, "We are optimistic about exploring this new path, as a replacement medical center would directly support the VA's vision to offer modernized care and services that are right for every Veteran, every time. We will also be exploring the opportunity to create a joint VA-UNR teaching hospital. We will elevate our care and services to the *Next Level*, while continuing to be an integral component of the northern Nevada Community."

Over the coming months the formal study will be conducted. VA will share more information with Veterans and the community as the results of the study are determined. For any questions, please contact Shane Whitecloud, VASNHCS Public Affairs Officer, at 775.224.5533. Please also visit the VASNHCS website at [https://www.reno.va.gov/Construction\\_Updates](https://www.reno.va.gov/Construction_Updates) to stay apprised of construction activity.

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