

New Development in Moraga

Let Your Voice Be Heard

By Cathy Tyson

Citizens of Lamorinda concerned about development of the 187-acre Moraga Center Specific Plan have options to let their opinions be heard. In a small community such as Moraga, the proposed development of 720 new dwelling units, 90,000 square feet of retail space, 50,000 square feet of new office space and a possible 30,000 square foot gymnasium would be a big change for this quiet community. Alternative plans with 566 housing units and 339 housing units are also being considered.

The final scoping meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 4, 7:30 p.m. at the Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium. One of the goals of the required Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report is "to advise and solicit comments and suggestions regarding the preparation of the EIR...including interested or affected members of the public."

"We invite you to continue to be engaged in the process," said Planning Director Lori Salamack at the first scoping meeting.

The large parcel of land in question is basically the area north of School Street, currently occupied by the Moraga Ranch buildings and adjacent orchard area south of Camino Ricardo.

The citizens in attendance at the August 6th meeting were plenty concerned about the development. Some of the comments included concerns about traffic on Camino Ricardo, additional students in Moraga

schools, concern about additional retail space (approximately 90,000 square feet has been proposed – that's the equivalent of 2 additional Safeway's) and about the number of housing units. In addition, Moraga-Orinda Fire District Chief Pete Nowicki stated his concern regarding the loss of training area for firefighters, and an Orinda City Council member was concerned about potential impact on Orinda roads.

Written comments will be accepted through September 4. Lamorinda residents can comment by attending the upcoming September 4th meeting, via e-mail to planning@moraga.ca.us or by regular mail:

Town of Moraga
 Planning Department
 329 Rheem Boulevard, Suite 2; Moraga, CA 94556
 Attn: Moraga Center Specific Plan

For more information, please see the full Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Moraga Center Specific Plan at www.moraga.ca.us/documents/Planning/MCSP%20NOP%20072607.pdf



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