

## Moraga Holiday Tree Gets One More Year of Lights

By Steve Angelides



The Town tree lights go up

**T**he Moraga Town Council has granted the Town's holiday tree, a 60 foot pine in the center of the Moraga Commons, one more year of lights.

The Council asked the Town Manager to spend \$8,900 to have holiday tree lights installed and removed by a professional contractor, for this year only. This is an increase of about \$6,000 over the cost of having the Town staff do the work.

However, two years ago, a Town employee sustained a shoulder injury while installing the tree lights, and the Town had to shoulder an increase in workers' compensation premiums as well as the cost of a replacement worker for several months. Last year the tree was not lit because the Town staff was concerned about the cost and liabilities.

Next year, the Town will consider other alternatives, including asking the Parks and Recreation Department to organize a tree lighting ceremony and a fund-raising drive such as the Town uses to pay for its annual fourth of July fireworks celebration.