

Council Orders MOSO 2008 Impact Report

By Wendy Scheck

In a special session held immediately after the regular Moraga Town Council meeting on Wednesday, June 25th, the Council voted unanimously to adopt a draft resolution certifying the signatures for the MOSO 2008 initiative and subsequently directed staff to prepare a 9212 report (an Impact Report under Elections Code Section 9212) to be presented at the July 23 Council meeting. Council Members Dave Trotter and Ken Chew were present by phone from Ireland and Massachusetts, respectively. Planning Director Lori Salamack agreed to prepare a side-by-side comparison of the competing open space initiatives.

At the beginning of the meeting, Salamack presented the Council with a three page outline detailing what Staff proposed to cover in the 9212 report. Salamack explained that staff had culled through and taken into consideration all questions and comments posed by the attorneys, members of the public and the Council in an effort to address the full range of issues.

Interim Town Manager Jay Tashiro announced that a letter from Richard Loewke, representing the Bruzzone family, had been received earlier that day but had arrived too late to be distributed to the Council prior to the meeting.

The letter contained twenty seven questions that they would like answered in the 9212 report. Tashiro stated that it would be impossible for staff to address all of the letter's questions.

Several private citizens voiced their concerns about the scope of the report and stressed that the citizens of Moraga need the opportunity to understand how both the MOSO and MOSPRO initiatives will impact their own property and the environment of the town.

Council Member Mike Metcalf stressed the need for the fiscal impact analysis section in the MOSO 2008 report to be similar in methodology to the analysis that was already done for the MOSPRO initiative. As Metcalf summed up his concerns he insisted, "It is important that voters have a side by side comparison of the three initiatives."

Salamack responded with conviction, stating, "It will be done." She reiterated that the report will include a FAQ section and tables that will attempt to compare MOSO 1986, MOSO 2008 and MOSPRO in a side by side comparison.

Council Member Rochelle Bird firmly expressed her concern that staff should include the 27 items (from the letter) in the report, or "report back why it can't be done, and the fiscal impact it would take."

The Council, minus Trotter who had to hang up to catch an early flight, approved the motion to direct staff to prepare the report after Mayor Lynda Deschambault added a request that staff "do their best to answer the 27 questions, public comments and letters," within the time available.

The complete texts of the open space initiatives, staff reports and other related documents can be found on the Town website, http://moraga.ca.us/production/moraga_ballot_initiatives.php