

• Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor • Letters to the Editor •

Dear Editor, YES ON K KEEPS MORAGA'S OPEN SPACE. Moraga voters have a choice this November concerning their prized open spaces. Residents who value the hills and ridgelines surrounding the town, appreciate the semi-rural setting, and don't want to see new sub-divisions clogging up the scenery (not to mention the roadways) should vote yes on Measure K. Opponents of Measure K, including the "no-no" crowd, want us to believe that everything is fine and the existing "process" is working. But the process is only as good as the underlying laws governing it, and those laws are too weak at present to prevent the big developments coming Moraga's way. Palos Colorados is an illustration: after over 15 years of public hearings, untold hours of staff time, and two lawsuits against the Town, the end result will be a 123-lot subdivision—that Moragans didn't want in the first place—to begin construction next spring. Is that what the "no-no" faction means by the "process" working? Now the Town is about to approve a new subdivision along Rheem Boulevard—again after years of public opposition—because there's nothing on the books to stop it. Bollinger Canyon (not covered by any of Moraga's existing open space guidelines) and Indian Valley (currently allowed up to 200 houses) will be next. What the no-no people don't realize is that the status quo is the problem, not the solution. Measure K will fill in the missing safeguards to protect these areas and their ridgelines from big development. The "no-no" people also say to vote 'no' in response to developers' litigation threats. Thank goodness Moraga voters didn't listen when they said the same thing in 1986 about MOSO, the first open space initiative. If they had, there would be houses all over Mulholland Ridge and Campolindo Ridge today: those projects were stopped only thanks to the voters. Moraga shouldn't forfeit its open space because of developer bullying. As responsible citizens, we need to step up and adopt laws to protect Moraga for the people and wildlife who live here today, and for Moraga's future generations. Please vote yes on Measure K. Leslie J. Swartz Moraga

Dear Editor, I would like to ask all Moragans to vote for Janice Kolbe. As a member of Moraga CC I have worked closely with Janice for the past 5 years & she is a dynamic leader, team player, & has the ability to prioritize what needs to be done & then gets it done. The financial status of MCC is the best it has ever been & it has a comfortable reserve! Vote for Janice Kolbe she's just what the doctor ordered! Wesley T Spewak Moraga

To the Editor: Opponents of Moraga's Measure K—namely, the "Yes on J" and the "No on J and K" groups—have resorted to incredible distortions and outright lies intended to scare voters into rejecting a very sensible and rational approach to preserving the character of our town. Measure K is simple: It limits the amount of development that will be allowed in three areas of Moraga: Bollinger Canyon, along Rheem Boulevard, and Indian Valley. Instead of roughly 350 houses in those areas, only 50 will be permitted. That's it! I repeat: That's it! Yet, opponents of this straightforward measure have conjured up the insidious influence of Berkeley radicals to incite a kind of fear and prejudice in our community. Absolutely nothing in the measure pertains to low-income granny flats, high density condos, or mobile homes. The spectre of an endless string of future lawsuits is a sham. Let us hope that informed Moragans won't be misled or swayed by falsehoods and innuendos. Let them proudly cast their votes for Measure K. Sincerely, George Ehrenhaft Moraga

Editor: I would like to report the fact that my McCain/Palin 2008 poster was taken from my porch today (10/21) between 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. I am not happy with the fact that number one it is a total invasion of one's privacy, number two who ever it is took something off of MY porch that belongs to me. What a sad world we live in! Who ever you are, the police have been contacted. They will be on the lookout for anyone "stealing" signs of any kind from anywhere! I noticed while driving on Saint Mary's road yesterday,

there was a McCain/Palin sign in one particular spot and was replaced with Obama/Biden.....Come on people.....Everyone is entitled to vote how they want! That's what makes this county so great! So beware! I now have cameras out and I will know who you are.....and the police will be "on it"! Sincerely, Janet Bellotti-Kelley Moraga

Dear Editor, I am appalled by the Bruzzones' nauseating smear campaign against Measure K. We Moragans know where we live and know that this is not Berkeley. We are not stupid and do not like the lies and false information the Bruzzone campaign is putting out about Measure K. The Bruzzones OWN the land that they threaten will be developed with low income housing. THEY and not Measure K will determine what is done with that land. They are behaving like a small child threatening the residents of Moraga with low-income housing if they do not get their way. It's time to grow up, because the people of Moraga can see thru these veiled threats. The majority of the residents of Moraga support open space protection and can accomplish it once and for all by passing Measure K. Any other alternative would guarantee long and costly lawsuits. Peter Bennett Moraga resident 40 years and I know where I live

Editor: More evidence that Moraga needs Measure K. If Moraga residents are not convinced of the need for the passage of Measure K, then the October 20 Moraga Planning Commission meeting should convince them otherwise. At this meeting, the Planning Commission directed Planning staff to prepare the necessary resolutions for the approval of the Rancho Laguna project with 21 ridgetop homes. Moraga residents have consistently shown that they support ridgeline protection. This is reflected in the passage of MOSO 1986 and the 2002 General Plan revisions. Throughout the hearings on the Rancho Laguna Project, the majority of speakers have voiced their opposition to the ridgeline homes. But MOSO 1986 protects only certain ridgelines and only part of the Rancho Laguna ridge. Where MOSO 1986 applies to this site no homes are proposed on the ridgeline. Immediately on the other side of this line the ridgeline homes would begin. The contrast could not be starker. In conversations with Moraga residents many have told me they thought MOSO 1986 covered the entire town. They also thought that adequate protections for ridgelines have been built into the General Plan. The recent Planning Commission action clearly demonstrates this is not the case. Ridgeline protection language in the General Plan has been interpreted by the Commission to be advisory and open to judgment. Ridgelines not protected by MOSO 1986 will only be protected when their preservation is not subject to interpretation. Measure K will do this. It will permanently protect these ridgeline areas. Please vote yes on Measure K to protect the qualities that make our Town such an attractive place to live. Sincerely, Malcolm Sproul Moraga

Dear Editor, One of the main arguments against Measure K is that it is hasty and extreme, and that we should allow the Town's long-successful deliberative process to manage future developments. The argument states that in this way, we can avoid costly lawsuits by unhappy developers. Unfortunately, those who put forth this argument have forgotten recent Moraga history. When the Town's "deliberative process" permitted excessive development at Palos Colorados, we voted in 3 new Town Council members who promised to stop it, and stop it they did. The developer then sued because the Town had reneged on its previous agreements. The Town lost, and re-approved the plan. Unfortunately for Moraga, that agreement impinged on the City of Lafayette's ridge views and Lafayette also sued the Town. So much for avoiding lawsuits! The deliberative process on its own is subject to the viewpoints of the members of the Planning Commission and Town Council. With Palos Colorados we swung from strongly pro-development government to a backlash-induced, strongly anti-development government. Both were wrong in their approach. Such transient situations should not be the guiding force when working with developments that will be with us forever. As the saying goes, "good fences make good neighbors." The ONLY way to prevent law-

suits in the long term is to have clear guidelines on what development may occur on our hills. Measure K does this-by CONTROLLING, NOT ELIMINATING, development in designated areas so that we, our children, and future residents will enjoy nearly the same beautiful views that we have now. If Measure K loses on November 4, nothing changes in current law and we are almost guaranteed future lawsuits, or threats of lawsuits, over every project which we try to stop or significantly alter. If it takes one fight now to avoid many in the future, so be it. As property owners in Moraga, we have the right to protect what drew us here in the first place. Don't give up your future rights because someone wants to threaten our Town's finances with a frivolous lawsuit. Please vote YES on Measure K. Mike Bernhardt Moraga

Editor: There is a Third Choice – A Better Choice Vote NO on J and K. If you like Moraga the way it is, Vote NO on J and K. People on both sides of the J and K battle say they like Moraga as it is, a great place to live. I agree. What is lost in the dispute is that J and K – both sponsored by special interests – mean irreversible change into uncharted territory. Consequences won't be known for years. Things we like about Moraga result from a planning process that works, has limited growth, has retained the special character of our community. Why would we want to throw it all out? Smart people with good intentions on both sides disagree sharply about the impact of J and K. The result of their pre-election disputes will certainly be very expensive post-election lawsuits we don't want and cannot afford. As you vote, remember that there is a better and a safer choice for Moraga. Vote NO on J and K. Bob Reynolds Moraga

Editor: I believe most Moraga residents want to preserve open space and keep traffic from getting worse, so I hope they aren't fooled by the Bruzzones' onslaught of deceptions about Measure K. I hope they keep in mind that the Bruzzones own hundreds of acres both in Moraga's open hills and in the downtown. I hope they keep in mind that until Measure K came along, it was the Bruzzones who were pressing the Town Council to allow over 700 units next to the Moraga Shopping Center. It's truly incredible that now the Bruzzones would turn around and pin their own outlandish downtown development plans on Measure K in an effort to scare and confuse voters. The fact is that if Moragans don't want more traffic they should adopt Measure K. Major subdivisions are being planned for Rheem Ridge, Bollinger Canyon, and Indian Valley totaling 350 houses and bringing several thousand additional car trips per day. These are beautiful open space areas and rangelands that are not appropriate for over-sized subdivisions in the first place. Follow the money--More homes benefit the developers. The Town of Moraga's study says Measure K will cut the 350 additional houses down to about 50 and prevent 3,000 car trips per day. Measure K benefits Moraga residents by curbing the desires of developers to do whatever they want. Please join us in voting YES on K to prevent more traffic and save open space. Dave and Kandy Petersen

Editor: The voters of Moraga will be asked to decide between two competing ballot initiatives, the ramifications of which are still poorly understood by all too many voters. Measure K originated, and was funded by, a group of overwhelmingly non-Moraga residents who wanted to increase "open space" beyond the extensive amount already existing. K will rewrite our current laws and restrict our options. K would exchange single-family housing, in areas that can't be seen, for high-density housing contained within our downtown. It would also impose burdensome new land-use restrictions on many unsuspecting Moraga homeowners, which will limit what they can do with their property. The current General Plan (GP) and other open space Measure J, would like to preserve the character of the Town. There are 20,000 acres of open space; agricultural and public lands in and around Moraga and there is little difference in the amount of open space

Re-elect CAROL FEDERIGHI

Lafayette City Council



Join your Friends and Neighbors who Support Experienced, Dedicated, and Outstanding Leadership!

Community Service:

- Lafayette City Council: Mayor 2007, 2003; Councilmember 1999 to present
- Lafayette Planning Commission: Chair 1998; Commissioner 1993-1999
- Lafayette Senior Housing Task Force: Member 2006 to present
- Lafayette rep.: Central CC County Solid Waste Authority and League of CA Cities
- Moraga Road Transportation Advisory Committee: Chair 2001-2004
- League of Women Voters: State President, 1987-1989; LWVDV President 1983-1985

Education and Professional Experience:

- JD: Hastings College of the Law * Secondary Teaching Credential: UC Berkeley * BA: Stanford University
- Alameda County Civil Court Appointed Attorneys Panel: Advisory Committee Chair 2008, Member 1995 to present (Juvenile Dependency Law)
- Legal Assistance for Seniors: Volunteer, consultant, staff attorney, 1993-2007

Carol's Priorities:

- * Fiscal Soundness: Support long-range planning, strong fiscal management and retention of healthy reserve; continue to seek state, federal, and other grants where feasible; maximize use of our Redevelopment Agency's limited tax increment funds.
- * Infrastructure Support: Continue to make road maintenance, repair, and reconstruction of public roads a top priority.
- * Strong Retail Core: Continue to support a vital, prosperous, and attractive downtown that is pedestrian friendly and attractive to shoppers. Continue attempts to develop additional public parking in the downtown.
- * Hillsides, Ridgelines, Parks, Walkways, and Trails: Protect the beauty of our hillsides and ridgelines through land-use policies and regulations. Support continued improvement and expansion of Lafayette's parks, walkways, and trails.

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