

Letters to the Editor

... continued

Editor:
Is Measure L the Right Tax to Fix Orinda's Roads?

While the City of Orinda will never fix its roads without new taxes, Measure L is not the way to get there. It is the first leg of a three part plan in which the other two parts (1) provide 85% of the total funding and (2) will never happen. If you want to have to wait five to ten years before you find out your roads will not be fixed, support Measure L. If you want your roads fixed sooner, reject Measure L and force the City to create a plan that will really fix Orinda's roads.

The Measure L sales tax will only provide \$650,000 per year. This is half the money the city needs to just maintain the current system. No money will be available for the 45 miles of poor and failed residential streets unless the major roads repaired over the past six years are again ignored.

The second and third legs of the plan are two \$20 million bond measures which will cost about \$200 per household each and require a 2/3 supermajority to pass. The recent Orinda poll said that only 46% of the voters would support a \$200 parcel tax. How many would support this second tax on top of a \$100 sales tax? Last year Lafayette voters rejected a similar tax that was only going to cost each household \$90.

The voters should also consider how such a failed plan came to be. It was a product of a City Council Road Sub Committee led by Mayor Glazer. During his 2008 campaign he stated that his top area of concern was roads. But it took him two and a half years to form a Road Sub Committee. The ten-year plan appeared for the first time eight months after the last public meeting of that committee. The plan was voted for unanimously by the full Council, including the second incumbent candidate Victoria Smith, four days after it was first made public by the Council. Maybe we need some new blood on the Council to come up with a real plan to fix our roads.

For more thoughts and details see www.RoadToNowhere.info.

Steve Cohn
Orinda

Moraga Elections

Editor:
Dexter Louie has our enthusiastic endorsement for reelection to the Moraga School District Governing Board. We both first got to know Dexter when we worked on his initial school board campaign 14 years ago! At that time we were both very involved in the Moraga schools and were very grateful that Dexter was willing to run for the School Board even though he had a very busy schedule with a full-time medical practice in San Francisco and positions on several volunteer boards. The Moraga School District was experiencing a period of extreme instability during that time with six different people occupying the Superintendent's office between May 1998 and June of 2000 when Rick Schafer was hired. Dexter was elected to the School Board in the midst of this turmoil and was instrumental in turning things around. Since that time, Dexter has gained valuable experience dealing with repeated painful budget cuts to our schools while working with the Superintendent to keep the district strong and innovative. His steadiness, experience and leadership will be particularly crucial for the next four years, given that the district will have a relatively new superintendent and two new principals and a majority of the school board members will be relatively new to the board. Please visit Dexter's campaign website at www.dexterlouie.com for more details about his background, experience and goals for the district. His background and involvement in community organizations are truly extraordinary. Moraga is very lucky to have such a dedicated public servant willing to continue to represent us for another term. We hope you will join us in voting for Dexter in November. Your support does make a difference to our schools and our community.

Trish Bare
Connie Barnard
Moraga

Editor:
We are excited to endorse Parker Colvin for the Moraga School District Governing Board in the general election on November 6th.

Parker is a talented, thoughtful young man with the energy and skills that are needed in positions of leadership in our community in the current environment. Parker has an expertise in California public school finance that any school board would be fortunate to have. We should take advantage of his experience and willingness to serve. He also has skin in the game, folks, in the form of three adorable little kids. Parker has worked very hard to become an industry leader in California public finance. I know he will work just as hard on behalf of our schools and the kids in our community to ensure they have the same opportunity and preparation for success that our kids enjoyed. Cheryl and I chose to raise our boys in Moraga. Like the parents of their peers, we got involved early and stayed involved. Thanks to our schools and our community, our boys benefited from great academic and athletic experiences that prepared them extremely well for the college experiences they are now enjoying. We are so pleased to see young families like Parker's get involved to maintain our tradition of achievement and success. We can think of no one better to step up and contribute to our board, now more than ever, when financial expertise is so desperately needed in positions of leadership. Please join us in voting for Parker Colvin this November.

Thanks,
Joe and Cheryl Cushing
Moraga

Editor:
It is always a difficult process for me to choose who to vote for in the town council race. I keep returning to what brought my family to Moraga in the first place. For us, like many of you, it was for the schools, the beautiful open space and a sense of community.

Over the years we have witnessed these jewels of Moraga threatened. Our open space is shrinking under development pressures, our schools are vulnerable to the state budget crisis and lackluster economy, and the contentious relationship between the current town council and the community is discouraging. Who among the candidates has demonstrated that these issues are a priority to him? As a member of the planning commission, Roger Wykle has upheld the General Plan's policies protecting open space even when he was the lone voice. With school-aged children of his own, he knows first-hand the struggles the

schools are facing and has vowed to create a supportive relationship between the town council and the school board. Most importantly to me, he has demonstrated respect for community members who wish to participate in the democratic process of running our small town. He listens with an open mind and a willingness to engage in discussion. He has acted with integrity and the bottom line is that when I cast my ballot, integrity is the characteristic I seek. I urge you to vote for Roger Wykle for Moraga town council.

Kathy Macchi
Moraga

Editor:
I'm writing to express my strong support for Roger Wykle for Moraga Town Council. I have observed him on the Planning Commission over the past several years where he has steadfastly defended the principles of the Moraga Open Space Ordinance (referred to as 'MOSO').

For example, when a developer proposed a subdivision ("Hetfield Estates") on MOSO-zoned open space that would have required nearly 200,000 cubic yards of grading and landslide repairs, Wykle objected, citing MOSO's purpose to "restrict development on steep and unstable slopes". When the developer pushed for a density increase to build 8 houses even though the land was entitled to only 2 houses under MOSO, Wykle argued for lower density consistent with MOSO. And when the Planning Commission ultimately approved a 7-home subdivision on this land, Wykle was the only commissioner to vote against the project based on the provisions of MOSO.

On this issue and others, Roger has a proven record of upholding the true intent of the Town's laws protecting open space. In light of the Town Council's 2010 approval of the Rancho Laguna II development which will grade the top off a portion of Rheem Ridge to build homes, and its subsequent attempt to sell town-owned open space to developers to fund a building remodel, we clearly need a person like Roger on the Council speaking up for our diminishing open space. Please vote for Roger Wykle on November 6.

Tim Meltzer
Moraga

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