



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, July 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, July 5, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, July 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
TBA
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us
Phone: (925) 888-7022

Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org
Moraga Citizens' Network:
www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Moraga Police Report



Child custody issue 6/13/16:

An Ascot Drive resident's wife left for Toronto, Canada, with their 6-year-old-daughter after a verbal dispute. The father has been unable to get his daughter back to Moraga. The distraught Dad has been in telephone contact with his daughter, and doesn't want to pursue criminal charges against his wife. Police are referring this to an outside agency.

Traffic stop 6/11/16:

Police checked the California ID that a suspect had and performed a records check. The driver was found to have an outstanding misdemeanor warrant out from a nearby county, and was driving on a suspended license. The fellow was arrested and his vehicle was towed.

Hit-and-run 6/11/16:

Moraga cops came to Campolindo to assist an "outside agency" at 3 a.m. with a hit and run investigation. Cops located the suspect vehicle in the school parking lot. The male juvenile occupant was highly intoxicated and was in possession of numerous alcoholic beverages and marijuana. He was arrested for possession of pot and alcohol, being drunk in public and released at the scene to a parent. Coincidentally, this occurred at the very end of grad night.

Missing person 6/8/16:

Officers responded to Calle La Montana on a report of a runaway juvenile who has a history of running away. He hadn't come home and was presumed to have run away again. He was last seen at high school

Stolen truck 6/7/16:

A Camino Peral resident reported her gold Ford F-150 truck stolen from the parking lot at the complex. No one had permission to take the vehicle, and it didn't drive itself. No information on possible suspects at this time.

Other crimes occurring in Moraga from June 7 - 14:

False alarm - Fernwood Drive, Moraga Way, Greenfield Drive, Paseo Grande, Joseph Drive.

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Council Changes Direction, Keeps Moraga Road Four Lanes

By Sophie Braccini

Moraga Road between Corliss and Donald Drives will retain its current four lanes.

After deciding earlier this year that the segment of roadway would be reconfigured to three traffic lanes and one turning lane, the town council voted against that option. Concerns over possible congestion and a desire to compromise led to the flip.

During a well-attended council meeting on June 22, each argument for three or four lanes was met by an opposing justification.

Proponents of three lanes argued that the lack of left lane turn was making the segment dangerous. "Three people have died here," said resident Ravi Singh, explaining that when people stop on the left lane to make a left turn on either Devin or Draeger Drives cars waver between lanes at high speed. Others noted how dangerous the fast moving car lanes and lack of dedicated space are for runners — including the very active Campolindo Track team — and bicyclists.

On the four-lane side of the issue, the main argument was traffic flow. Randi Rosso reminded the audience that Moraga Road had been expanded to four lanes because of lack of capacity. The level of service at peak hour would indeed have an impact over time, confirmed traffic consultant Tom Krakow from DKS. Krakow's position was nonetheless in favor of the three-plus-one left turn lane configuration because he explained that what causes congestion are capacity, stops and turning opportunity with no left turning pockets. "It's the unexpected activities that causes ... congestion," he added.

The biggest discrepancy appeared over the residents' different input over the three years the plan developed. A first group of interested residents participated in workshops and study sessions and, along with staff and the different town commissions, reached a consensus for the three-plus-one configuration. The second group comprised residents who were subsequently polled with a survey, and they rejected the idea of reducing the number of travel lanes south-bound by a very large majority.

Interestingly enough, a discussion involving about 60 residents grew on Nextdoor.com after council member Teresa Onoda proposed to take interested Moragans to a walking tour of the area. "I changed my vote because I walked it," said Dr. Susan Bittner who had favored the four-lane option before observing traffic and people forcing their way in the main traffic lane from what is Corliss' right turning lane.

Council member Roger Wykle was the first to withdraw his former support for the three-plus-one configuration. "The town might not be ready for it yet," he said before proposing to maintain four traffic lanes but still construct a multi-use path and bike lane. Onoda, who had also been a champion of the three-plus-one, decided that what Wykle had proposed was the way to go. Vice-Mayor Trotter had always opposed reducing the number of travel lanes.

By the end of the meeting, only Mayor Metcalf stood for the creation of a turning lane. "What we are talking about here is just changing about 750 feet of road," he said. Metcalf explained that the traffic issue was not how much

wane capacity, but the interruption of flow due to the lack of turning lane. He said that the survey had created controversy and showed contradictory findings. For example, as Onoda noted, 74 percent of the respondents had agreed that the three-plus-one option was safe for drivers. "There may be an election coming up... but I have not found a reason to change my mind," said an unwavering Metcalf.

The objective of the Moraga Livable Road plan is to improve the north-south connection and the safety for all users, from Campolindo to the Commons Park. It includes other less controversial changes along the corridor such as a new traffic light at the Corliss intersection. The council approved the plan option proposed by vice mayor Dave Trotter.

Planning Director Ellen Clark explained after the meeting that the implementation would start during the summer. "We will take advantage of the resurfacing of Moraga Road that is scheduled for the summer to change the striping," she said. Clark added that a continuous pedestrian sidewalk may not be possible to set, but she was confident that the continuous multi-use trail would be delineated.

"We will close as many gaps as possible," she said, adding that the undergrounding of PG&E lines along the segment will also help free space for common use. As far as a new light at the Corliss intersection, she said that her department will prepare the plans and that funding, in the form of grants, will be sought. She does not see that new light being installed before the 2017-18 fiscal year.

The Mystery of Moraga's 'Corporate Yard' Solved

By Sophie Braccini



Photo Mina Lucacher

Did you think that the big trucks and equipment parked next to the church at 155 Moraga Rd was the Palos Colorado development staging to start grading the site? Not so.

Neighbors across the street complained to the town and the mystery was solved. The culprit is Central Contra Costa Sanitary District and its contractor KJ Woods, parking its trucks there to be used in Lafayette. The agency is now working out its situation with the town.

At a planning commission public hear-

ing at the beginning of the month, Central San came to explain that there is no place for them to store the equipment in Lafayette and that the church at 155 Moraga Rd. has rented them the space until the end of October. The fleet consists of vehicles, a backhoe, flatbed trucks, materials, precast concrete, pipes, fittings and equipment storage, compressors and generators. The equipment is being used to complete the pipeline renovation project in various locations of Lafayette. No work

is done on site and no hazardous material is stored there.

The neighbors across the street complained to the town about the unsightly yard, and about the noise that according to them starts before 7 a.m. Central San's contractor replied that they have to start moving their equipment early to be on their Lafayette site on time and meet their schedule, but the representative challenged the fact that movement and noise ever occurs before 7 a.m.

Planning commissioner Ferenc Kovac asked the contractor if no site could be found in Lafayette, since it did not make a lot of sense to him that someone would drive the narrow winding road with heavy equipment at commute time, rather than parking closer to the construction site. He added that he would like to see more sensitivity to the needs of the neighbors on the part of the contractor.

The planning commissioners agreed to grant a use permit for the construction staging area but asked that no noise be heard before 8 a.m. They also required more visual screening along Moraga Road. The contractor added that it hopes to complete the work by the end of August.

Town and MSD To Share Facilities At No Cost

By Sophie Braccini

The history between the Town of Moraga and the Moraga School District has not always been one of a cooperative nature. In spite of joint projects such as the town restoring the Camino Pablo playing field, the two agencies sometimes behaved like competing entities, charging each other heavy fees for the use of each other's facilities.

But that's all changing. MSD Superintendent Bruce Burns, along with town staff and council members, will now share their facilities at no cost for the benefit of the residents.

"The winner is the community," said Jay Ingram of the town's parks and recreation department when he presented to the town council in May the Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) that the two entities have now adopted.

Ingram recalls how over the past decade the district and the town established and regularly increased rental fees, instituted reservation restrictions and charged commercial rate fees to each other. For example, one of the justifications

to construct new Town Chambers at 335 Rheem was the fee the town was charged by the school district to use the middle school's auditorium for its council meetings.

The bigger impact will be on the parks and recreation department and its ability to offer sports activities. The 2007 Parks and Recreation Master Plan states that Moraga residents are underserved with community center facilities and park acreage as compared to other local jurisdictions and national standards. This is the reason why an ad hoc Joint Facilities Planning Subcommittee was created in 2014, with representatives of the town, schools and groups of facilities users.

The committee recommended as a first step the discussion of MOUs between the town, Saint Mary's College, MSD and Acalanes Union High School District. AUHSD expressed no interest in sharing facilities, but the town recently signed an MOU with the college; then it was the local school district's time.

"It is a win-win," said Ingram who knows that the town will now be more competitive; the high rental cost restricted the recreation department's options to using only the two public parks for sports classes. The capacity and amenities of both the Commons and Rancho Laguna parks limit dramatically what the town could offer.

When the MSD board discussed the topic, Burns defended the MOU saying that the spirit of the agreement is to make facilities available to the public, without the barrier of discouraging fees. "This is a positive step," he said reassuring his board that reasonable service or operational fees will still be charged if the use generates an expense to the district, such as custodial service.

By the same token, the town will be able to use the four schools facilities and the district can now use town facilities at no cost. This includes the Hacienda de las Flores, the two public parks, the community meeting room, and the electronic community sign.