

At last, sinkhole repair to start this summer

By Sophie Braccini

is in sight as the town finally received the federal government's approval to bid on the repair of the hole that formed over a year ago.

Work will start this summer of Rheem Boulevard for several months. The town will eventually be reimbursed for the millions needed, but it is not clear yet when this will happen.

Federal Emergency Management Agency's agreement to fund the sinkhole repair last year, it came with strings attached: Moraga had to follow a long administrative process to get its bidding documents approved before being able to advertise it.

"We were ready for a long time," said Public Works Director reimburse Moraga, but the town -Edric Kwan. He adds that Moraga's with only a small reserve and also project was not considered by the a closed bridge to repair — had to federal administration an "emer- find the money to upfront the congency opening," like the Orinda sinkhole is. Moraga had to follow a different procedure, called "permanent restoration" that included environmental approvals and working with the other agencies involved with the sinkhole, such as PG&E.

But the approval finally came and Kwan immediately advertised the project as required. He expects to bring the bids to the council on June 14 for awarding the repair contract. Then the work will start.

Because approval came later

rixing the Moraga sinkhole dents, he has increased the work hours and added Saturday shifts. The deadline is Oct. 15 for work completion, but he hopes it will be finished earlier.

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For Moragans, the big imand will close the lower portion pact will be the closure of Rheem Boulevard at its intersection with Moraga Road. Kwan said the town does not recommend using the shopping center as a detour, but to instead use alternate public roads. When the town received the To make the shopping center an official detour would have required the town to negotiate access rights with the property owner, he said, which could have added a considerable amount of time. "We want to get the project started," Kwan said. The town will post signage to signal that Rheem is closed.

The federal government will struction costs that are estimated at \$2.7 million. Earlier this year the town appropriated money from its reserves and from the Palos Colorados developer fee account to fund the project.

Administrative Services Director Amy Cunningham says that the date the federal government will approve reimbursing the town is October of 2018, but adds that this does not mean that the town will see that money just yet. Moraga might have to wait until 2019.

"It is tough for a little town like than expected and because Kwan us to be struck by two emergenwants to minimize impacts on resicies," adds Kwan.

Update on the Canyon bridge

Public Works Director Edric Kwan says that the Canyon bridge situation is different from the sinkhole since it is characterized as an emergency closing. He and his team have made the applications to get emergency funding to install a temporary one-lane bridge. At the time of this article there was no news about Moraga's eligibility. The town continues to monitor the hillside that moved and design a solution that will stabilize the site enough to protect the temporary solution.

EBRPD rangers issuing tickets on trail near slide

By John T. Miller

The East Bay Regional Parks forcing the closed trail from the Valle Vista staging area to 1700 School Street, warned Moraga Town Manager Robert Priebe in his work for managing waste water. report to the Moraga City Council at its recent meeting.

Moraga Trail was closed as of Jan. of the proposals. Kennedy replied 21, 2016 due to a mudslide.

MUD property," said Priebe. "The Water program. park rangers are issuing citations."

meeting at the Council Chambers 7 percent trash reduction requireand Community Meeting Room in- ment. cluded:

nounced that the town has received a report from planning department authorization to go to bid for ap- staff members Ellen Clark and Bripropriation of funds on June 14 an Horn reviewing Moraga's prog-(See story above). "We will get it ress in implementing the General done this summer," Priebe told the Plan. council.

Green Infrastructure. The District is serious about en- council heard a report from Public Works Director Edric Kwan and clean water consultant Frank Kennedy regarding approving a frame-

Council Members Kymberleigh Korpus and Dave Trotter ex-The portion of the Lafayette pressed concern regarding funding that part of the task would be to "The closure is causing people seek grants and get help from the to trespass on private property on Bay Area Storm Water Manage-Augusta Drive and to cross EB- ment and the Contra Costa Clean

Trotter was proud to point out Other action at the May 24 that the town had already met the

General Plan Implementa-Sinkhole Repair. Priebe an- tion. The meeting concluded with

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> Leave text or message 925 864-4946. References available.



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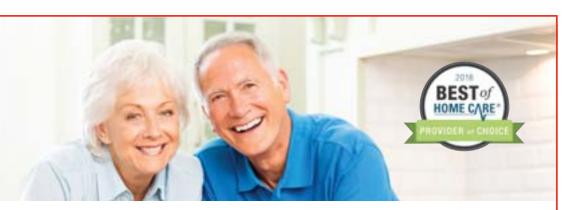
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