



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, March 28, 6 p.m.
Wednesday, April 11, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, April 2, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, March 26, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District

Tuesday, April 10, 7 p.m.
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 Department Incident Summary Report




Feb. 27 to March 12

Alarms	11
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	34
Suspicious Circumstances	6
Suspicious Subject	1
Suspicious Vehicle	7
Service to Citizen	42
Patrol Request/ Security Check	90
Noise Complaint	2
Supplemental Report	13
Welfare Check	1
Abandoned Vehicle	
700 Block Country Club Dr.	
Accident Property	
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.	
Auto Burglary	
200 Block Paseo Bernal	
Police Department	
Beat Info	
400 Block Stonefield Pl.	
Civil	
600 Block Moraga Rd.	
Police Department	
10 Block Pimentel Ct.	
300 Block Rheem Blvd. (2)	
Coroner's Case	
200 Block Birchwood Dr.	
County Order	
10 Block Buckingham Dr.	
Court	
Walnut Creek Superior Court	
DUI Misdemeanor	
Safeway	
Excessive Speed	
Safeway	
Extortion	
Police Department	
Forgery	
Police Department	
Found Property	
McCaulous	
Fraud Credit Card	
800 Block Camino Ricardo	
Not Available	
Grand Theft	
10 Block Canning Ct.	
Harassment	
Police Department	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
Safeway	
Identity Theft	
Police Department	
10 Block Cortes Ct.	
Medical Hospital	
3900 Block Paseo Grande	
Motorist Assist	
Rheem Blvd./St. Marys Rd.	
Petty Theft	
Rheem Center	
400 Block Tharp Dr.	
Public Assembly Check	
Skate Park, Moraga Common	
Rheem Valley Shopping Center (4)	
Safeway	
1500 Block Canyon Rd.	

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Council finalizes decision on hillside and ridgeline regulation

By Sophie Braccini

During a recent special meeting, the town council made its final decision regarding several important rules addressing hillside development and ridgeline protection. Visual separation standards, a Moraga Center Specific Plan exception, non-Moraga Open Space Ordinance open space density and floor-area ratio guidelines for lots over 1 acre were debated.

These decisions impact what Moraga will look like in the future and how property owners will be able to develop their properties. The council should approve the final revision of the town's rules,

which has been in the making for years, during one of its April meetings.

Planning rules and regulations take years to modify in Moraga and it's rare that this topic stirs residents' passions for more than a few months. The only ones who have had the stamina to follow this long-distance race have been the advocacy group Protect Lamorinda Open Space and large property owners, because the value of their assets is at stake. These voices were indeed the ones offering different perspectives at the March 7 council meeting.

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Implications of the new rules for the undeveloped 24 acres at the south border of the town

Mark Armstrong, consultant for developer Dobbins Property LLC, which wants to develop the 24 acres between Rancho Laguna Park and Sanders Ranch – a hilly site along Camino Pablo that is county land at this time – said at a previous meeting that if the town's rules precluded development of the land, the developer would not seek incorporation of the property inside Moraga's boundaries and would proceed with more forgiving county regulation. After the meeting, Armstrong indicated that the council's decision to apply Moraga Open Space Ordinance rules to non-MOSO land was acceptable, and that previous height limitation rules on hillsides had been amended to permit planned development on the part of the lot already zoned residential. The process of incorporating the property in the town has not started yet, according to Armstrong.

Coming soon to your mailbox: the Moraga stormwater fee ballot

By Sophie Braccini

An opportunity to decide the future of Moraga's infrastructure is on its way to your mailbox. In keeping with proposition 218 proceedings, the town can now send a ballot by mail to each property owner to decide whether or not to approve a stormwater fee.

Less than 5 percent of property owners opposed this voting process in writing. Opposing property owners had to provide the town clerk with their formal written protest by the March 15 council meeting. If more than half of the town's property owners, equaling more than 2,500 people, had opposed the balloting, the process would have ended there. Only 273 residents logged a written protest.

While the written opposition was small, a spirited discussion over a stormwater fee took place during the meeting. More than half of the speakers were opposed to the fee, and the town chambers overflowed with residents interested in hearing or speaking about it.

The process will continue as prescribed by regulation. The next step will involve printing and mailing one ballot per parcel at the beginning of April. The mailing from the town will include a ballot that has to be signed after voting yes or no. The back of the ballot will list the parcels belonging to the same owner(s). Most people own one parcel and will have one vote, but those with multiple parcels will have as many votes as they have parcels. The ballots will have to be returned to the town clerk, who is

the official tabulator, in a provided envelope. A simple majority is required for the fee to be adopted.

Jerry Bradshaw, a consultant for the town on this issue, explained that this process follows the rules laid out by proposition 218. He explained that the stormwater fee would be no different than the light assessment residents pay for municipal lighting at night, and that the cost of \$10 per month for the average homeowner will be in keeping with the fees paid to utilities such as the Central Contra Costa Sanitary District or PG&E.

Public Works Director Edric Kwan made a compelling presentation of the needs that exist in town to update the subterranean runoff infrastructure, and opened his talk with Rheem sinkhole images.

Among the people who came to register their opposition to the fee, few disputed the need for repair and maintenance. The comments focused mostly on the town's management of its financial resources.

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Image provided

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