



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, May 9, 7 p.m.
Wednesday, May 23, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, May 21, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Monday, May 14, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District

Tuesday, May 8, 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

March 27 to April 8

Alarms	16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	1
Traffic	50
Suspicious Circumstances	14
Suspicious Subject	2
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Request/ Security Check	114
Vacation House Check	5
Supplemental Report	13
Welfare Check	1

Battery

St. Marys College

Beat Info

Safeway

Civil Problem

1100 Block Moraga Way

Disturbing The Peace

Devin Dr./Moraga Rd.

500 Block Center St.

Dui Misd

St. Marys Rd./Cattle Chute Rd.

Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.

Excessive Speed

Moraga Blvd./1St St., Laf

Moraga Rd.

Dreager Dr./Moraga Rd.

Moraga Way/Viader Dr.

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Moraga Rd./Moraga Way

Larch Ave Wandel Dr.

Fraud Credit Card

1900 Block Joseph Dr.

1500 Block Canyon Rd.

100 Block Fairfield Pl.

CVS

Fraud False Pretenses

1500 Block Canyon Rd.

Hailed By Citizen

Good Will

Police Department

Identity Theft

1900 Block St. Marys Rd.

Police Department

Indecent Exposure

Hazelwood Pl./School St.

Lost Property

Twenty Four Hour Fitness

Safeway

Loud Music

200 Block Paseo Bernal

200 Block Paseo Bernal

Medical Hospital

Bank Of America

Mentally Ill Commit

100 Block Merion

100 Block Miramonte Dr.

Ordinance Violation

1000 Block Larch Ave.

Petty Theft

1100 Block Rimer Dr.

St. Marys College

400 Block Woodminster Dr.

Safeway

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Moraga should rescind its fiscal emergency, audit and finance committee recommends

By Sophie Braccini

The members of the Moraga audit and finance committee were reassured by the figures recently presented by staff indicating that the town's reserve reached 28.5 percent of the operating budget in February – \$2.5 million – and unanimously agreed to recommend that the town's fiscal emergency be rescinded.

When Moraga adopted a declaration of fiscal emergency last July the purpose was to allow the town to be able to call for a special funding election mechanism should a new disaster hit

the town. The reserves that had been close to 50 percent were seriously depleted with two successive infrastructure emergencies: the Rheem sinkhole and Canyon Bridge. The town manager at the time felt that the declaration would give the town ways to act should something else happen.

Reimbursement money from the sinkhole work is now starting to trickle in, \$1 million is expected this fiscal year (before July 2018), and better than expected income coupled with more savings have given Moraga a better than expected surplus. The rest

of the sinkhole reimbursement money, \$1.4 million, is scheduled to be received during the 2018-19 fiscal year and should restore the reserve to 45 percent by June of 2019. New town manager Cynthia Battenberg confirmed that the typical city reserve is 16 percent.

The first reimbursement money soon to arrive will be returned to the developer fund from which it came; the next expected reimbursement will be allocated to the general fund reserve.

Battenberg noted that reimbursement for the Canyon Bridge

work, over \$3 million, would take years since there is no allocation made yet and the town of Moraga will be competing with North Bay fire reimbursement needs. She promised that her team would stay on top of the issue.

The committee decided that if the storm drain fee measure fails, the town would still have time to propose another financial mechanism on the November ballot and did not need to maintain the fiscal emergency declaration to do so. It is likely that the town council will consider the committee's recommendation in May.

An experienced planner to direct development in Moraga

By Sophie Braccini



Moraga's new Planning Director Derek Farmer Photo Sophie Braccini

Derek Farmer was recently confirmed as Moraga planning director. The man, who was hired as senior planner a few years ago and promoted as interim director when Ellen Clark left, is now in charge. He has worked both in the public and private sectors, with universities, large cities, redevelopment projects and rowdy crowds, and is not fazed by the complex and often very lengthy Moraga processes; instead he is energized by what lies ahead.

Farmer is a San Diego native who got a job in the San Jose State media department after obtaining his bachelor's degree and decided to pursue a graduate degree there in urban planning. He says that land use, downtown redevelopment and the balance between development and environmental protection were the subjects that most interested him.

Farmer worked back and forth in the public and private

sectors, about 11 years in each, in different parts of the country and the Bay Area. When he was a private consultant for the New York Government Office of Storm Recovery he was in charge of reconstruction projects in times of crisis when people had lost their homes to hurricanes, in areas built on increasingly flooding planes. He also worked on reconstruction projects for Navy bases.

Back in the Bay Area Farmer worked for the National Park Service on the upgrade of the Sausalito waste water treatment plant, a project that included archaeological digs of sailors' remains that had been buried on the beaches during the Civil War period and World War I. Farmer also managed the Environmental Impact Report of UC Berkeley's future 5 million-square-foot Richmond global campus that will be built over the next 30 years. As a contractor he worked for the city of San Francisco on build-

ing transitional youth and affordable housing. He also worked on Lake Berryessa's shoreline trail management plan, creating a trail around the huge shoreline.

Farmer was first hired in Orinda in 2015. He had been working as a consultant for the city of Berkeley as a contract planner and wanted to return as a regular employee. He worked on projects at Wilder as a senior planner, and he also worked on Paul Ugenti's mixed development plan in downtown Orinda. Farmer decided to apply to Moraga when a senior position opened because he said that even if the cities are similar, there were aspects in Moraga he was particularly interested in.

One of them was the Saint Mary's College master plan. In addition to working with UC Berkeley, Farmer also worked with Stanford University as a Santa Clara County planner on the new student housing and aca-

demical and athletic buildings the university is planning. He is also interested in downtown redevelopment and is looking forward to working on the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Farmer looks at the coming projects in Moraga with a sense of calm, especially since Moraga hired a new senior planner, Steve Kowalski, who used to work in Fremont and has a lot of development experience, including working with hillside preservation regulation.

Farmer is already familiar with what is in the pipeline for Moraga. Some developments are far from completion, such as the Indian Valley project. This plan proposes building 71 homes on the vacant 450 acres bordering the community of Canyon, clustered on the lower flat portion of Indian Valley, over the ridge, overlooking Canyon and with access on Canyon Road. The EIR for this project has not yet been completed.

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