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2018 town goals approved at almost mid-year

By *Sophie Braccini*

The town council approved at the end of April the goals staff has been working on since the beginning of the year. This year's goals are predominantly continuations of last year's goals. With just over half of the year remaining, no new earth-shattering objectives were introduced. Staff and council have continued last year's goals and, since the beginning of the year, have tackled new issues that are now reflected in the goals as approved.

When Mayor Dave Trotter took the center chair in January he said that the year's goals would be "reimbursement, reimbursement, reimbursement." The town was just coming out of a traumatic period, suffering several major infrastructure failures and commensurate expenses. Getting the money back from the federal government was the obvious central preoccupation, therefore the first target for the town is to work aggressively to obtain reimbursement from the Federal Highway Administration for the town's sinkhole repair and the Canyon Road Bridge, and restore the town's general fund reserves.

Trotter also wanted to add as a separate aim to pursue a fair resolution of the town's claims, and if necessary litigation, against third parties with legal responsibility for damage to the Canyon Road Bridge. All agreed with the idea.

Fiscal discipline was also a top target. Then, following the lead of Vice Mayor Teresa Onoda, the council agreed to add to the goals pertaining to open space preservation and implementation of the new hillside and ridgeline regulation the pursuit of partnerships to protect and acquire open space.

Infrastructure goals included searching for supplemental grant funding, additional to measure K money, to keep the roads in top condition, and develop a storm drain master implementation plan if the storm drain fee is approved.

In the area of economic development, the council agreed that the preservation of the Rheem Theatre and the development of a public-private partnership for the Hacienda de las Flores were goals that were attainable this year.

On policy matters, the council agreed that progress should be made this year in the zoning of the Moraga Center Specific Plan and that the planning department should start reviewing the development process to better align it with people's expectations.

As far as recreation is concerned, the council adopted the goal of improving the connectedness of the Moraga trail system and developing maps of the trails. The council also wants to reach out to the Moraga School District board to explore and develop potential funding mechanisms for new, joint use recreational facilities and sports fields.

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