



### MORAGA

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## Sale of Firearms Ordinance passes in Moraga

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council, with a 4-1 vote, approved an ordinance for the sale of firearms to include only the Limited Commercial Zone. Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus cast the no vote.

Moraga's senior planner, Steve Kowalski, presented the updated version of the ordinance during the Feb. 13 town council meeting. The original ordinance included two Commercial Zones located in the Moraga Center and Rheem Shopping Center, as well as the Limited Commercial Zone located from the 7-Eleven Store north to Rheem Boulevard.

The sales locations were reduced after public concern matched council members' observations during the Jan. 9 meeting, that Moraga Center and Rheem Center were deemed family-friendly zones during business hours of operation.

Anyone wishing to set up shop, according to the new Sale of Firearms Ordinance, in the Limited Commercial Zone must meet many stringent requirements, some of which include providing a floor plan of the proposed business detailing information regarding security provisions for the business. The business owner must also provide proof of compliance with all state and federal laws

regarding licensing, and must provide information pertaining to any and all prior revocations of a license or permit to sell firearms. And, the applicant has to agree to hold the town and its officers, agents and employees harmless against any claims, losses or damages including legal fees due to the applicant's negligence or intentional misconduct. Additionally, the sale of firearms can only be carried on in the building at the street address shown on the permit.

Also noted in the ordinance, the police chief's investigation and issuance of a permit is based on the determination of whether there is no risk to public safety. The

applicant would be required to provide fingerprints, a recent photo, a signed authorization for the release of pertinent records and provide personal history on a detailed questionnaire provided by the police chief or appointee.

Finally, if an applicant passes all of the qualifications and receives a police permit it must be displayed on the store premises. The applicant may not allow any person under 21 years of age to enter or remain on the premises without the accompaniment of a parent or other adult legally responsible for that minor, unless that minor is between the ages of 18 and 21 and meets one or more exemptions listed under Penal

Code section 27510(b)(1) or (b)(2). The applicant also may not deliver a firearm to a purchaser earlier than allowed by state and federal law, and it must be unloaded and securely wrapped or in a locked container.

According to the ordinance, any firearm transactions must be promptly processed and a register of all sales must be kept.

During the public comment portion of the discussion, four residents provided feedback to the council. All were in support of the ordinance, noting the importance of regulating gun dealers.

## Moraga under water?



Photo Bob Yost

From left, hip bone of mastodon, scallop shell, lower molar of mastodon compared to a six-inch ruler. Fossils discovered in Bollinger Canyon cliffs.

By Vera Kochan

If you think that your yard suffered water damage during the last rainstorm, try to imagine it completely under water as it was over 15 million years ago.

Prior to that, the area now known as Contra Costa County was under the Pacific Ocean. About 40 million years ago, the land mass to the west of Moraga, the Berkeley Hills, began to rise, bringing out of the sea a range of coastal mountains.

About 30 million years later, the great inland sea began to uplift and drain. At one point in time, Mt. Diablo was an island. Subsequently, the Las Trampas Ridge began to rise and form. In doing so, it

created a basin of water that was left behind while much of it flowed back into the Pacific. This enclosed basin included what is known today as the Moraga/Orinda area.

The basin eventually became a freshwater lake, where to this day geologists can still uncover fossils of shellfish.

According to an article by Moraga historian Gladys Shally, "The oldest known fossils in the Bay Area are microscopic animals, known as radiolaria, and are found in marine deposits." While drilling for an oil well in Lafayette brought up rock specimens rather than oil, the specimens contained radiolaria with an age date "estimated at 40 to 50 million

years old."

Shally continues, "Ancient sediments found in the Burton area, in Bollinger Canyon and Las Trampas Ridge, contain fossils of clams, snails, scallops, sand dollars etc. Even a whale vertebra was found near Rheem."

One of the best fossil beds still lies in the Moraga Bluffs where, due to volcanic action, wave ripples that once lay along the ancient lake's perimeter, have been up-ended to form sandstone cliffs or walls.

So, the next time it rains three inches in 24 hours remember, it could've been worse.

 <p><b>Town Council</b>          Wednesday, Feb 27, 7 p.m.          Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Planning Commission</b>          Monday, March 4, 7 p.m.          Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Design Review</b>          Monday, Feb. 25, 7 p.m.          Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.</p>	<p><b>Moraga School District Board Meetings</b>          Tuesday, March 12, 7 p.m.          Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga          www.moraga.k12.ca.us          See also AUHSD meeting page A2</p>
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