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Town council approves purchase of more radar speed signs

By Vera Kochan



Radar speed sign captures reading of law-abiding driver Photo Vera Kochan

In response to the increasing number of speeding violations and reckless driving complaints, Moraga will add three new portable radar speed signs to its current roster of three.

The signs use radar to capture a vehicle's speed and display it for the driver to see, thus hopefully educating the driver if they are exceeding the posted speed limit.

According to a staff report presented by Moraga Police Chief Jon King at the June 12 Moraga Town Council Meeting, "Staff has researched available radar speed signs that would compliment the existing signs used by the town and has discovered new technology that provides the same traffic information to drivers as the current signs, but also captures the traffic data for future analysis."

The additional data includes the total number of vehicles passing by the sign at a particular time of day, the total and average numbers of speeding violations per hour or day, as well as minimum, average and highest speeds recorded. This kind of information helps police target areas where speeding is a concern.

Even though particular stretches of road are conducive to speeding, King stated, "The signs will be rotated around to different locations throughout the town."

The cost of the three new signs, which includes accessing data, management software, on-site training, solar power, applicable sales tax and shipping comes to \$8,706. The town has collected funds from a Public Safety Impact Fee derived from development maintained separately from the General Fund. There is currently \$74,933 available in the account. The purchase of the three new radar speed signs will have no impact to the

General Fund

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