



MORAGA

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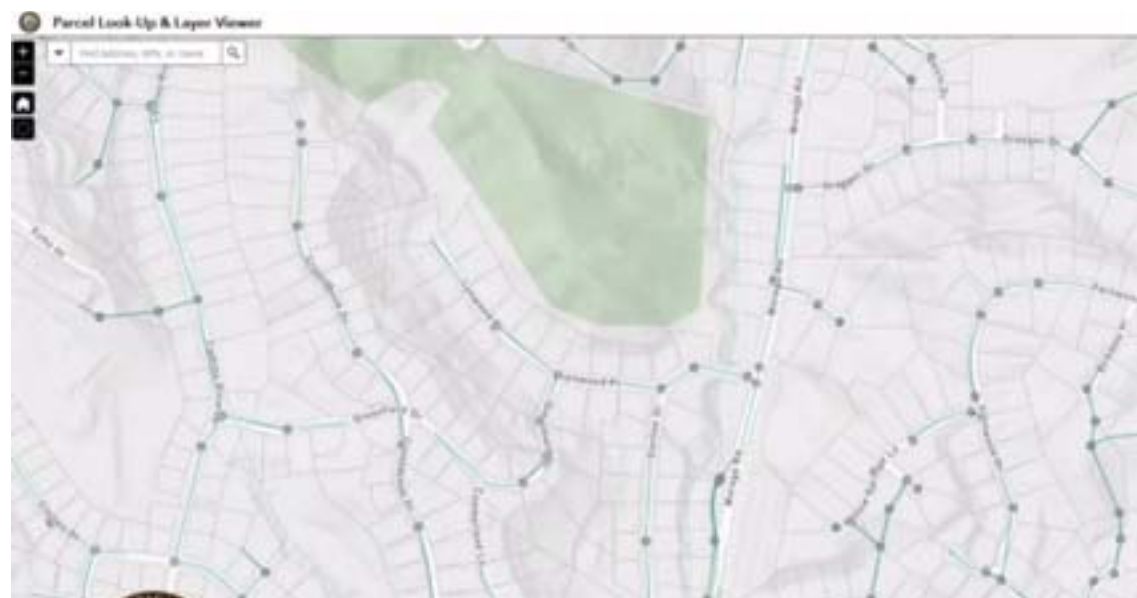
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Geographic Information System halfway to completion



Example of GIS Storm Drain mapping and manhole covers for use by public works

By Vera Kochan

The ease of looking up neighborhood map information via the internet is fast approaching for the town of Moraga in the form of the Geographic Information System.

During a status update of the three-year project at the Sept. 11 town council meeting, Planning Director Derek Farmer was excited to preview for council members some of the GIS capabilities.

Town Manager Cynthia Battenberg explained that the

project was funded due to the \$55,000 savings in salary due to the vacancy of an assistant planner position.

Placeworks, the same firm that is at the helm of the Moraga Center Specific Plan meetings and design scenarios, is behind setting up Moraga's

GIS.

The project's goal is to provide easily accessible property and infrastructure information to town staff and the community while building on layers from public works and the planning departments.

Some of the data layers currently available through the system are: land parcels; zoning; general plan use, emergency routes; roads; traffic collisions, scenic corridors; parks and trails; ADA ramps; earthquake faults; landslides; wildfire threats and more.

The GIS provides for the layering of information, which will help the town make decisions, increasing efficiency and transparency, because much of the information will be easily available to residents. However, for security and privacy reasons, not every aspect will be available to the public.

Advantages to town staff and the public are the web-based tools to access the town's data, such as property information, map printing,

overlay data, ability to place comments and run queries, conduct analysis and export data.

Residents will be able to access the GIS by going to the town's website home page and clicking onto the GIS/Mapping Tool located under Quick Links.

While the project has reached the halfway mark, yet to come is staff training for utilization purposes, the planning projects public application, the public works public application and a development of a maintenance plan to ensure data and applications are kept up to date.

Council Member Steve Woehleke was concerned about cybercrimes and how the system will be protected from either being erased or from unauthorized access. It was explained that the system is housed on Esri, an international supplier of GIS software widely recognized for keeping their sites secure.

Cattle do their part to keep the town safe during fire season



Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve

Photo Lamo archives

By Vera Kochan

The 260-acre Mulholland Ridge Open Space Preserve area has seen cattle grazing on it since the late 1970s. John Hoover's cattle have used the property for buffets even after the town acquired the land in 1999, through a right of entry agreement between the town of Moraga and Hoover, which originated in 2006.

The original lease agreement was for three years and was extended, in 2009, for an additional five. In 2014, another five-year agreement was executed.

In this age of rampant wildfire threats, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District has requested residents to voluntarily trim their yards free of any flammable grass, weeds and trees that could ignite during the upcoming fire season. The cattle are doing their part in the abatement effort by reducing fire fuel, thereby increasing hazard mitigation to the town-owned property and nearby residents.

Over the past five years, Moraga has collected \$13,155.28 through the lease agreement. During the Sept.

11 town council meeting, the members voted unanimously to extend the agreement for another five years into 2024, when the town will have collected nearly \$14,000 based on the Annual Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers.

During the town council meeting, Vice Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus asked Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt if the town was getting a good rate on the lease agreement. Brandt replied, "It's a good situation in that it's a win-win for the tenant and the town. The cattle grazing obviously does a lot of good on the land. We've had recent conversations as we've explored cattle grazing on the Orinda side."

Brandt added, "We've talked to Orinda over the past month or two and they're exploring similar terms on their portion of Mulholland, and similarly John Muir Land Trust has been looking into it. So, we've been talking more about cattle grazing over the last few months than we have probably in years past and the amount seems appropriate."

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Town Council

Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 p.m. regular meeting
 Tuesday, Sept 24, 6 p.m. special meeting
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room,
 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 7, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Park and Recreation Commission

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 7 p.m.
 Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Moraga School District Board Meetings

Thursday, Oct. 10, 7 p.m.
 Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium, 1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us
 See also AUHSD meeting page A2