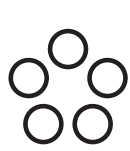




MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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:
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Town Council Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
Planning Commission: TBA
Park and Recreation Commission:
 Tuesday, Jan 19, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings:
 Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 12, 6 p.m.
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us. See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Council recommends garbage collection rate hike



Garbage collection in Moraga Dec. 29

Photo Nick Marnell

By Nick Marnell

The Moraga Town Council Dec. 9 quietly recommended a 6.75% garbage collection rate increase for residents starting in March. The recommendation passed unanimously with no council discussion or public input.

Solid waste disposal in Moraga is managed by the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, a joint powers authority operating as RecycleSmart. The authority contracts with Republic Services to collect trash and recyclables from homes and businesses, and with Mt. Diablo Recycling to package the recycled product and sell or otherwise dispose of it. The JPA negotiates rates annually with the contractors for five Contra Costa County municipalities and unincorporated portions of the county.

Moraga Council Member

Renata Sos sits on the RecycleSmart board of directors.

"The rates set for each jurisdiction are based on a variety of jurisdiction-specific factors such as garbage vehicle impact fees that are collected by the jurisdiction, rate increases in prior years, rates charged by neighboring jurisdictions, and reserve levels that are used as a hedge against significant future rate increases," Sos said.

Every year, Republic must submit to the JPA a rate request application. "Republic's compensation from the rate application is allocated out to the member agencies based on their annual tonnage, annual route hours and number of accounts," said Ken Etherington, RecycleSmart executive director.

The rate application is a complex document including 36 spreadsheets that cover labor charges, capital require-

ments, tonnage, and revenue requirements for the upcoming year. The application shows that in the last fiscal year, Republic collected more than 4,450 tons of solid waste in Moraga from residential and commercial properties, plus 4,800 tons of organic waste and 2,900 tons of recyclable material. Those were the lowest tonnage figures of the member JPA municipalities.

Republic states in its application that the 2021 revenue requirement for Moraga is \$4.59 million, also the lowest among JPA municipalities. Etherington broke down the Moraga total at \$2.97 million for hauler compensation, \$842,000 in vehicle impact fees, \$174,000 in recycling costs and \$602,000 in franchise fees and other expenses.

Under the proposed 2021 agreement, in order for Republic to reach its revenue requirement, monthly rates for Moraga residential service would rise to \$41.10 for a 32-gallon container, and commercial rates would increase between \$15.07 and \$45.21, depending on the level of service. Though Moraga produces the lowest solid waste tonnage among the JPA member municipalities, the town's container rate is second highest, behind only Orinda's.

The municipalities will enter into year seven of a 10-year franchise agreement with the contractors. The RecycleSmart board plans to adopt the 2021 rates at a public hearing Jan. 28, with the new rates to be effective March 1.

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Expansion in the works for Moraga Country Club



Moraga Country Club prepares to expand

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Country Club received a green light during the Planning Commission's Dec. 7 meeting for a request to expand its facilities. Included in the plans is a new 6,600-square-foot fitness facility, a new 4,300-square-foot courtside grille, a sports court to include bocce ball and pickleball courts, additional parking and upgraded landscaping.

Commission members gave high marks to MCC for one of the most comprehensive applications ever turned in for review and consideration.

The MCC was originally developed in 1974, approximately six months before

Moraga became incorporated. It included homes, a clubhouse, golf course, swimming pool and tennis courts. In 2011-12, the original clubhouse and pool were demolished to make way for a new pool and a 20,271-square-foot two-story clubhouse which features a reception desk/lobby, lounge, golf pro shop, men's and women's locker rooms, restaurant, bar, kitchen, banquet and conference rooms, and administration space for staff. All of these and future amenities/facilities will continue to be available to MCC residents and members only.

The proposal includes a demolition of the existing 1,200-square-foot tennis shop in order to construct the new

fitness facility, courtside grille and an 860-square-foot recreation pavilion adjacent to the existing clubhouse on opposite sides of the swimming pool.

The courtside grille would lead from the pool deck down to the adjacent sport courts and have two levels. The main deck would include a bar, dining room and kitchen with a wrap-around outdoor terrace. The grille does not intend to hold any outdoor events, live music venues or performances. It would offer food, beverages and alcohol service.

The single-level fitness club building would contain a weight/fitness machine room, a workout studio, a children's activity room, restrooms, and reception area with administrative office.

The new recreation pavilion will be located below the clubhouse complex at the tennis court level and contain a lobby, restrooms, and provide equipment rental for members using the sport court facilities.

The project's architect has designed the three new facilities in a way that is complementary to the clubhouse's Mediterranean Revival style. This was done intentionally to create a campus-like setting that is contextual with the existing building. Project planners hope to begin the expansion in early summer of 2021.

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