



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:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org

Town Council

Wednesday, May 12, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 26, 7 p.m.

Planning Commission:

Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.,

Park and Recreation Commission:

Tuesday, May 17, 7 p.m.,

Moraga School District Board Meetings:

Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 8, 6 p.m.

www.moraga.k12.ca.us

See also AUHSD meeting page A2

Pedestrian safety one of top priorities discussed during Moraga council meeting



Photo provided by Moraga Public Works Dept

Hazardous road conditions near Los Perales Elementary School

By Vera Kochan

A big part of the Five-Year Capital Improvement Program concerns traffic and safety issues within Moraga. One of the town council's goals for 2021 is to "continue to focus on traffic safety and explore opportunities for improvement, such as closing the sidewalk gap on Corliss Drive near Los Perales school" – a topic that has received much attention from concerned residents in the neighborhood for quite some

time.

Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp's presentation during the town council's April 28 meeting outlined Moraga's traffic and safety areas that need improvement. Also present was Regional Principal-in-Charge Meghan Mitman of Fehr & Peers, a transportation planning and engineering firm.

On the list of safety projects is ADA accessibility. Staff wants to analyze all of the town's buildings, parks, path-

ways, curb ramps and sidewalks in order to determine any shortcomings in that realm. Also, according to a town ordinance, property owners are responsible for maintaining landscapes and walkways in the public right-of-way. A biennial inspection would help to reinforce hazard-free zones.

Knapp's staff report also focused on cyclist improvement projects such as "striping bike lanes and buffer zones, adding bike lanes and signage where bike lane gaps exist, adding new paved shoulders with bike lanes, and adding separated bicycle facilities."

Traffic signal improvements would involve assessments to the aging equipment in order to create a replacement schedule or possibly install more technologically advanced equipment with signal timing synchronization, improved ADA compliance deficiencies, smart timing, and video vehicle detection.

High on the council members' list of discussion concerned pedestrian safety improvements. Knapp's report pointed out some inexpensive enhancements would

include "maintaining existing or upgrading traffic signage and striping improvements for crosswalks. More expensive projects include traffic calming/curb ramp bulb-outs, advance warning systems, and new traffic signalized intersections."

While several intersections made the staff's list with regards to needing pedestrian improvements, council members gave particular focus to Canyon Road/Sanders Drive and Canyon Road/Country Club Drive in large part because of the proximity to the Moraga Shopping Center and student foot traffic to and from Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School. However, the location most in need of pedestrian improvements, according to public comments and council members alike, is Corliss Drive near Los Perales Elementary School on Wakefield Drive, where many incidents by careless drivers have occurred.

Funding for transportation projects, which includes traffic safety, would come from Measure J along with additional grant programs.

Town Council hears preliminary Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan

By Vera Kochan

In consideration of one of the town council's 2021 goals to "continue work on a financial plan to sustain core operations of the town," which includes asset replacement, Parks and Recreation Director Breyana Brandt's April 28 presentation laid out the many improvements and maintenance priorities that have been long overdue within the Capital Improvement Program's scope.

Much consideration was given by staff in determining which of the town's assets would fall under the category. The criteria included: "service life of the asset; condition of the individual asset following assessment; availability of funding in each fiscal year; ability of town to complete the work given the existing workload and limited staff

resources; and economy of scale – in which like projects are completed in a single fiscal year whenever possible as project costs typically decrease with size."

The Five-Year Asset Replacement Program Funding Recommendation for Fiscal Year 2021-22 totals \$329,000. Area's of improvement include: replace the Hacienda's wooden fence along the Casita in which shelf life has far surpassed its initial construction in 1977 (\$19,000); Hacienda patio ADA pathway and patio expansion with the help of grant funds (\$28,000); exterior painting of the Casita to cover the patchwork and construction of recent improvements to the building (\$21,000); replace the 25-year-old library carpet (\$65,000); paint the exterior of the library (\$28,000); replace hazardous Commons Park swing

sets which were removed in 2016 (\$33,000); paint the exterior of the Commons Park bandshell in which paint is peeling and chipping (\$21,000); replace a 2015 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$54,000); replace the 2002 Chevy Impala utilized by the Public Works Department (\$30,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$30,000).

The recommendations for FY 2022-23 totaling \$318,000 include: replacing the Hacienda's 1977 dated metal entrance fence and gate (\$42,000); replace the Hacienda Pavilion flagstone staircase (built in 1938) before it becomes a safety liability, Design Phase 1 (\$49,000); replace dry-rotted Rancho Laguna Park picnic tables with 100% recyclable plastic tables (\$53,000); replace the 1974 library sewer lateral line (\$34,000); replace the sewer lateral line at 329 Rheem Blvd. – location of the town offices (\$6,000); replace 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$56,000); replace a 2007 Ford F-250 Public Works maintenance truck (\$46,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

FY 2023-24 recommendations totaling \$294,000 include: Hacienda flagstone staircase replacement Phase 2 – installation (\$206,000); replace 2016 Ford Explorer police vehicle (\$56,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

Recommendations for FY 2024-25 totaling \$349,000 include: the Hacienda retaining wall (\$65,000); refinish Hacienda wood floors (\$61,000); trellis at 329 Rheem Blvd. (\$63,000); replace 2018 Dodge Charger police vehicle (\$46,000); replace Public Works dump truck (\$82,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

The last of the Capital Asset Replacement Five-Year Plan for FY 2025-26 totals \$300,000 and includes: Commons Park spray feature



Hacienda fence beyond repair

Photo courtesy Parks and Rec

(\$37,000); Hacienda interior painting (\$22,000); paint the Pavilion exterior (\$24,000); library flat roof (\$63,000); refurbish 335 Rheem Blvd. restroom (\$32,000); replace 2016 Dodge Charger police vehicle (\$55,000); replace Public Works 1999 Bobcat Loader (\$35,000); and the annual investment of the IT server and hardware replacement (\$32,000).

Council Member David Stromberg questioned the necessity of replacing police vehicles that appear to be sitting in abundance at the town offices. Moraga Police Chief Jon King explained that each vehicle goes through above average wear and tear during use. For that reason vehicles are assigned on a rotation basis to officers in order to maximize their longevity. Also, if vehicles are out for maintenance there are backups available in the fleet. Additionally, any officer who is subpoenaed to court should

appear in uniform and drive a police vehicle. King pointed out that if a vehicle reaches its five-year mark and has proven reliable it's kept in the fleet for another year.

Council Member Renata Sos suggested that repairs and replacements be prioritized for the "must-haves over the nice-to-haves." The rest of the council was in like mind and was pleased with staff's explanations for why items were on the proverbial "honey-do list."

In the past two years the town has invested \$753,707 in Capital Asset Replacement from various funds, with an estimated \$2,523,700 in assets that are past due or due for the next five years. Staff recommended \$1.59 million in projects over that same period, assigning an average annual investment of \$318,000. The council's input will be brought back for approval as part of the town's Five-Year CIP.



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Canyon Bridge closure planned May 17-21

Construction of phase 2 of the Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project is underway. The contractor is working Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Expect traffic delays of 15 minutes or longer. Beginning Monday, May 17 through Friday, May 21 the bridge will be closed

from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. to all traffic with the exception of emergency services. The closure will ensure safety of the community and construction team with the installation of the creek diversion system. "We apologize for an inconvenience and appreciate your patience during construc-

tion," said Moraga City Manager Cynthia Battenberg. For current updates, check the town's Canyon Road Bridge webpage (<http://www.moraga.ca.us/canyonroadbridge>) regularly. — submitted by Sharon Chan