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Council expresses gratitude to Cynthia Battenberg for her efforts on the town's behalf

By Vera Kochan



Exiting town manager, Cynthia Battenberg Photo provided

After nearly five years as the town's manager, Cynthia Battenberg will leave Moraga with a long list of achievements under her belt. On Oct. 4 she officially submitted a written notice to the town council advising them of her impending resignation at the end of this month.

"Moraga is losing a highly competent leader who will be very difficult to replace," stated Mayor Steve Woehleke. "Cynthia and her team have made enhancements across the full range of local government responsibilities. They are very successfully keeping all the balls bouncing to keep Moraga humming along. We all owe Cynthia a big thank you for her impactful accomplishments and for creating a very competent staff who will continue to support Moraga."

Battenberg began her career as the town manager on March 12, 2018, having to deal with two major infrastructure issues: the Canyon Road Bridge and Rheem's sinkholes. Little did she know that almost two years later what COVID's ramifications would have on Moraga's economy.

"Cynthia's contributions to the betterment of this town are significant, enduring, and lasting," said Vice Mayor Renata Sos. "She was an efficient and empathic manager and mentor to her staff. Her strategic thinking and operational skill put the town on solid footing for the future. She led by example and fostered a culture of excellence. I so enjoyed working with her for the past four years, and I know that she will excel at whatever she does next."

Under Battenberg's guidance, the town has climbed its way back to financial solvency and identified unfunded infrastructural needs in order to invest in Moraga's storm drain system and other public assets. The town has followed through on improving the condition of its streets; and finishing legacy development applications and implementing the 2010 Moraga Center Specific Plan.

Council Member Teresa Onoda indicated that "Cynthia has been a smart, organized, powerhouse who knows everything about the budget, engineering, parks and rec, and things that make Moraga work. We have been so very lucky to have her as our town manager and friend. I will miss her very much."

Additional achievements for Battenberg include the completion of the Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative toward future town development; creating recreation and after school programs; and activating the Hacienda de las Flores for expanded community usage.

"Cynthia has been helpful overall to the town of Moraga over the years and in addressing additional opportunities for our town as well. I thank her for her service," said Council Member Mike McCluer.

"Cynthia is a creative and bold thinker," Council Member Sona Makker noted. "This is what I came to appreciate and admire about her the most. I think leadership can take many forms, but when it comes to local government, we rely on our town leaders to work within the frameworks set out by law and code and make thoughtful, forward-thinking decisions. Cynthia excels in this, and I learned a great deal from her during my time on council. I can't wait to see where she brings her skills and talents next! Moraga was lucky to have her."

Battenberg's immediate plans after leaving Moraga have already been thought out. "I'm planning to take a six-month work hiatus to travel, focus on my family and recharge my batteries."

As for what the future holds for her career-wise, Battenberg stated, "I'm evaluating what I want to do next. I've always followed my passion to make the world a better place focusing on local government. I spent years working in the recycling industry, and addressing climate change challenges interests me." She added, "I also truly enjoyed the years I spent working in economic development. Women's issues and creating a more equitable environment for women is also an interest. Regardless of what I do next, I will continue to pursue right livelihood."

As she closes the chapter on her tenure as town manager Battenberg concluded, "Thank you to the town of Moraga - the community, leadership, and staff - for your partnership these last five years. I'm pleased to leave the town in a strong position and wish everyone the best."

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