



**MORAGA**

See public meetings schedule on these 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 10, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 24, 6:30 p.m.

**Planning Commission:**

Tuesday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

**Park and Recreation Commission:**

Monday, May 15, 7:00 p.m.,

**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**

Tuesday, June 6, 6 p.m.

www.moraga.k12.ca.us.



**Community donation drive**

Donations of gently used items help create second chances for people who need it most.

**Orinda Masonic Hall**

9 Altarinda Rd., Orinda

9am - 12pm

**Saturday, May 13**

sfgoodwill.org

**New town manager, Scott Mitnick, takes the helm**

By Vera Kochan

A framed copy of the Athenian Oath – a 2,000-year-old Greek code of civic responsibility that basically states,

“Leave the city better than you found it” – hangs near the office door of new Moraga Town Manager Scott Mitnick. He has adhered to that mantra for decades, both in spirit and in duty, tackling various community challenges through the years.

Mitnick has studied abroad, majoring in Political Philosophy and World Politics at the University of Bristol, England; a political science major at California State University, Fullerton; and received a Master of Public Administration degree in Public Finance and Local Government Management Concentration from Maxwell School, Syracuse University, New York.

Serving municipalities such as El Segundo, Thousand Oaks, Yuba City, Burbank, and Sutter County in various managerial capacities over the years, including financial analyst; project manager; assistant to city manager; budget administrator; administrative services director; deputy city manager; city manager; and county administrator, has helped Mitnick to bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to Moraga.

Mitnick’s first official day on the job was April 10, and he has wasted no time in acclimating himself with the town and getting to know its residents. He has met with several civic organizations including Moraga Valley Kiwanis, Moraga Rotary, Moraga Citizens Network, Smart Moraga, and is looking forward to attending many community functions in town.

While he is currently staying with friends in the area, Mitnick’s wife, is holding down the fort in Southern California until things settle down. Their twin sons, Michael and Matthew (22), are both in college studying



Photo Vera Kochan

**Scott Mitnick stands alongside his framed copy of the Athenian Oath.**

first year law at the University of California at Davis; and earning a Master of Public Administration from the University of Washington, respectively. “I’m very proud of them,” he stated. “They’re good kids.”

During a house-hunting trip for a previous Bay Area job several years ago, Mitnick and his wife were shown the Lamorinda area. “In the back of my mind I thought, ‘Wouldn’t it be great to be up here?’”

As fate would have it, when he heard about Moraga’s town manager position opening up, he realized, “I was meant to be here. The things that the town council wants to achieve and their expectations of me – it’s a match.”

With summer and fall coming soon, residents are once again thinking about the fire season. Mitnick and his family have already experienced the stress of mandatory evacuation. “I have a lot of muscle memory on what to do in a disaster. It takes a lot of agency cooperation to make sure that the community is well-positioned to respond to something like that. There’s

no on-the-job training for me. It’s ingrained in me.”

Mitnick sees the effects of the state’s Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA), requiring the town to add 1,118 new housing units, as “the key to the future of Moraga’s revitalization. The goal is to protect the integrity of the existing single-family units, and there has to be sufficient infilling in the shopping centers. It’ll be good for the people that make the community work. We could have a more balanced community if those that worked here, lived here.”

When commenting on the town’s personnel, Mitnick said, “It’s a talented work force. I’m very impressed with the quality of the staff and their commitment to Moraga. It’s also an honor to work with such a forward thinking and appreciative town council.”

Mitnick’s enthusiasm at being Moraga’s new town manager comes through when speaking about his plans to continue making it a great place to live. “I’m not here to make Moraga a different town,” but he definitely expects to leave “the city” better than he found it.

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**Bollinger Canyon General Plan amendment and rezoning discussed**



**Bollinger Canyon Special Study Area** Photo courtesy Moraga Planning Dept

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council was tasked to consider two resolutions and an ordinance relating to the 423-acres of land referred to in the Moraga General Plan as the Bollinger Canyon Special Study Area during its April 26 meeting. The area consists of 20 parcels owned by 13 separate landowners with either residential or agricultural uses.

According to the staff re-

port by Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid and Consultant Barry Miller, “If approved, the two resolutions would: 1) Adopt CEQA findings and a Statement of Overriding Considerations for the Bollinger Canyon General Plan Amendments and Rezoning, based on the previously certified Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative EIR. 2) Adopt text amendments to the Moraga General Plan relating to the Bollinger

Canyon Study Area and definitions of land use categories, and amend the Moraga General Plan Map to replace the ‘Study’ designation for Bollinger Canyon with a combination of Non-MOSO Open Space, Rural Residential, and 1 Dwelling Unit/Acre designations. The ordinance implements the associated General Plan Amendments by creating a Rural Residential Zone, rescinding the Study Zone, and amending the zoning map for the Bollinger Canyon Study Area.”

Back in 1983, Moraga, Lafayette and Contra Costa County participated in a 3,400-acre multi-jurisdictional land use study that included the Bollinger Canyon Special Study Area. It was discovered that the area contained a “fragile ecosystem where very low-density residential use is to be a privilege and more intensive use would be inappropriate.” In 2019, and subsequent years, the council considered the rezoning of the Study Area as a one of its goals and priorities. A “White Paper” was prepared by staff in January 2022, which presented options for the Study Area.

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