



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 receives Phase II: Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative update

By Vera Kochan

Since July 2021, the town has been addressing the state's mandated 6th Cycle Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) of identifying 1,118 new housing units for the Housing Element. To that effect, Moraga's Comprehensive Advanced Planning Initiative (CAPI) was divided into two phases to create consistency in the town's documents when



Concept of future Moraga Shopping Center development Photo courtesy Moraga Planning Department

dealing with specific plans, zoning ordinances, state laws, and regional policy alignments.

Phase I addressed the Housing Element, the full Environmental Impact Report (EIR), rezoning of key sites in both shopping centers, Rheem Objective Standards and rezone of Bollinger Canyon Special Study Area, and General Plan updates for compliance with new state laws.

According to the recent July 12 staff report by Moraga Planning Director Afshan Hamid, "Phase II is driven by the need for an updated forward-looking General Plan, since the existing Plan is now more than 20 years old, relies on outdated data and forecasts, and does not address the full range of issues facing the town today. Phase II focus will be on moving the time horizon forward to 2040 and responding to current issues and State requirements rather than rethinking the guiding principles

of the existing Plan."

Phase II will not only update the remaining General Plan Elements, it will also include an Evacuation Study, Housing Element zoning amendment implementations, illustrative guidelines, economic development and climate action policies, the three step Planned Development process, and additional CEQA work needed to update the adopted EIR. Phase II will also provide consideration of new natural resource management policies in relation to creeks, trees, habitat management, and conservation.

As with Phase I, staff will continue to involve the community in various forums in order to collect feedback to incorporate into Phase II. This will include pop-up events, focus groups, workshops, and meetings with stakeholders, besides the regular Town Council and Planning Commission meetings. Outreach to the community will come via so-

cial media, the Town website, About Town and newspaper updates.

Phase II will involve the consulting services of the same team used in Phase I. Barry Miller Consulting for the General Plan, Rincon Consultants for CEQA, and Aaron Welch Planning for Illustrative Guidelines and Planned Development Process. A separate contract with Fehr & Peers will cover the Evacuation Study.

During the Town Council's July 12 meeting, council members unanimously approved the Phase II update which included an increase in the original agreement amount by an additional \$75,348 in order to cover the modified scope of work. The original cost of Phase II (\$226,244) was approved in July 2021, along with Phase I (\$713,039). The new cost of the Phase II agreement is \$301,592 which makes the combined total of both phases \$1,014,631.

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Kid Size Concerts at the Commons – for the young and young-at-heart

By Vera Kochan

Adults have the Summer Concert Series to look forward to every year. Shrink the dimensions and the average age of the audience by a couple of decades, and you have A Kid Size Concert Series also held at the Moraga Commons Bandshell.

Held one Saturday in June, July and August, the free 11 a.m. shows are geared to entertain toddlers through kids aged



Photo Vera Kochan

Musician Andy Z entertains pint-sized concert-goers on July 29.

5, who love to sing along and move to the groove. June's award-winning musical artist was Megan Schoenbohm, who specializes in "earthy, edgy, high vibe indie-style family music." July's show featured Andy Z, also an artist with many awards to his name, as well as a following of 280,000 listeners on Pandora Radio, who's been entertaining kids for 21 years. Coming up in August, the last show of the summer will feature Mr. Elephant who typically uses puppets while performing "original family-friendly songs, with styles ranging from rock to reggae, from beats to bossa nova."

A Kid Size Concert Series is yet another event presented by the Parks and Recreation Department that's meant to pro-

vide wholesome entertainment for Moraga and its guests. "It's nice to be doing this for the young families in town," stated Recreation Supervisor Jasmine Bateson.

According to Bateson, the attendance for June's show was approximately 300 musical revelers.

The recent Andy Z concert attracted nearly as many concert-goers to his "music, movement, storytelling, and character puppet show" that encouraged audience participation.

So, bring your picnic blankets, snacks and boogie shoes to the last remaining concert on Aug. 26 at 11 a.m. Oh, and don't forget your kids!

For more information visit: moraga.ca.us.

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Town Council Wednesday, Aug. 23, 6:30 p.m.
Planning Commission: Tuesday, Aug. 15, 6:30 p.m.,
Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, August 14, 7 p.m.,
Moraga School District Board Meetings: TBA
 www.moraga.k12.ca.us.



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