



ABOUT TOWN ▪ JUNE 10, 2010

BI-WEEKLY UPDATE FROM MORAGA TOWN STAFF



FISCAL YEAR 2010-2011 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGETS

The Town Council met on June 9, 2010, to discuss the preliminary Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program Budget for next fiscal year. Staff will implement the direction provided by the Council and return with final budgets for the Council to adopt at the next Council meeting, June 23, 2010. A copy of the budget document for the June 23 meeting will be available on the Town's website five days prior to the meeting. Town Council requested that staff return with a proposal to increase recreation programming and provide additional off-street parking at the Moraga Commons.



MORAGA STREET LIGHT ASSESSMENT DISTRICT BALLOT RESULTS

The ballots for the proposed increase in the street light assessments were due on May 26. Ballots were counted by an independent firm in a process that was open to the public for observation, and the results were certified at the June 9 Council meeting. Of the 4,168 ballots sent to Moragans in the District, 2,426 valid ballots were returned (a 58% response rate, which is commendable for a mail-in ballot!). Approximately 57% of the weighted ballots approved of the increased assessments in order to maintain the street lighting in Town and approximately 43% were against the increase.



MORAGA ROAD RUBBER CAPE SEAL REPAIRS

At the Town Council meeting on June 9, the Council heard an update on the repairs necessary on the Moraga Road Rubber Cape Seal project between Buckingham and Draeger. Town representatives have had extensive conversations with the contractor, who does not deny that the end product is not as specified. Over the next several weeks, staff and the contractor will discuss the repair options and schedule. The repairs are likely to occur in early July, pending contractor availability.



MORAGA POLICE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The police department has been actively involved in responding to community needs. Recently, the Chief attended a meeting of the Lamorinda School Bus Transportation Agency to provide input for the Agency's Transportation Disaster Plan. The plan will provide clear direction for school bus personnel on how to respond in disasters to ensure the safety and protection of the children they serve. The police department is also in the process of scheduling FEMA Disaster training classes for all Town personnel to ensure efficient response and continuation of service during a disaster.

In addition to the disaster preparedness function, the department has responded to many requests for service received from the police department's web site. The police department encourages everyone to utilize the online service for patrol requests and vacation house check requests. To make a request for service, please visit the website at <http://police.moraga.ca.us>.



HACIENDA DE LAS FLORES – WE'RE A FAVORITE PLACE ON GOOGLE!

Between December 1 and February 28, the Hacienda de las Flores was one of the most popular local businesses on Google, as measured by how many times people found our business listing, and clicked it for more information. In a letter from Google Headquarters we're told that we are one of less than 250,000 U.S. businesses to receive this recognition, which is less than 1% of all U.S. businesses! This is exciting news as we've booked events all summer and just booked our first event for 2011. Visit www.moragahacienda.com to see what everyone is searching for...or just Google us!



ONLINE SURVEY DELAYED

Our apologies to those who went on the Town website looking for the online survey to provide input about Town services. The online survey will be available shortly, so please keep checking over the next few days. Your input is very important in helping the Town Council plan for the future needs of our community. The results of this survey and the recent focus group discussions will be presented at the July 28 Town Council meeting.



BOCCE BALL AT RANCHO LAGUNA PARK?

Next Tuesday night, June 15, the Park and Recreation Commission will consider a request to replace the sand volleyball area with four bocce ball courts. For over three years the bocce ball group has been looking for additional courts in Moraga. After engaging current and future park users it appears that bocce in Rancho Laguna Park might soon become a reality. The bocce group has committed to funding the entire project assuming the proper approvals are met.



TOWN COUNCIL MEETING PROCEDURES

Town Council adopted new meeting procedures at its June 9 meeting which are designed to improve the flow of the meetings and allow earlier consideration of items which are expected to attract a large audience. Speakers will be asked to fill out a card in order to better coordinate public hearings which is a common practice in many communities. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m. instead of 7:30 p.m. and end at 11:00 p.m.



RANCHO LAGUNA II APPEAL HEARING SCHEDULED FOR JULY 14, 2010

On May 26 the Town Council continued consideration of the Rancho Laguna II appeal to a future meeting. The meeting date has now been set for July 14. It is expected that the staff report for this agenda item will be available on the Town website on Friday, July 9.



RHEEM BOULEVARD SLIDE REPAIRS

Alternate approaches to repairing the slide area on Rheem Boulevard were discussed in conjunction with the Rancho Laguna II development project. The developer is willing to repair the slides by filling the lower valley with excess soil from the project. Since this approach is not appealing to the Town, they have also offered some monetary contribution to the repairs if the Town chooses to perform the actual repairs. The preferred repair alternative would involve closing Rheem Boulevard to dig the road area down to the underlying slide planes, and then alternating engineered fill with a geogrid (reinforcing geotechnical fabric used in soils) to reconstruct the area, then restoring the roadway on the top. The Town is researching possible funding mechanisms for such a repair.