



Town of Moraga

TOWN MANAGER

March 29, 2016

Honorable Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Mark S. Ghilarducci, Director, Cal OES
3650 Schriever Avenue
Mather, California 95655-4203

Subject: Request for Disaster Assistance for the Town of Moraga

Dear Governor Brown and Secretary Ghilarducci,

This letter serves as a formal request from the Town of Moraga for financial assistance via the California Disaster Assistance Program. On Wednesday, March 16, 2016, the Moraga Town Council unanimously passed and adopted a resolution ratifying the existence of a local state of emergency that was declared on Monday, March 14, 2016, by the Town's Director of Emergency Services.

Summary of Incident

The winter rains of 2015-2016, with the widely publicized El Niño related conditions, have saturated local soils and eroded aging infrastructure within the Town of Moraga. Saturated soils contributed to a landslide that resulted in the evacuation of two homes and major damage to a portion of a regional trail. Additionally, in the early afternoon of March 13, 2016, a sinkhole developed on Rheem Boulevard at the intersection with Center Street. Personnel from Moraga-Orinda Fire District, PG&E, and Town Staff were contacted to assist in evaluating the sinkhole location. Subsequently, the Town Emergency Field Operations Center was activated, and Contra Costa County Emergency Services was notified of the evolving situation.

As rains continued throughout the afternoon, a traffic signal pole, a PG&E electrical switch vault, and a portion of sidewalk fell into the expanding sinkhole. The collapse ruptured a 4" gas line that required immediate evacuation of two adjacent shopping centers, including a theater, and a shelter-in-place order was issued to surrounding residential areas. The gas line rupture affected 2,600 PG&E customers, requiring the mobilization of 200 PG&E workers to facilitate the shut off and restoration of gas service to each of these customers. Over sixty businesses were immediately closed and continue to be adversely affected by traffic detours through the two adjacent commercial centers.

Isolation of the sinkhole, and the surrounding area required to ensure public safety, resulted in the closure of a section of Rheem Boulevard (a four lane arterial street) and Center Street (a two lane road accessing Rheem Boulevard and the Rheem Valley Shopping Center). After the gas line within the sinkhole was rendered safe, entry into the sinkhole for damage assessment and repairs was delayed several days by heavy rain as PG&E was not able to access the electrical switch vault and safely disconnect it.

From the perimeter of the sinkhole, personnel were able to observe a "spaghetti bowl" of utilities in the sinkhole, including, but not limited to: a 96" storm drain corrugated metal pipe; a 27" storm drain reinforced concrete pipe; a bank of Comcast conduits filled with fiber optic lines; traffic signal electric lines; AT&T fiber lines; PG&E electric lines; a 4" PG&E steel natural gas line, and two unclaimed utility pipes. Immediately adjacent to the sinkhole are a 15" Central Contra Costa Sanitary District sewer vitrified clay pipe line and an EBMUD 12" water line. The Town's contractors have made every effort to protect the utilities in, and in proximity to, the sinkhole to ensure those services are maintained, but moving forward the presence of the utilities further complicates the repair process.

On March 22, 2016, Town staff contacted Cal-OES asking for technical assistance in identifying available resources to assist with repair to the damaged infrastructure. Two days later, on March 24, 2016, Town staff submitted the IDE Form to Cal-OES identifying that \$1.3 million would be required to repair the sinkhole.

On March 24, 2016, conditions finally permitted safe inspection of the sinkhole and revealed that the scope of the repair was far beyond what was initially anticipated, and the Town's ability to pay for it. Damaged Town-owned infrastructure associated with the sinkhole that have been identified to date include but are not limited to approximately 125 linear feet of the 96" storm drain corrugated metal pipe, 20 linear feet of the 27" storm drain reinforced concrete pipe, a storm drain inlet structure, a traffic signal pole with mounted streetlight, concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter, and pedestrian curb ramp, roadway pavement, striping, and pavement markings as well as the work required to backfill the cavity and restore the roadway. The revised preliminary estimate to repair these damages is \$3.5 million.

Town Council Action

On March 16, 2016, the Moraga Town Council authorized an allocation of \$500,000 from existing reserve funds to stabilize the sinkhole and safely allow workers to identify the extent of damage, investigate the mode of failure and cause of the sinkhole, and recommend repairs. This allocation has essentially depleted the Town's reserves for future street repairs and maintenance.

The anticipated costs associated with the repairs represent 32% of the Town's total operating budget. The Town has no reserve funds set aside for emergency response, and we are currently spending funds that had been committed to other essential services. We anticipate the total repair costs to exceed our ability to pay without negative impacts on public safety and, therefore, request financial assistance from the State to mitigate the impact of this natural disaster on our ability to provide essential services.

For the reasons outlined thus far, the Town of Moraga is formally requesting that funds be made available from the California Disaster Assistance Program. Financial assistance will greatly help the Town of Moraga get through this disaster and continue to provide essential services to our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

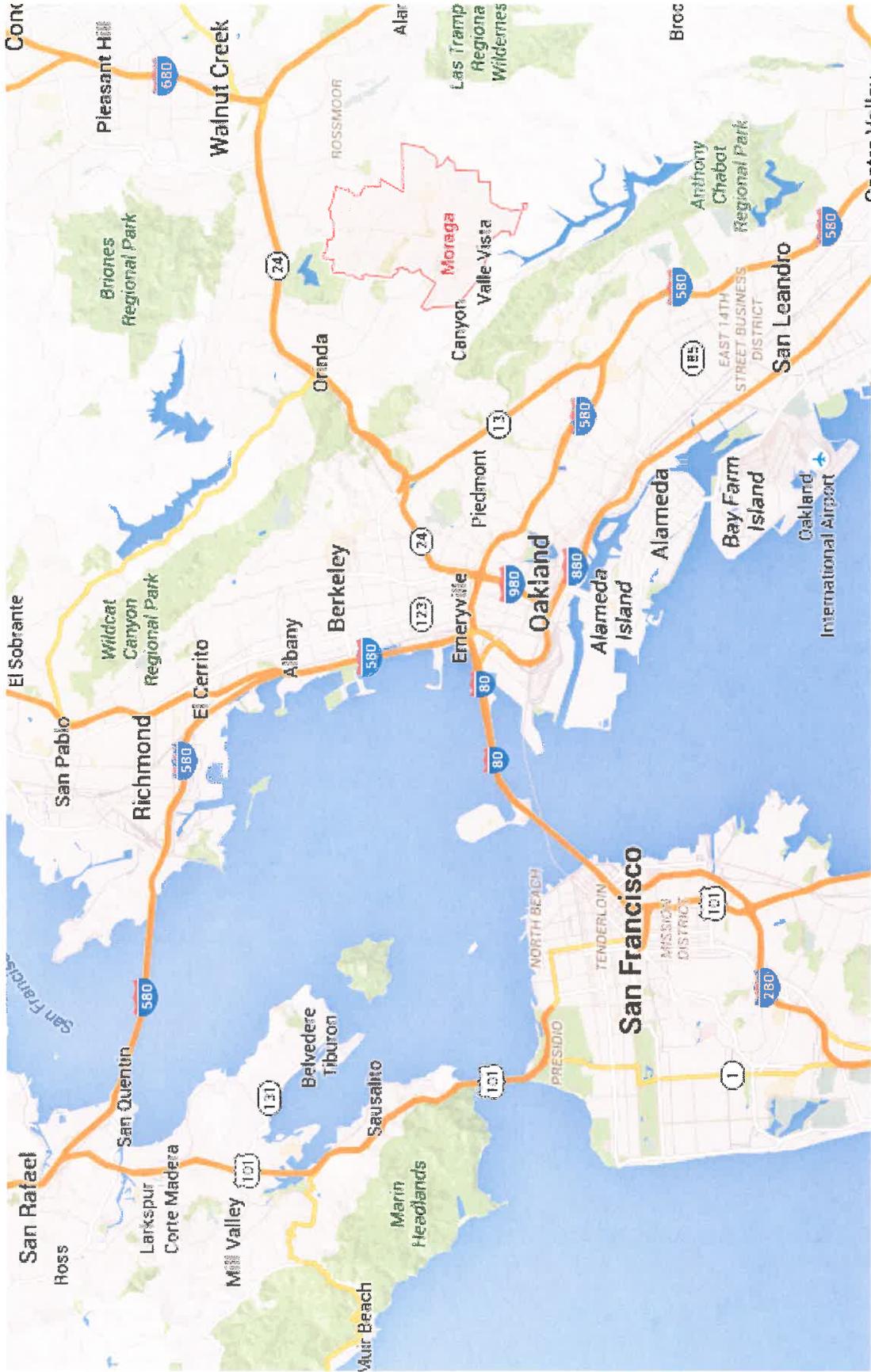


Robert Priebe
Interim Town Manager

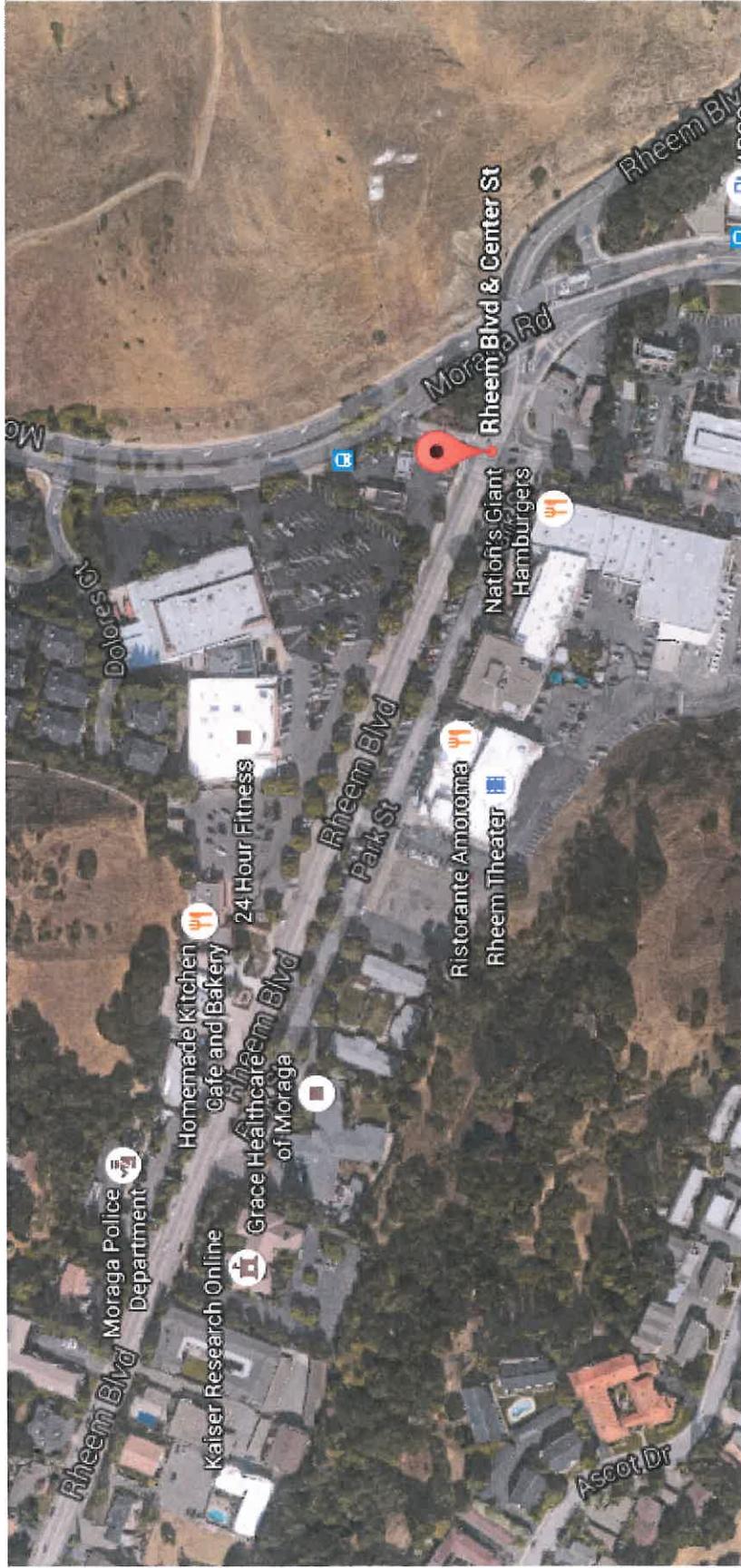
Enclosures: Location Map
Vicinity Map
Photographs
A Proclamation dated March 14, 2016 Declaring State of Local Emergency in the Town of Moraga
Resolution 24-2016 dated March 16, 2016 Ratifying the Director of Emergency Services' Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency

Cc: Mark De Saulnier, Congressman
Steve Glazer, State Senator
Catherine Baker, State Assembly Member
Candace Andersen, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Catrina Christian, Cal OES Emergency Services Coordinator
Rick Kovar, CCC Emergency Services Manager
Moraga Town Council

ENCLOSURE
LOCATION MAP



ENCLOSURE
VICINITY MAP



**ENCLOSURE
PHOTOGRAPHS**



Sunday, March 13, 2016

Initial emergence of sinkhole

**ENCLOSURE
PHOTOGRAPHS**



Monday, March 14, 2016

Traffic signal pole, PG&E electrical switch vault and
sidewalk collapsed into sinkhole

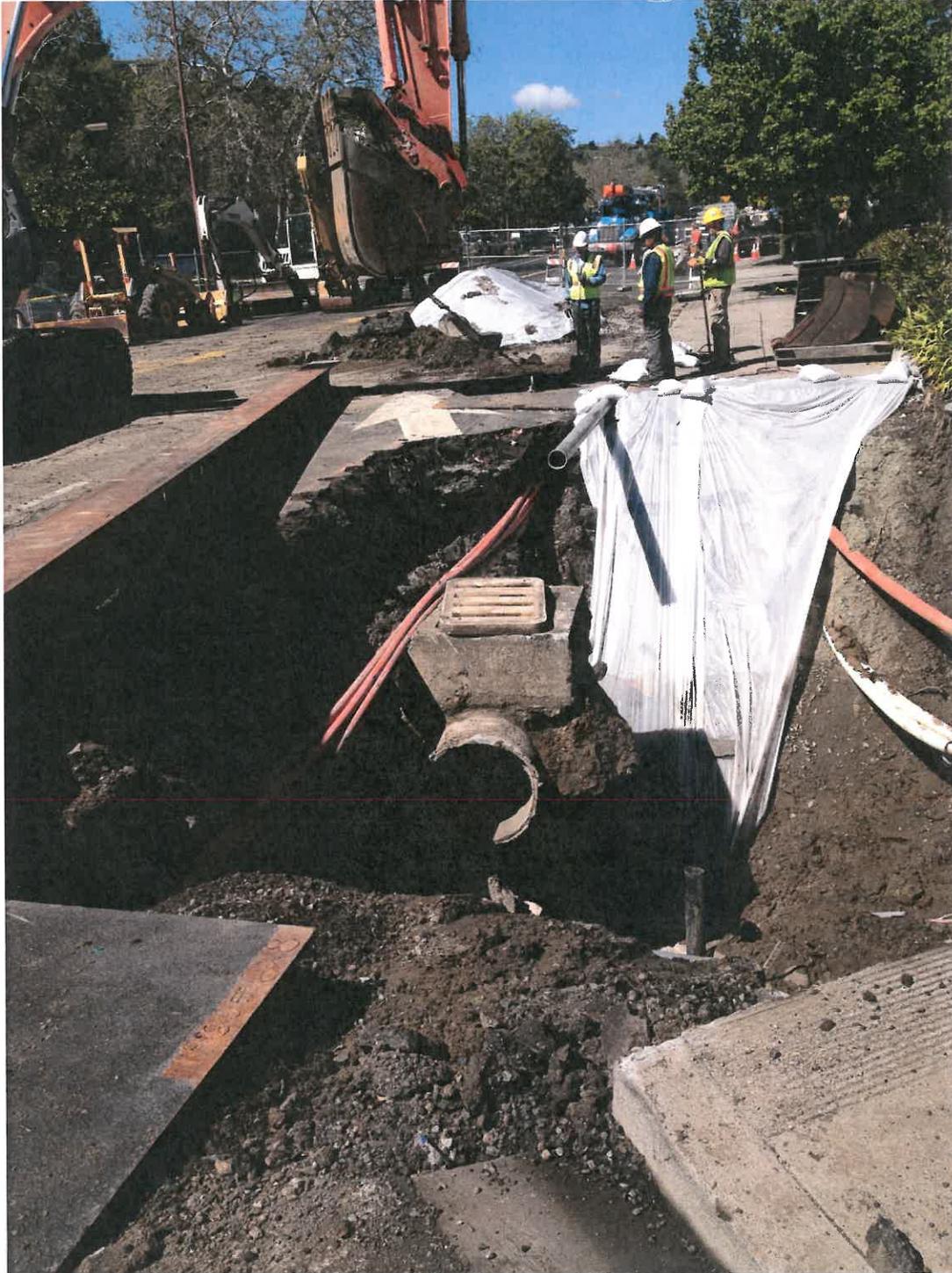
**ENCLOSURE
PHOTOGRAPHS**



Friday, March 18, 2016

Exposed "spaghetti bowl" of utilities in sinkhole complicating repair process

**ENCLOSURE
PHOTOGRAPHS**



Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Stabilizing side slopes to prevent the walls from caving in,
allowing workers to safely access the sinkhole

A PROCLAMATION DECLARING

State of Emergency in the Town of Moraga

WHEREAS, Moraga Municipal Code 2.48.060 of the Town of Moraga empowers the Director of Emergency Services* to proclaim the existence, or threatened existence, of a local emergency when said Town is affected, or likely to be affected by, a public calamity and the Town council is not in session, and;

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services* of the Town of Moraga does hereby find;

That conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property have arisen within said Town, caused by storms and resulting damage such as a sinkhole on a major street in Town, which began on the 13th day of March, 2016; and

That these conditions are, or are likely to be, beyond the control of the services, personnel, equipment, and facilities of the Town of Moraga; and

That the Town Council of the Town of Moraga is not in session and cannot immediately be called into session.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED, that a local emergency now exists throughout said Town of Moraga, and;

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED that during the existence of said local emergency the powers, functions and duties of the emergency organization of this Town shall be those prescribed by state law, by ordinances, and resolutions of this Town, and; that this emergency proclamation shall expire in seven (7) days after issuance unless confirmed and ratified by the governing body of the Town of Moraga.

DATED: 03/14/2016 BY: Robert Priebe
Director of Emergency Services*



Print Name: Robert Priebe, Interim Town Manager

Address: 329 Rheem Boulevard, Moraga, CA 94556

BEFORE THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MORAGA

In the Matter of:

Ratifying the Director of Emergency Services' Proclamation of the Existence of a Local Emergency)
)
) Resolution No. 24 - 2016
)
_____)

WHEREAS, Section 2.48.060 of the Moraga Municipal Code (MMC) empowers the Director of Emergency Services to proclaim a local emergency when the Town of Moraga is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Town Council is not in session; and

WHEREAS, conditions of extreme peril to the safety of persons and property arose within the Town of Moraga, caused by storms and resulting damage, including but not limited to a sinkhole and gas leak on Rheem Boulevard, which necessitated the evacuation of portions of the Town, commencing on the 13th day of March, 2016, at which time the Town Council of the Town of Moraga was not in session; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Emergency Services did proclaim the existence of a local emergency within the Town on the 14th day of March, 2016; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2.48.060(A)(1) of the MMC, the Town Council must ratify this proclamation within seven calendar days or after such seven-day period, this proclamation shall have no further force and effect; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council does hereby find that the above described conditions of extreme peril did warrant and necessitate the proclamation of the existence of a local emergency throughout the Town.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Council of the Town of Moraga that:

1. The Proclamation Declaring a State of Emergency in the Town of Moraga, as issued by the Director of Emergency Services is hereby ratified and confirmed.
2. The local emergency shall be deemed to continue to exist until its termination is proclaimed by the Town Council of the Town of Moraga.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Moraga at a special meeting held on March 16, 2016 by the following vote:

AYES: Mayor Metcalf, Vice Mayor Trotter, Councilmembers Arth and Onoda
NOES: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: Councilmember Wykle



Michael Metcalf, Mayor

Attest:



Marty C. McInturf, Town Clerk