

# LAMORINDA WEEKLY



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**Nurtury**  
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**OPEN HOUSE**

Monday, February 12th  
9:30—10:30  
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FREE



A group of children gathered in the front line of a big crowd watch Moraga Rotary President Dianne Wilson and Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Photo Carol & Gary Irwin

## Excitement abounds at all-access playground opening

By B. B. Kaye

A large crowd attended a sunny, balloon-festooned inaugural ceremony Jan. 28 for the new, all-access playground in Moraga Commons Park. Children thronged at the entrance, waiting for the moment a red ceremonial ribbon would be cut to officially welcome them in to play.

According to the Orinda Union School District and the Lafayette School District SARC reports from the 2016-17 school year, approximately 10 percent of the local school

population of 9,293 children receives special education services. Many of these children have difficulty accessing a public playground; the all-access playground is designed for them to safely engage in unscheduled free-play and mingle with kids of differing abilities.

Moraga Rotary Club past president Kevin Reneau spoke to those assembled about how the park came about: “We got together and said we should do something for the community

in honor of our 50th anniversary.”

Rotary members started talking and member Cliff Dochterman (master of ceremonies for the opening) suggested a playground for the children of Lamorinda and the greater community. The club thought it would be a \$25,000-30,000 project. “It evolved,” said Reneau. “As we got in and did some research, we decided we needed a more robust playground.” ... continued on page A12

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## Lamorinda mayors balk at proposed CPUC resolution

By Nick Marnell



MCE Solar One, a new 60-acre, 10.5 MW solar farm in Richmond.

Photo provided

Mayors Dave Trotter of Moraga and Don Tatzin of Lafayette have urged the California Public Utilities Commission to vote against implementing a registration process for new community choice aggregators, arguing

that the registration process is an improper de facto freeze on CCA implementation.

“It is inappropriate for CPUC staff to now attempt to forcibly implement a freeze,” Trotter wrote in a Jan. 16

letter to Michael Picker, PUC president. “Adoption of the resolution would unreasonably delay new communities from joining or forming CCAs.”

Community choice aggregation is a nonprofit alternative to investor-owned utilities that allows government entities to purchase energy for their communities, choosing a power generating source that provides cheaper or greener energy products, or both. With the rapid emergence of CCAs, the PUC says it wants to force the aggregators to comply with its resource adequacy program, which ensures that the CCAs have contracted for enough power generation to meet peak customer demand, relieving the prior utility – locally, PG&E – of the cost and responsibility. According to the commission, many new CCAs are not incorporated into the resource adequacy program and the draft resolution will require their compliance.

Marin Clean Energy is California’s first community choice aggregator, providing a basic 50 percent renewable energy service to its customers, with an option to upgrade to 100 percent renewable energy. “We are concerned that the CPUC is overreaching its authority,” said Dawn Weisz, MCE chief executive officer.

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