



Moraga

Public Meetings

City Council

Wednesday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Planning Commission

Monday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

Design Review

Tuesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

School Board Meetings

Moraga School District
Wednesday, Nov. 13, 7 p.m.
Joaquin Moraga Intermediate School Auditorium
1010 Camino Pablo, Moraga
www.moraga.k12.ca.us
See also AUHSD meeting page A2

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

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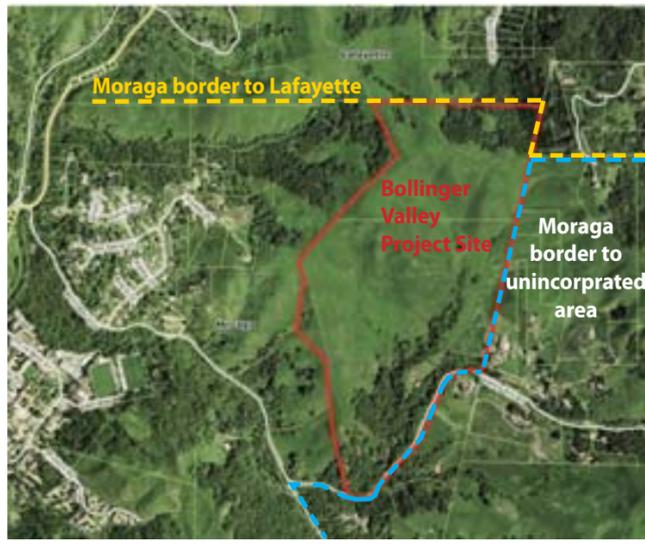
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Bollinger Valley Project temporarily on the shelf

By Vera Kochan



Project site and vicinity Image provided, enhanced by Lamorinda Weekly

After a seven-hour marathon planning commission meeting taking place over the course of two days on Oct 15 and 18, Commissioner Karl Davis crafted a proposal to the town council with unanimous approval. "The planning commission is recommending to the town council that they strongly consider a revised project

description, much in line with Alternate 3 or something very similar, that would need to be consistent with the General Plan and would be held to the same policies, plans and procedures in the town as Bollinger Valley Project has been held to so far."

The original project included 126 single-family homes. There

were six additional alternate proposals involving various quantities of homes. The applicant for the project was willing to settle for Alternate 6 (85 homes), but the commission favored and recommended Alternate 3 (37 homes).

Much of the commission's decision hinged on the Environmental Impact Report, in which issues of traffic, easement rights, landslides, pollution and population density in a small valley were key. Neighbors were concerned over the loss of public/open space. The land is on private property, and therefore cannot be included in the consideration, noted Davis.

Valley Hill Drive, the only road that would lead into and out of the development, is insufficient to provide emergency vehicle access in the event of a fire or evacuation. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District cannot sanction any project at this point until the applicant can come up with viable measures toward public safety.

Likewise, according to Planning Director Derek Farmer, "Lafayette has not been approached

by the applicant with regards to the additional traffic flow affecting St. Mary's Road into its city limits. As the project stands, Lafayette will not support the Bollinger Valley Project." With the additional traffic, Lafayette's EVA becomes jeopardized.

Farmer stated, "In more than two years, no proper documentation has been submitted to Moraga, Lafayette or MOFD showing that project improvements have been established. We've received no documentation from the county either with regards to road widening and other conditions." Farmer added, "This is a project that's been going on for some time and if there are such documents, we would have seen them by now."

The General Plan consists of eight elements: land use, community design, housing, circulation, open space/conservation, public safety, community facilities/services and growth management. The Bollinger Valley Project, as it stands, is inconsistent with Moraga's General Plan.

Moraga's new administrative services director, Norman Veloso

By Vera Kochan



Norman Veloso Photo Vera Kochan

The new administrative services director, Norman Veloso, comes to the town of Moraga after 22 years with the city of Fairfield

and most recently the city of Cotati, where his job title may have been the same, but his responsibilities differed.

In Moraga, Veloso's job description requires him to wear many hats. Under the umbrella of finance, he is responsible for accounting budgets, financial reports and risk assessments. In regard to his human resources duties, he supervises labor negotiations, personnel policies and compensation. Under the technological aspect, Veloso oversees the town's websites, and lastly, under risk assessment management, he monitors Moraga's liability insurance.

Veloso considers himself "fortunate to be part of a great executive team. I love the community, the vibe and feel of Moraga. This is a perfect working relationship – a good chemistry with what the town needs and what I have to offer."

Accounting came easily to Veloso at an early age. He began to enjoy number crunching in high school and was encouraged by his father to pursue the possibilities. Veloso's career decision was a fulfilling choice. "This is not just a job. There's so much contentment in what I do."

Filling a vacancy that had been open for over two months, Veloso

had to hit the ground running. Some of the many projects on his plate include completing a financial audit for the town, working on a human resources employee memorandum, structuring numerous financial reports, contributing to public works projects, finding new revenue/resources and coming up with the best practices and policies while reviewing every layer to provide the best services.

When asked about his long-term goals for Moraga, Veloso stated, "I am happy to see a community grow because of decisions I've made."

Nov. 7 declared Shelter-in-Place Education Day

By Vera Kochan

Health officials and emergency response agencies such as fire and police agree that shelter-in-place is the best measure to take in the event of a chemical release emergency. Moraga Mayor Dave Trotter proclaimed Nov. 7 to be "Shelter-in-Place Education Day" and in the interest of public safety, urges "all residents to take part in this program."

The Contra Costa Community

Awareness Emergency Response Group is sponsoring the 17th annual drill by assisting schools and childcare centers with preparedness for this type of emergency.

In the event of a chemical release, safety sirens will sound initially for about three minutes. These safety sirens are located in the county's industrial corridor from Oakley to Richmond. The sirens are tested on the first Wednesday

of each month at 11 a.m. for only about one minute. Additional community warning system tools are used to alert residents in case of emergencies in other areas.

Sirens will re-sound periodically if the event continues, and it is at this point that the public is recommended to shelter, shut and listen.

Steps to shelter in place include:

- 1) Advise everyone to stay in-

side, since leaving the building could result in exposure to toxic chemical vapors;

- 2) Close all doors and windows and make sure to utilize the locks for a tighter seal;

- 3) Turn off all air conditioning and heating systems. Ceiling fans or portable fans can be used inside to keep cool;

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