

Focus on Roads:**Camino Pablo Repaving and Moraga Rd. Rebuilding****By Steve Angelides**

Moraga focused on roads last week. The Town Council awarded a contract for repaving Camino Pablo, and two Town committees met to discuss rebuilding Moraga Rd.

Last Wednesday the Council awarded the Camino Pablo contract to Bay Cities Paving and Grading for \$1,167,100, using rubberized asphalt concrete. The work is supposed to be completed before school starts in August.

Last Thursday the Traffic Safety Advisory Committee and the Beautification & Tree Planting Implementation Committee held a joint meeting to discuss rebuilding Moraga Rd.

Last September the Beautification Committee presented a conceptual plan whose key feature was reducing traffic to one lane in each direction from Donald Dr. to Corliss Dr. In January the Town Council charged the Beautification Committee with implementing its conceptual plan, with its "first order of business" being to "obtain a traffic

study to show that no backup would result" from the proposed lane reduction.

In June, 2008, the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) plans to install a new water pipe in the middle of Moraga Rd. beginning at the Town's border with Lafayette, down Moraga Rd., and then up Draeger Dr. to the reservoir. According to Police Chief Mark Ruppenthal, "EBMUD plans on having Moraga Rd. destroyed" for this construction.

Mayor Mike Metcalf said EDMUD will then have to rebuild Moraga Rd. "If they're going to have to rebuild it," Metcalf said, "we might as well have them rebuild it the way we want it." To take advantage of this and other possible opportunities, Metcalf suggested that the Beautification Committee develop a fully engineered plan for rebuilding Moraga Rd. from the Lafayette border to St. Mary's Rd.

Although many committee members nodded in agreement

with Metcalf's idea, Beautification Committee member Jim Kline questioned whether it would be consistent with what was supposed to be the committee's "first order of business." Metcalf responded that the committee would have to persuade the Town Council, and suggested that the recent traffic fatality may have changed the political climate. "Consider that you just had another fatality on that very stretch of road," Metcalf said. "What do you think the political mood is now?" Beautification Committee member Christine Kuckuk answered the Mayor's rhetorical question. "We're ready to go now," she somberly replied.

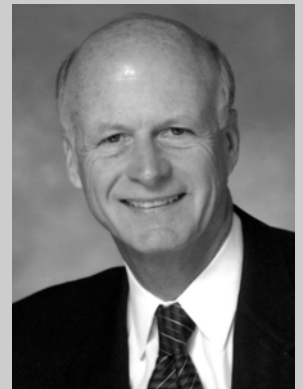


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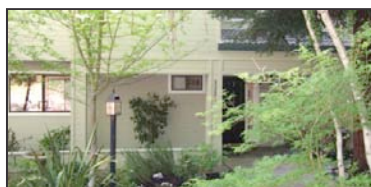
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