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Update for Rheem Sinkhole and Temporary Canyon Bridge Reimbursement

By Vera Kochan

Cynthia Battenberg, Moraga town manager, confirmed the reimbursement of \$1.5 million toward the Rheem Boulevard Sinkhole Project. The payment from the Federal Highway Administration "has fully repaid the Palos Colorados Account, as well as, replenished \$1.4 million to the town's General Fund," she says. With a remaining \$115,000 yet to be received, it brings the reimbursement up to 88.8 percent of costs.

Edric Kwan, Moraga's public works director, and his team are handling the reimbursement for the Canyon Road Temporary Bridge Project. Kwan says, "We've basically got an IOU from the federal government." His department is in the process of submitting a reimbursement package request to Cal Trans and are working closely with state officials to dot all of the "i"s and cross all of the "t"s. "The original budget has gone through changes during the course of installing the temporary bridge. We want to fine tune our package to prevent additional reimbursement delays."

Construction of the new Canyon Road Bridge is scheduled for 2019 and 2020. The two-year process is necessary when dealing with this type of structure. In order not to completely close the bridge to traffic, construction crews must work on one lane at a time.

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