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Rheem sinkhole repairs making slow progress

By Vera Kochan



Smaller sediment basin Photo Vera Kochan

The recommended draining of water, dirt and sediment previously discovered inside the damaged Corrugated Metal Pipe under the parking lot at the corner of Center Street and Rheem Boulevard has begun.

The property owners of both the Moraga Star Gas Station and the Rheem Shopping Center had been informed by inspectors and contractors on the project that this move was necessary prior to reshaping and lining the damaged CMP.

Two sediment basins have been installed behind the post office by MSI, the Rheem Center property owner's contractor. A sediment basin is a temporary pond built at or near a construction site to capture disturbed soil and protect water quality of nearby streams, lakes or rivers. The sediment-laden soil settles in the pond before the runoff is discharged.

According to Moraga's Public Works Director Edric Kwan, "It appears that the spoils have been removed from inside the damaged pipe and discharged into the basins. This is proper erosion sediment control so it doesn't go back into the storm drain."

The recent and surprisingly late May rainstorm has added additional water into the basins, which were erected and operational prior to that time.

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