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Commons Park restroom nears demolition in readiness for replacement

By Vera Kochan

Moraga Commons Park was developed in 1974, the same year that the town was incorporated. Its main restroom is also nearly 50 years old and long overdue for an upgrade.

The Moraga Community Foundation (MCF) proposed orchestrating a fundraising project in 2018, with the purpose of replacing the old restrooms and worked with the town toward the installation of a pre-fabricated restroom facility to take the place of the outdated one. Also that year the Park and Recreation Commission recommended an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) restroom design.

In 2022, the Town Council authorized \$324,320 for the purchase of a pre-fabricated ADA restroom structure from Public Restroom Company which included shipping, crane service, and onsite construction coordination from the manufacturer that would work with the town's hired contractor.

According to the Sept. 27 staff report by Parks and Recreation Director Mackenzie Brady and Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, "The proposed Commons Park four ADA all-gender restrooms with two drinking fountains and water bottle filling stations construction and installation scope includes the following major work items: Demolition and removal of the existing restroom structure, foundations, utility connections, adjacent concrete hardscape and minor vegetation; site preparation including grading and earthwork for new restroom foundation; and placement and compaction of aggregate base."

A part of the construction process also includes the installation of utilities conduits to hook up locations for the restroom including plumbing for sewer and water and extensive electrical (including new PG&E meter pedestal installation, pull boxes, and new wiring from pedestal to restroom).

Additional construction involves "pouring new concrete foundations and ADA path of travel sidewalks to the restroom; assisting with crane placement of the new restroom on new foundation and completing all utility hookups and building finishings inside and outside of the restroom; and coordination with permitting agencies."

McNabb Construction's \$165,319 bid for the project, as the demolition and installation contractor, was accepted by the town. The demolition and installation are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

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[back](#)

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