

Lamorinda OUR HOMES

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The Real Estate Q2 2012 in Review ...read on page D6

Don't Let the Water Run Off! It's the New Law

By Sophie Braccini



The bio-retention basin in front of 331 Rheem Blvd in Moraga

Photo Sophie Braccini

As of December 1 of this year, homeowners adding more than 2,500 square feet of impervious surface to their property will have to mitigate runoff. In plain English, if you add square feet to your existing home, redo your driveway, add an impervious deck and the total surface is more than 2,500 square feet, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board requires all water from your gutters and driveways to be somehow caught or redirected from common drains.

According to the Contra Costa Clean Water Program the benefits of having water go in the ground rather than running directly into storm drains is two-fold: First it avoids dramatic swells of creeks in case of a storm; second, the earth filters some of the chemicals that can be contained in the runoff. Large developments have dealt with similar requirements for years and give examples of what can be done.

... continued on page D4