



## MORAGA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### Town of Moraga:

www.moraga.ca.us

Phone: (925) 888-7022

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.moragachamber.org

### Moraga Citizens' Network:

www.moragacitizensnetwork.org



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COMPASS

## Town of Moraga and EBMUD reach landslide remediation plan agreement

By Vera Kochan

The town council unanimously passed a resolution approving a settlement agreement with East Bay Municipal Utility District regarding the remediation of a landslide that occurred on EBMUD property in April 2017. The July 8 decision also allows for the protection of the Canyon Road Bridge.

The landslide had caused structural damage to the original bridge initiating its closure and the installation of the temporary bridge. In Oc-

tober 2017, the town filed with EBMUD a claim for damages which EBMUD denied in January 2018.

Both parties engaged in three years of negotiations before Town Attorney Michelle Marchetta Kenyon and EBMUD's general counsel finalized a proposed settlement agreement resolving all claims related to the landslide and the construction of a new retaining wall.

According to the Settlement Agreement, EBMUD has three options regarding construction of the retaining wall. Option 1 is to build a full

Retaining Wall System, consistent with a \$3 million grant EBMUD has applied for from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Option 2 is to "build a shorter segment to protect the Town Bridge (Bridge Segment)." Finally, Option 3 would be to "pay the Town its estimated costs for the Town to build its own retaining wall to protect the Canyon Road Bridge (Town Stitch Wall)."

If EBMUD chooses either Options 1 or 2, it has no later than Dec. 1 to inform the town whether it will construct the RWS or Bridge Seg-

ment. By Feb. 1, 2021, EBMUD must complete and submit bid documents to the town for approval, allowing for bids to be put out no later than March 15. A construction contract must be awarded by April 30, 2021.

On the chance that EBMUD chooses Option 3, it must pay the town to build a stitch wall whose estimated costs for design and construction are \$757,000, plus any documented excess costs up to \$75,700 (10% contingency).

The parties also entered into a Letter Agreement whereby EBMUD agreed to

pay the town \$105,000 to assist with designs for a town constructed retaining wall which will be credited against any future payments.

Both the town and EBMUD note that the solution will pave the way for reestablishing the segment of the Lafayette-Moraga Regional Trail that was closed at the bridge site after the landslide occurred. Earlier this year, EBMUD reached a \$3.67 million settlement agreement with the homeowners on Augusta Drive whose residences were impacted by the landslide.

## Chase Bank opens in Moraga



New Chase Bank in Moraga

Photo Vera Kochan

By Vera Kochan

It's been nearly 18 months since Chase Bank first broke ground in Moraga. The new location at 1299 School Street in the Moraga Shopping Center had a soft opening July 7 due to the current landscape involving coronavirus restrictions.

Branch Manager Cora Mopera stated, "I'm glad to have a footprint in the Moraga community." Even without much if any fanfare, Mopera was excited to welcome the first trickle of current customers eager to transfer to this branch from other locations or potential new clients.

With roots tracing back to 1799,

Chase operates as a leading national bank in the United States. The banking chain has more than 5,500 branches and 17,000 ATMs across the U.S.

Chase Bank offers a wide range of consumer and commercial banking services, such as checking and savings accounts, lending guidance and investment services. Additionally, CHASE offers credit cards, mortgage offices and mobile banking.

Each year, Chase earns more than \$58 billion in sales and is considered a massive company in the banking industry employing over 240,000 associates nationwide while operating as a subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase, a publicly held company.

## Town experiences increase in coyote activity

By Vera Kochan

One of the more recent coyote sightings occurred July 9 near the Moraga Commons Park restrooms, when a 2-year-old boy was bitten on the leg by what was reportedly a coyote. The toddler was in the company of a caregiver at the time. According to Moraga Police Department Lt. Brian South, "The child was treated and released that same day with non-life threatening

injuries."

MPD closed the Commons Park early the following evening out of an abundance of caution due to coyote activity becoming more prevalent beginning at dusk. The park reopened July 11 at regular hours.

However, later that evening, around 7:45 p.m., more coyote activity was reported in the Rimer Drive area of Moraga. A small coyote was spotted approaching

an individual on foot and then running toward a bicyclist. There were no injuries reported, and the animal was spotted running away to a nearby orchard.

"Coyote sightings are historically not unusual in Moraga," stated South. "Since the bite incident, sightings have occurred and residents have been sharing their observations of coyote activity in various areas of town. We have been working with the Cali-



Photo Vera Kochan

The reported July 9 coyote attack occurred near the Moraga Commons Park restrooms.

fornia Department of Fish and Wildlife and sharing this information with them."

A man visiting Moraga Country Club was bitten on the leg July 17, but he didn't see the animal and it was unknown if it was a coyote. The man was treated for minor injury at a local hospital, according to South.

There has been an increase in wild animal sightings across the Bay Area since the coronavirus pandemic began. "When humans retreat, due to lockdowns and stay-at-home orders, the landscape of fear that we create retreats with us," explained ecologist John Laundre of Western Oregon University in Monmouth. "Animals common in suburban areas, such as coyotes, might normally restrict their activi-

ties to the evening and night. But, the fewer people they see around, the more willing they are to come out during the day."

CDFW recommends residents to "stash your food and trash." Keep garbage cans closed, remove all sources of water, bring pets in at night, pick up fallen fruit and cover compost piles. Added precautions include to never feed a coyote, do not leave small children unattended, install motion-sensitive lighting, and trim hiding places such as ground level shrubbery. If followed by a coyote, make loud noises or throw rocks in the animal's direction. If attacked, contact MPD at (925) 284-5010 or call 911.

Lt. South can be reached at: [south@moraga.ca.us](mailto:south@moraga.ca.us)



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### Town Council

Wednesday, Aug. 26, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Planning Commission:** Monday, Aug. 3, 7 p.m.

Council Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Park and Recreation Commission:** Tuesday, Aug. 18 7 p.m., Council

Chambers and Community Meeting Room, 335 Rheem Blvd.

**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**

Special Board Meeting Tuesday, Aug. 11, 6 p.m.

[www.moraga.k12.ca.us](http://www.moraga.k12.ca.us).

See also AUHSD meeting page A2