



## 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

### Town Council:

Special meeting Wednesday, March 22, 5:30 p.m.

Regular meeting Wednesday, March 22, 6:30 p.m.

### Tri-Cities Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 7 p.m.

St. Mary's College-Soda Center, Lafayette Conference Room

1928 St. Mary's Road, Moraga

**Planning Commission:** Tuesday, March 21, 6:30 p.m.

**Moraga School District Board Meetings:**

Tuesday, April 18, 6 p.m. www.moraga.k12.ca.us.



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## Update on the town's mid-year financial condition

By Vera Kochan

Moraga's Fiscal Year 2022-23 Operating and Capital Improvement Budgets were adopted in June 2022. The mid-year report gives the opportunity to assess any revenues and expenditures thus far, as well as identify major variances between actual transactions and estimated budget figures. Administrative Services Director Annie To's Feb. 22 staff report detailed the results.

With regards to Fund 101 – General Fund FY 2022-23 proposed ending fund balance: The ending fund balance on the FY 2021-22 (per Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) was \$6,159,038; the ending fund balance (per town council adopted budget) was \$5,429,742, making the total proposed FY 2022-23 Mid-Year Budget Adjustments (pending town council review and approval) \$729,296.

One of the town's major sources of revenue for the General Fund are property taxes which amount to 53% and are considered the largest and most stable. The town receives 5.3% of 1% of property taxes. The other major source of revenue comes from sales and use taxes which con-

tribute 14% of revenues.

The staff's proposed FY 2022-23 transfer-out from General Fund to Asset Replacement (which since 1989, was established to provide for the expected replacement of the town's assets, such as vehicles, roofs, and other building components) was \$325,000. However, the town council voted to increase the amount to \$650,000.

Parks and Recreation's proposed Mid-Year Budget revenue adjustments include: increased camp capacity, and transportation revenue; Hacienda Hoppy Hour event; Wedgewood percentage rent for repairs; transfer-ins due to gopher abatement, electrical work at the library, and playground mulch all totaling \$75,520.

Staff had recommended a \$75,000 transfer-in revenue for an evacuation study to come from the Palos Colorado's account, but the council agreed that it should be paid from the General Fund.

Expenditures budget adjustments for Parks and Rec include: a transfer-out to Art in Public Spaces; temporary salaries; supplies and materials; senior programs; special event expenses; Hacienda contract services, and building/grounds maintenance

(heating and roof); library contract services; parks contract services (playground mulch and gopher abatement); and fuel/oil. This totals out to \$84,250.

Expenditure budget adjustments for the Moraga Police Department \$30,000 (contract services and gas/oil); Planning Department \$75,000 (contract services); and Public Works Department \$18,000 (temporary salaries) total \$123,000.

The General Fund Fiscal Impact of the Proposed Mid-Year Budget Adjustments show: Projected Year-End Fund Balance (Adopted Budget) of \$6,159,038. The Proposed Adjusted Budget is \$6,201,614. The variance between the two is \$42,577 with the percentage of General Fund Reserve after the Proposed Adjusted Mid-Year Budget being 56.4%.

This winter's series of storms had a negative monetary impact on the town. The Public Works total actual estimated costs came to \$56,212. This included: emergency landslide cleanup, tree services, and Geotech services, as well as traffic striping and signage. Parks/Open Space costs are \$33,650 for Mullholand Ridge maintenance and fire abatement.

## Moraga appoints new town manager



Photo courtesy Town of Moraga

Scott Mitnick

By Vera Kochan

The Moraga Town Council wasted no time in looking for a new town manager by creating an ad hoc committee, hiring an executive search firm, soliciting staff and resident feedback, and sifting through approximately 40 applicants vying for the position. The search has ended with the March 8 appointment of a new permanent town manager, Scott Mitnick.

With three decades of public service under his belt, Mitnick's professional background includes over 20 years of executive level experience,

16 of which saw him as either a city manager or county administrator. His disaster planning and emergency response experience were instrumental in helping him lead Sutter County through the Oroville Dam evacuation in 2017. Mitnick's strong background in public finance, fiscal management, public sector, and private industry experience have helped to check off many boxes on Moraga's town manager wish list.

"Scott is a consummate professional, who also is open, warm and approachable," stated Mayor Renata Sos in a recent press release.

"The Council is confident that he will manage the Town offices with effectiveness and empathy and will quickly become a positive presence in our community. He is the right person to help steer the Town through our many opportunities and challenges today and in the years to come."

Mitnick personally attended the March 8 town council meeting with one of his twin sons, Michael, in the audience. He told the assembled that he takes to heart part of a 2,000-year-old Greek code of civic responsibility called the Athenian Oath: "Leave the city better than you found it." Mitnick explained that he had those words framed and always lo-

cated by his office door, so that at the end of each day he looks at them and hopes that he left the community better than he found it.

Currently residing in Southern California, Mitnick has had an eye on the Lamorinda area for quite some time. When Moraga's town manager position became available, it was too good to be true. He appreciates all of the open space and hillsides, the parks, schools and overall quality of life. He's looking forward to a working partnership with Saint Mary's College, the Moraga Chamber of Commerce, the Moraga School District, and local businesses.

Besides an annual salary that is competitive with both Orinda and Lafayette's city manager positions, Moraga will help Mitnick make a permanent relocation to town by providing a housing rental allowance for six months, along with a relocation allowance to help with the move from Southern California to the town. His first day on the job will be April 10.

"I love public service," Mitnick stated. "There's nothing I'd rather do. Being a town manager, I believe, is the best job you could possibly have. Public service is a privilege, but to be a town manager is an honor."

## Proclamation issued to SMC basketball coach for 500th win

By Vera Kochan

The Town of Moraga issued a proclamation during the Feb. 15 town council meeting honoring Saint Mary's College basketball head coach Randy Bennett for his team's 500th win on Feb. 2 against the University of San Francisco. The presentation was intended to be made during SMC's home game against the University of the Pacific on Feb. 23, but according to Moraga Mayor Renata Sos, Bennett did not want

his team to be distracted from the game.

This is Bennett's 22nd year at SMC where he has, to date, racked up 16 postseason appearances, five West Coast Conference (WCC) Coach of the Year honors, and according to the proclamation, "numerous top 20 rankings in the AP and Coaches Polls, multiple All-WCC and All-American honors for his players, and players who continued on to the NBA."

Bennett became SMC's 27th head coach in 2001, and thanks to his winning ways

has helped to put the town on the sports world's radar. He and his wife, Darlene, along with their two sons, Chase and Cade continue to call Moraga home.

"What distinguishes Coach Bennett in the world of collegiate athletics is his unwavering commitment to developing student athletes who not only excel at basketball but do so with hard work, integrity, teamwork and sportsmanship," reads the proclamation, while continuing to praise "his steadfast loyalty to Saint Mary's College and its community of faculty, staff and students, and his devotion to the Town of Moraga and its residents."

As of press time, the framed proclamation is still in the mayor's possession, waiting to be presented to its recipient. If the main concern to Bennett is distraction, fingers-crossed that it won't be delivered until a long postseason of tournament participation is over.

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