

Town Council authorizes Phase 2 of Laguna Creek Restoration Project

By Vera Kochan



Photo courtesy Moraga Public Works Dept.

Example of periodic Laguna Creek flooding at the Hacienda

The ongoing Laguna Creek Restoration Project, located at the Hacienda de las Flores, is entering Phase 2 which involves removing the existing, undersized culvert near the Pavilion and restoring a natural channel for improved flood protection for the Pavilion and other facilities in the area.

In October 2020, the Town council awarded BKF Engineers a contract to complete the Phase 1 design plans (up to 65%). According to the Nov. 8 staff report by Public Works Director/Town Engineer Shawn Knapp, Senior Civil Engineer Bret Swain, and Associate Civil Engineer Edriane Aguilar, "The 65% Plans display how the proposed design will restore the natural stream channel and expand capacity to accommodate a 100-year flood, including the

30-foot-wide vehicular bridge, decomposed granite trail, and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) parking stall relocated to the front of the building."

Additionally, "the 65% plan set includes details for the grading and striping of the relocated ADA parking stall; cross-sections of the proposed new creek channel; structural plans for the proposed bridge; and an erosion control plan."

In August, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) had approved a revised Phase 2 federal share of funds of up to nearly \$1,681,995 for the town to proceed with 100% design, bid support, and construction engineering. The total federal share has now increased to \$1,808,810, and the non-federal share for all phases is

\$999,723. The total estimated project cost by FEMA is \$2,808,533.

Phase 2's project scope includes obtaining necessary environmental permits; coordinating with utility agencies for any needed relocation work; completing 100% plans, specifications, and estimates; providing technical support during bidding; and providing technical support during construction.

If this coming winter's El Nino weather predictions are correct, the Hacienda can ill-afford to go through yet another flood damaging episode such as last season. "The drainage culvert interfaces with other assets in the area," according to the staff report. "Failure of the culvert to adequately convey storm runoff waters induces flooding of those other assets, such as the adjacent roadway, trails, hardscapes, and buildings. The flooding can then lead to a cascade of other failures and damage to other assets." As a worst-case scenario, if the Hacienda facilities required shutting down due to flood related damages, the town could risk losing nearly \$25,000 in monthly rental income.

The Town Council voted 4-0, with one recusal (Kerry Hillis), in favor of amending BKF's services agreement to increase their contract by \$60,170 due to their indication that costs have risen due to project delays related to obtaining FEMA Phase 2 approval, in addition to high inflation. The council also authorized Phase 2 (100% design, bid support, and construction engineering support) to proceed.

Kiwanis offers sweet way to support the community

Submitted by Steve Woehleke



Photo provided

Kiwanis Club members celebrated the store opening on Nov. 17 at the Rheem Shopping Center.

The Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley has sold See's candy during the holiday season every year since 2010, and

their fundraiser store opened Nov. 17 in the Rheem Shopping Center near CVS. Kiwanis is all about char-

ities, youth organizations and families in need, and what better way to support the community, give a helping hand to those in need, and spread the cheer of See's candy than by shopping at the Kiwanis store. Hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 23.

Thanks to the generous support of the community members, over the past four years the club has donated over \$200,000 to local organizations. Please join the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley once again, to both give back to the community and to share the magic of See's candies during the holidays.

For more information about the See's store and who Kiwanis serves, visit www.moragavalleykiwanis.org.

continued from Lafayette

Council recognizes longtime LLLCF Executive Director Needel upon retiring

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I could have done the job forever, but you can get comfortable and stagnant. I just felt it was good for me and good for the organization to bring in someone new."

Although she's at an age when some people retire, Needel is not considering that the primary option ahead. She plans to reacquaint herself with treasured activities – first mentioning walking "Goldie," the beloved rescue dog whose full name is Golda My Dear (a clear riff on the late Golda Meir, who was the fourth prime minister of Israel) and jokes the family pet is her "nonprofit-style gold perk" because she was allowed to bring the dog to work every day. Other hobbies such as reading, playing guitar, puttering around with clay, and traveling are also on the horizon. She's serving on several boards and

a task force and says, "I'm going to take the next six months and see what comes my way. I know that every time I open up to something new, really cool jobs come my way."

Needel is most proud of having established the Swell Center, where she said kids meet kids from outside of their own schools or inner circles and people interact in-person in real time, not on cell phones. With the library foundation conducting a search for a good fit for the "next big thing, whatever that is," Needel said the staff is "strong, with really smart women in the foundation office, so everything is fine."

Asking to offer a few, final comments, Needel expressed gratitude for the community and its spirit. "Lafayette is a small town with great aspirations. Everybody has this can-do attitude, which is infectious. Covid changed everybody, but people in Lafayette still want to gather. I remember that first day, when the library reopened to allow visitors from the public. Those first people who walked through the door, taking that first step back to reality, it was incredibly moving."

Mayor Anduri during the meeting presented Needel with a proclamation and read it into the record.



Town Council Wednesday, Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.
 Special Town Council Wed., Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.
 Planning Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 6:30 p.m.
 Park and Recreation Commission: Tuesday, Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Holiday Tree Lighting
Moraga Commons Park
November 30
6:30 – 7:30pm
Moragarec.com



California Academy of Performing Arts (CAPA) presents the Nutcracker Ballet & Concerto at Campolindo HS Performing Arts Center, Moraga December 07-11, 2023. Tickets on sale now capashows.eventbrite.com

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TOWN OF MORAGA
STATE OF THE TOWN
 Mayor's Lunch Address

- **SPEAKER: MAYOR RENATA SOS**
- **TOPIC: A RETROSPECTIVE ON 2023 AND VISION FOR 2024 AND BEYOND**
- **DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023**
- **TIME: 11:30 AM- 1:30 PM**
- **DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2023**
- **COST: \$35 (SINGLE TICKET) OR \$500 (SPONSOR A TABLE)**
- **RSVP: MORAGA.CA.US/50THANNIVERSARY**