

Friends of Joaquin Moraga Adobe Will Purchase Historic Building



SALLY HOGARTY

Friends of the Moraga Adobe presented a \$10,000 check to J&J Ranch developers as a down payment on purchasing the historical building. (L-R) **Matt Branagh, John French** of J&J Ranch, members of Friends of the Moraga Adobe **Kent Long** (president), **SB Master** (vice president), **Bobbie Landers, Tanya deGroot, Connie Boero** and J&J Ranch's **Michael Olson**.

By SALLY HOGARTY
Editor

Since 2009, the Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe (FJMA) have been fighting to preserve the oldest surviving building in Contra Costa County – the Joaquin Moraga Adobe built in 1841.

Long neglected, the adobe sits on an approximately 20-acre site slated for residential

development with the adobe scheduled to become a clubhouse for the 13 homeowners in the development.

On April 18, however, the FJMA announced an agreement with developer J&J Ranch LLC to purchase the historic Moraga Adobe and a surrounding 2.3-acre parcel. “The Moraga Adobe is truly one of the most significant historic sites in the East Bay,”

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says Kent Long, FJMA president. "We are thrilled that it will finally be available for the public to appreciate, after being privately owned for all of its 170 year history."

Under the terms of the agreement, FJMA will purchase the adobe and surrounding parcel for \$500,000, including establishment of a fund for ongoing maintenance and operation. The purchase amount will be used to pay for up to one-half of the cost of restoration of the adobe to its original 1840's configuration and preparation of the site for public access as a museum and learning center.

"Now the hard work of raising money for the purchase price begins, but we have already seen an impressive level of support from the local community and outside the area as well," Long explains. The J&J Ranch partners also see the significance of preserving the adobe and have committed the funds from the purchase price towards restoration of the house.