



Moraga-Orinda Fire District
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2021

(APPROVED: FEBRUARY 17, 2021)

1. OPENING CEREMONIES

The Board of Directors convened a teleconference Open Session at **5:04 p.m.** on **January 20, 2021**, via the Zoom application, <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89062959419>, webinar id: 890 6295 9419 and by phone 669-900-6833. Pursuant to Executive Order N-29-20, teleconferencing restrictions of the Brown Act have been suspended. MOFD is closely following the latest Public Health Order from the Contra Costa Health Services issued on March 17, 2020. At this time, all formal public meetings will continue remotely.

President Jorgens called the meeting to order and requested an attendance roll call. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Jorgens	Director Donner	Jonathan Holtzman, District Council
Director Baitx	Director Jex	Gloriann Sasser, Admin. Services Director
Director Danziger	Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief	Marcia Holbrook, District Clerk

2. PUBLIC COMMENT (audio 2:18)

President Jorgens opened Public Comment on the closed session items. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment.

At **5:06 p.m.**, the Board adjourned to Closed Session.

3. CLOSED SESSION

3.1 Public Employee Performance Evaluation

(Government Code Section 54957)

Public Employee Appointment Title: Fire Chief

3.2 Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Rep: Jonathan Holtzman

Employee: David Winnacker, Fire Chief

3.3 Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Rep: Donna Williamson

Employee Organization: Employee Organization:

Local 1230, International Association of Firefighters IAFF

3.4 Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Rep: Jonathan Holtzman

Employee Organization: Unrepresented Employees

3.5 Conference with Labor Negotiator

(Government Code Section 54957.6)

Agency Designated Rep: Donna Williamson

Employee Organization: Moraga-Orinda Fire Chief Officers' Association

4. RECONVENE THE MEETING (audio 18:46)

4.1 Call the Meeting to Order

4.2 Roll Call

President Jorgens reconvened the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors' regular business meeting at **7:05 p.m.** and requested an attendance roll call. Present were the following Directors and Staff:

President Jorgens	Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief	Marcia Holbrook, District Clerk
Director Baitx	Gloriann Sasser, Admin. Services Director	
Director Danziger	Jeff Isaacs, Fire Marshal	
Director Donner	Jonathan Holtzman, District Council	
Director Jex		

5. REPORT OF CLOSED SESSION ACTION (audio 19:19)

President Jorgens stated that the Board took no reportable action on agenda items 3.1-3.5.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT - ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA (audio 19:32)

President Jorgens opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment.

7. PUBLIC HEARING (audio 20:13)

7.1 Public Hearing to consider the proposed revision to the Schedule of Fees for District Services.

Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. In 2013, the District established a new fee structure based on an independent fee study analysis and in-house comparable agency survey. The fee schedule resolution includes a provision for an annual modification to fees based on the Consumer Price Index. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) for All Urban Consumers, San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, California region, increased 1.1% effective October 2020 (most recent). Due to COVID-19, the number of request for tent permits has increased and staff evaluated the true amount of time and cost of these inspections and plan reviews for tent permits. In addition to the CPI increase, Staff proposed increasing the below fees to ensure the District covers the full expense of time and resources to cover services performed.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tents from 200 and 5000 ft² in size, and canopies in excess of 400 s.f. - \$351 • Tents greater than 5000 ft² in size - \$351 • Extended period of use, up to 180 days per tent or air supported structure - \$351 • Holiday Tree Lot Inspections - \$193 • Model Rockets - \$193 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency responder radio communication (ERRCS) system Plan Review - \$270 • Inspection ERRCS - \$135 • Elevator Communication System Plan Review - \$270 • Inspection Elevator Communication System - \$135
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President Jorgens opened the Public Hearing. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed the Public Hearing.

Director Danziger asked for a description of tent inspections. Fire Chief Winnacker explained the long history of concern about tents, canopies, and fires that date back to a number of catastrophic loss of life events associated with circus tents. As a result of this history, the best practices and requirements associated with tents are really well developed. Tents are typically constructed of nylon or vinyl, which is very hard, if not impossible, to fireproof. The setup of tents have an irregular manner, and pathways to an exit, or electrical wiring, all have a temporary nature and can be moved around. The inspections ensure that the fire code is being followed. Typically, these tents are near established structures. The proximity of the tent and concerns about a fire that could start in or on a tent communicating to an existing structure in a way that existing automatic fire protection systems are not designed to overcome. Director Danziger inquired if the fees were for tents 200 square feet and above. Fire Chief Winnacker confirmed and stated anything under 10' by 20' is considered a small shade canopy or structure.

President Jorgens asked what if a series of small tents are used to form a larger tent. Fire Chief Winnacker deferred to the Fire Marshal but understood that a series of small tents set up in a manner to form a continuous cover will assume a larger tent's qualities and fire code requirements.

Director Baitx asked how many inspections were performed over last year and if the increase is the result of COVID-19 as mentioned in the staff report. Fire Chief Winnacker responded that Staff would try to provide the information before the end of the meeting.

President Jorgens commented that he has not seen many restaurants put up tents in the community. Fire Chief Winnacker stated that many businesses and agencies who had not previously used tents started to use tents in order to conduct business. Staff has engaged in education and outreach to ensure that the tents are being installed safely and have provided the businesses a pathway to maintaining their business amidst all the disease transmission.

Director Baitx requested the vote be delayed until Staff has an opportunity to provide the number of increased tent inspections and expressed concern that because of COVID19, businesses would not normally go to the tent model. Director Baitx stated that if the increase in inspections is not too high, the Board should consider not increasing tent inspection fees. President Jorgens agreed and added that the Board should consider waiving the tent inspection fee.

Director Jex commented that the tents used around Safeway at Christmas time are typically from commercial operations that require a tent.

President Jorgens suggested just waiving the fee for businesses installing tents due to the COVID19 pandemic. District Council Holtzman answered that District fees have to be applied the same across the board. Director Jorgens commented that it would be across-the-board, except for businesses that are a resident in the district, similar to how the ambulance fees are applied. District Council Holtzman responded that he would look into the rule. President Jorgens recommended putting a temporary, one-year waiver on tent fees. District Council Holtzman asked if the tent fee waiver would be for all tent inspections. President Jorgens confirmed.

Director Jex asked how much revenue came in from tent inspections for last year. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that Staff would need to pull the information and recommended pulling agenda item 7.1 and moving Item 7.1 to the February Regular Board meeting. District Council Holtzman concurred. President Jorgens added that the tents are an example, and other things that would be supporting our local businesses because of the hardships could be considered.

No further discussion by the Board.

Motion by Director Baitx and seconded by Director Donner to pull item 7.1, Adopt Resolution 21-01 Revising a Schedule of Fees for District Services and placed on the February agenda. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).

8. CONSENT AGENDA (audio 34:07)

8.1 Meeting Minutes – December 16, 2020 (Regular)

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

8.2 Monthly Incident Report – December 2020

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

8.3 Monthly Check/Voucher Register - December 2020

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

8.4 Monthly Financial Report - December 2020

Staff Recommendation: Approve and File

8.5 Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association Investment Performance Review Report for the Quarter Ended September 30, 2020

Staff Recommendation: Information only

Director Danziger requested that item 8.3 be pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Motion by Director Danziger and seconded by Director Jex to approve Consent Agenda items 8.1, 8.2, 8.4, and 8.5. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).

8.3 Monthly Check/Voucher Register - December 2020

Director Danziger questioned the repair to engine 42 for \$11,613. Fire Chief Winnacker answered Engine 42 struck an object while deployed on the August Complex fire. Director Danziger asked if the expense was reimbursable. Fire Chief Winnacker replied it was not reimbursable because the damage did not happen while actively fighting fire. Director Danziger asked if the insurance covered the accident cost. Administrative Service Director Sasser confirmed.

President Jorgens asked how these accidents are accounted for in the Strike Team numbers. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that it is an evolving discussion and a portion of the Strike Team revenue should be used as a future payment towards vehicle replacement given the exchange for the wear and tear of the vehicles accrue while deployed. Staff is working on providing an itemized presentation of Strike Team Revenue as it is the single largest variable in the annual budget (2019, \$130,000 and in 2020, \$1.4 million). Based on the Board's direction, a future decision to assign the vehicle charges to Capital would go towards future vehicle replacement.

Director Danziger asked if the \$11,500 furnace repair at Station 41 was a repair or a new furnace. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that it was a repair.

Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Danziger to approve Consent Agenda items 8.3. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).

President Jorgens opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board.

9. REGULAR AGENDA

9.1 Community Warning System Presentation (audio 42:00)

Heather Tiernan, Community Warning System Manager, presented an overview of the Contra Costa County Community Warning System. Ms. Tiernan reviewed the activation process, when and how the CWS system is used, what information is included, and how areas are targeted. Ms. Tiernan reviewed how in the event of an emergency, the activation of the CWS system for the City of Orinda and Town of Moraga comes from

the Law versus Fire. President Jorgens inquired as to the reason. Ms. Tiernan explained that it is California Code and Fire will recommend where and when for evacuations, but Law is responsible for actually getting the people out of their houses, managing traffic, and security. Fire Chief Winnacker added that State law has the authority to order an evacuation and or close public streets, and that Fire does not have that authority. Ms. Tiernan described the many methods for sending notifications to residences; reviewed the various tools residences can use to receive notifications; and explained how to register devices to receive alerts via phone calls, text messages, and email messages. Ms. Tiernan expressed the importance to save the CWS contact information in your devices to ensure an alert can bypass the Do Not Disturb. Ms. Tiernan reviewed the other tools available to CWS when an emergency is on a larger scale, or if CWS is aware of a large scale communication failure, such as cell towers going down. The tools listed: 1) FEMA issues the wireless emergency alerts on iPod systems; 2) the emergency alert system issued on TVs and radios; and 3) the National Weather Service issued on weather radios. CWS encourages all residences to purchase a weather radio as a backup emergency alert system. Ms. Tiernan shared that CWS will only issue an alert if there is an imminent threat to human life or health and protective action is necessary for the community to take. The CWS does not use the alert system as an information notification system to notify PSPS, road closures, or red flag warnings. There must be an active threat to human life. Ms. Tiernan reviewed the CWS registrations for each city/town.

Director Donner asked if a neighborhood is evacuated, will the text, email, and phone messages go out simultaneously. Ms. Tiernan confirmed. Director Donner asked if a landline will work if the power is down. Ms. Tiernan confirmed.

President Jorgens asked if the CWS database could be sorted by unique addresses so CWS would know how many actual households have registered. Ms. Tiernan answered that the data is very complicated due to the mapping and cannot be sorted in that way. President Jorgens ask if CWS receives a confirmation that a text message has been delivered. Ms. Tiernan confirmed. President Jorgens asked if CWS has any input with the cell phone mobile companies regarding battery backups on their cell towers and if CWS can help lobby the State to require cell phone mobile companies to get more battery backups, and/or if CWS has a way to figure out which cell towers are not working. Ms. Tiernan explained that there has been legislation in the past couple of years helping to harden critical infrastructures like cell phone towers and for better communication with the locals by some of these big companies. The Board of Supervisors did receive a list of towers that went down in 2019. CWS did not see any towers go down in 2020.

President Jorgens opened Public Comment.

Written public comment statements were read into the record by Staff. Written public comments are attached to these minutes. 1) Cheryl Ku. Attachment A

Bernie Riff, Moraga resident, expressed concern about how CWS performs during a public safety power shutdown and if CWS headquarters has a power backup for their own system. Mr. Riff also inquired if the legislation required cell phone and internet providers to have emergency backup generators for cell towers or a requirement to provide service during power shutdowns.

Ms. Tiernan stated that all of the CWS software is web-based and does not require power backup. Ms. Tiernan answered that CWS does not send public safety power shut-off alerts or alerts for warnings that something could happen that would trigger an emergency. PG&E has encouraged people to register their information to receive PSPS notifications. Notifications about Red Flag Warnings is publicized on the news media and the National Weather Service. Ms. Tiernan reviewed that CWS did not hear of any communicating systems going down in 2020 and it was an issue in 2019 in the Merrill neighborhood. Ms. Tiernan reviewed the difference between the power being off and the communication channels being down. If the cell phones are working and you can get your cell phone on, you can still access some of the internet capabilities with cellular data to check for alerts on the CWS website. CWS recommends, especially for very high fire risk areas, to purchase weather radios to receive those notifications if communication channels go down. Ms. Tiernan is unaware of the local patrol cars and special sirens and explained that the officers would usually utilize their loudspeakers to instruct people to evacuate as well as door to door evacuations. Ms. Tiernan explained that she does not have the specifics on the legislation requirements for cell towers and/or other utilities to maintain coverage.

There were no further requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment.
No further discussion by the Board.

9.2 Adopt Resolution 21-02 A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District Approving an Investment Policy for District Funds (audio 88:04)

Administrative Services Director Sasser provided the report. The District's Investment Policy requires the Board to review the District's Investment Policy annually. The Policy has been reviewed by staff. No changes are recommended. Staff recommended the Board adopt Resolution No. 21-02, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District Approving an Investment Policy for District Funds.

President Jorgens opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board.

Motion by Director Danziger and seconded by Director Jex to Adopt Resolution 21-02, Approving an Investment Policy for District Funds. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).

9.3 Adoption of Resolution No. 21-03 Authorizing Investment of Monies in Local Agency Investment Fund (audio 90:00)

Administrative Services Director Sasser provided the report. Due to the new board officers, it is necessary to update the officers authorized to deposit or withdraw monies with the Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) for the investment of District funds. Staff recommended the Board adopt Resolution No. 21-03 authorizing investment of monies in Local Agency Investment Fund reflecting the new Board President and new Board Treasurer.

President Jorgens opened the public comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board.

Motion by Director Jex and seconded by Director Donner to Adopt Resolution No. 21-03 Authorizing Investment of Monies in Local Agency Investment Fund. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None)

9.4 Authorize Acceptance of the Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant to Develop a Comprehensive Evacuation Support System and Authorize Capital Projects Fund Revenue and Expenditure Budget Adjustment Increases in the amount of \$300,000 (audio 91:44)

Chief Winnacker provided the report. The District has been awarded a grant as a sub-recipient of an Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant (UASI) awarded to Contra Costa County in the amount of \$300,000. The grant's purpose is to contract the development of a comprehensive evacuation support system consisting of fire modeling, evacuation polygons, and an evacuation decision support tool. The project must be completed by December 31, 2021. Accepting grant funds requires a modification to the budget. A Capital Projects Fund budget adjustment is necessary to increase federal grant revenue and to increase equipment expenditures in the amount of \$300,000. Staff recommended the Board authorize acceptance of the Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant to Develop a Comprehensive Evacuation Support System and Authorize Capital Projects Fund Revenue and Expenditure Budget Adjustment Increases in the Amount of \$300,000.

Fire Chief Winnacker reviewed the need for evacuation preparedness and evacuation zones critical to the subdivision of a community to execute a prioritized and time-phased evacuation system. The grant will expand the system to be used on a countywide basis and allow evacuation plans to be coordinated to reduce multiple evacuations being executed independently and relying on the same surface street network. The grant is designed to produce a countywide system that will bring the best practices currently utilized in the district and the rest of the county. The County Chiefs Association asked MOFD to act as the lead for this grant because of our expertise in developing these evacuation polygons and evacuation decision support tools that have been put into place over the last several years. Once adopted, MOFD will go through an RFP process. MOFD has been involved in a significant amount of pre-discussions with UASI to ensure everything is done in accordance with their policies and no issues with reimbursement. After a vendor is selected, MOFD will oversee the execution of the development by a vendor. Best practices currently in place at MOFD will be interoperable with surrounding counties with similar systems.

Director Jex asked about the contract and type of vendor. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that the contract will be for the development of software.

President Jorgens inquired about the impact on staff time. Fire Chief Winnacker answered that some staff time will be associated with executing the RFP and the contracting process. The contractor will be responsible for producing the software to MOFDs specifications.

Director Jex asked who will manage the project after it has been implemented. Fire Chief Winnacker answered either OES will manage on a countywide basis or each jurisdiction would manage their own zones. Director Jex asked if there was any hardware associated with the system. Fire Chief Winnacker stated that there is no hardware.

Director Donner asked how the software will be different from Zonehaven. Fire Chief Winnacker answered potentially no difference and that the output will be the same.

President Jorgens opened the public comment.

Mark McCullah, Union Representative Local 1230, asked if there was a match to the grant. Fire Chief Winnacker answered no matching funds for the grant.

There were no further requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment.
No further discussion by the Board

Motion by Director Danziger and seconded by Director Baitx to Authorize Acceptance of the Urban Areas Security Initiative Grant to Develop a Comprehensive Evacuation Support System and Authorize Capital Projects Fund Revenue and Expenditure Budget Adjustment Increases in the Amount of \$300,000. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS (audio 101:04)

10.1 Audit Committee (Directors Danziger and Jex)

No report.

10.2 Finance Committee (Directors Danziger and Jorgens)

No report.

10.3 Facilities Station 41 Ad Hoc Committee (Directors Baitx and Donner)

No report.

10.4 Joint Fire Prevention Ad Hoc Committee (Directors Danziger and Jorgens)

Director Danziger reported that the Joint Fire Prevention subcommittee met in December. Assembly member Rebecca Bauer-Kahan and representative from State Senator Steve Glazer attended and addressed the subcommittee. No future meetings are scheduled at this time. President Jorgens commented the joint committee has been a good source of sharing information across the towns and the community.

President Jorgens opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board. President Jorgens closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board.

11. ANNOUNCEMENTS (audio 102:51)

11.1 Brief information only reports related to meetings attended by a Director at District expense

(Government Code Section 53232.3(d))

No report.

11.2 Questions and informational comments from Board members and Staff

No report.

11.3 Fire Chief Updates

11.3.1 COVID-19

Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. MOFD is supporting the Contra Costa County Health countywide efforts to increase vaccination in the community. Members are providing support with planning and staffing within the county. Five Members have deployed to Watsonville as part of the hospital support. Statewide, the Fire Service is being utilized to augment the hospital staff. The lack of availability of travel nurses due to demand and the increase in hospital populations has severely tested the system. Firefighter/Paramedics and Firefighter EMTs have been deployed throughout the state to support that need. MOFD has been able to maintain service levels despite all of the challenges specific to the increase in COVID activity. The department received a number of very nice cards and a much-appreciated box of chocolates from the community. The staff appreciates the feedback and validation that our Members continue to uphold the district's high standards that the community has come to expect.

President Jorgens asked if MOFD has any interest in setting up a vaccination center. Fire Chief Winnacker explained that MOFD is working in coordination with the County Health Department. The fire service has been asked to support vaccinations at two sites in the county. One location

is in San Ramon and the other in Contra Costa County. When the County Health Department is ready to open more sites, MOFD will certainly explore the support needed.

President Jorgens expressed that a lot of people in the community are anxious to have the vaccine information. If MOFD has a way to help communicate the San Ramon site's links, it would be helpful. Fire Chief Winnacker shared that on our website, under announcements, a Public Service Announcement - Vaccine Update can be found on our home page. There is a link to request an appointment and another link for information about the COVID-19 vaccination in Contra Costa County. MOFD encourages any community members who are interested in getting the shot to visit that link and schedule an appointment.

11.3.2 Human Resources

Fire Chief Winnacker provided the report. Human Resources will move forward with filling the open Fuels Mitigation Specialist position. Human Resources Benefits Manager Russell will meet with a candidate on Friday to move forward with the hiring and training. A new Fuels Mitigation Candidates list will be developed as the position will continue to change as many of the Fuels Mitigation Specialists pursue full-time long-term positions of increased responsibility with other agencies. The annual physicals for the Firefighters continue to be scheduled, and members are participating in the COVID vaccination process.

11.3.3 Fire Marshal

Fire Marshal Isaacs provided the report. Staff has been focused on the CWPP and preparing for the upcoming community meetings. Fire Prevention has been collaborating with Cal Fire Resource Management staff to work on the number of dead trees in the area. Staff is working on education and outreach to our citizens about dead trees and the need to remove them. MOFD is proud to announce that Tiffany Walls, Fuels Mitigation Specialist, is going to San Francisco City Fire Department as a Firefighter. Ms. Walls is pursuing her dream and goal to have a career in the fire service. Ms. Walls has been a key member of our team and a huge part of our success in the Chipping Program and Fuels Mitigation Program. The Board of Directors wished Ms. Walls the best and thanked her for her service to the MOFD. Fire Chief Winnacker expressed appreciation for Ms. Walls and her hard work.

The CWPP Community meetings will begin on January 21, 2021. MOFD encourages community involvement and input. The information on how to participate is located on the MOFD website and calendar. MOFD looks forward to explaining the CWPP and facilitating community input to ensure that this document is meaningful and reflective of the community's concerns and understanding of fire. The guide will be something MOFD will use to guide community efforts for the next three years.

11.4 Communications Received

Fire Chief Winnacker commented on the legal information provided in the special meeting packet and communication regarding the proposed Wilder development, which is a planning element and falls under the City of Orinda purview. Staff received several commendatory items associated with the holidays, generally thanking the district. No further discussion from the board.

11.5 Future Agenda Items


No Report

President Jorgens opened Public Comment. There were no requests to address the Board.

President Jorgens closed Public Comment. No further discussion by the Board

12. ADJOURNMENT (audio 115:59)

At 8:42 p.m., Director Donner motion and seconded by Director Danziger to adjourn the meeting. Said motion carried 5-0 roll call vote (Ayes: Baitx, Danziger, Donner, Jex, and Jorgens; Noes: None; Absent: None; Abstain: None).



Marcia Holbrook,
District Secretary/District Clerk

From: [catwoman Lionsgate](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: "Public Comment"-Agenda #8.6 Meeting Dec.16th 2020.
Date: Monday, December 14, 2020 1:06:10 PM

Dear MOFD and Board Members I hope all are doing well at this time.

I would like to see if my comment can please be considered for Public Comment on Dec. 16th 2020 Meeting regarding Agenda #8.6. for the Community Warning System Overview Committee.

Please address how and when we as a community will be made aware of the following:

When will we as a community know what is going to be done about being able to receive an appropriate timely response on our cell phones by CWS for impending Preparation to evacuate, /Warning TO Evacuate during a PSPS event, High Fire Red-Flag Warning/High Wind Warning?

How and what can be done to make sure all Zones and areas have the capability to have messages received via cell phones? In the meantime, should residents invest in Radio devices?

While the CWS Overview Committee is working on this, can our community and the MOFD have the usage of a High-Low Signal on their Police and Fire Patrol Cars to help let the public know that they may need to evacuate due to a fire?

We are going to be dealing with the fire season getting longer, happening earlier, due to continued drought and Global Warming Patterns in CA. In the meantime, we need a reliable system for evacuation warnings for the upcoming year.

During the last PSPS, Red-Flag, High Wind Warning shut off, Power lines were de-energized, and so were the Cable Lines, for Internet access. Many, in the Lamorinda community, Orinda and Moraga were not able to receive Text notifications, updates, call out or receive phone calls.

I have heard that during the High Wind and Lightning Event that triggered the Santa Cruz -CZ Complex Fire, many residents there also did not receive CWS alerts to prepare to evacuate and or to evacuate the area due to the power being shut off.

I appreciate knowing that there is a Community Warning System Overview Committee now established to work on this matter for our community and CA.

Thank You,
Sincerely,

Cheryl M. Ku, Veteran , Resident of Contra Costa County, Moraga, CA