



# Moraga-Orinda Fire District

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## Communications Received from Public

As of May 12, 2021 at 12:00 PM

#	Date	Name
1	5/6/2021	Dennis Wanken
2	5/6/2021	Stanley Roth
3	5/6/2021	Cristy Clarke
4	5/6/2021	Tom and Lynn Trowbridge
5	5/6/2021	Betsy & Dana Ream
6	5/6/2021	Barbara Chaconas
7	5/6/2021	paulk
8	5/6/2021	Carol Wilson
9	5/6/2021	David W Anderson
10	5/6/2021	Caroline Wood
11	5/6/2021	Laszlo G. Bonnyay
12	5/7/2021	David Seldon
13	5/7/2021	Wendy Bunch
14	5/7/2021	Sue Severson
15	5/7/2021	Don Moresi
16	5/7/2021	Sally Whittaker
17	5/7/2021	Colleen Lund
18	5/7/2021	Ralph Davisson
19	5/7/2021	Sean Sabarese
20	5/7/2021	Dustie Robeson
21	5/7/2021	Patsy and Michael DInsell
22	5/7/2021	Patrick Wong
23	5/7/2021	james bonnar
24	5/7/2021	Michael Hofmayer and Ann Tipton
25	5/7/2021	Ronald W. Phelon
26	5/8/2021	Ken Light
27	5/8/2021	Melanie Light
28	5/8/2021	Brent Meyers
29	5/8/2021	Greg Andrews
30	5/8/2021	Robin Merritt
31	5/8/2021	Carolyn Lee
32	5/8/2021	Patricia Wong
33	5/8/2021	Garen Ingleby
34	5/8/2021	Jorge Escobar
35	5/8/2021	Maggie Boscoe
36	5/8/2021	Yael and Dan Altschuler Malek
37	5/8/2021	Mike Cox
38	5/8/2021	Judy Sherwood

39	5/8/2021	Tom and Cynthia Czerner
40	5/8/2021	SMARTMoraga Community
41	5/8/2021	Robert Scheive & Irene Yee
42	5/8/2021	Joseph and Alicia Heil
43	5/8/2021	Joan Roebuck
44	5/8/2021	Mary Beth Read
45	5/8/2021	Stephen S. Arnon
46	5/8/2021	Kathleen Robertson
47	5/9/2021	Kristina E. Whitney
48	5/9/2021	Greg Read
49	5/9/2021	Bruce Cohen and Sharon Krause
50	5/9/2021	Jim Roethe
51	5/9/2021	Affi Ansari
52	5/9/2021	Greg Hoff
53	5/9/2021	Elle Hoffnagel
54	5/9/2021	Adam Kremen
55	5/9/2021	Ann Griffith
56	5/9/2021	Robert and Cheri Etheredge
57	5/9/2021	Carol Bergren
58	5/9/2021	Michael Metcalf
59	5/9/2021	Cynthia Brian
60	5/10/2021	Gail Walden
61	5/10/2021	Sharon Abdilla & Michael Franks
62	5/10/2021	Howard Weiser
63	5/10/2021	Mark and Denise Spindler
64	5/10/2021	Sally and Rod Lubben
65	5/10/2021	Rich Dudley
66	5/10/2021	Sandra Breber
67	5/10/2021	Hana B. Moran
68	5/10/2021	Ms Gim Crew
69	5/10/2021	Ann Marie
70	5/10/2021	Lucille and Sal Zammitti
71	5/10/2021	Joan Webb
72	5/10/2021	Cheri Etheredge
73	5/10/2021	Jay M. Steuer
74	5/10/2021	Carol Brophy
75	5/10/2021	Eileen and Paul Unruh
76	5/10/2021	Teresa Long
77	5/10/2021	Ellen Dale
78	5/10/2021	Brian and Heather Myers
79	5/10/2021	Doreen Rau
80	5/10/2021	Carri Maas
81	5/10/2021	Laura Lee
82	5/10/2021	Kersti & William Peter
83	5/10/2021	Claudia Winter
84	5/10/2021	Muffin Hyché
85	5/10/2021	Pete and Pat Williams

86	5/10/2021	Susan Haas
87	5/10/2021	Bernard Lerner
88	5/10/2021	Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine
89	5/10/2021	Dave Morse
90	5/10/2021	Gerald Meyers
91	5/10/2021	Dr. Brian and Cynthia Sheaff
92	5/10/2021	Amy Smith and Frank Mewborn
93	5/10/2021	Chris Laszcz-Davis
94	5/10/2021	Kate Bullis-Trani
95	5/10/2021	Anthony Trani
96	5/10/2021	Charlie Coane
97	5/10/2021	Leslee Lerner
98	5/11/2021	David Volk
99	5/11/2021	Yuriy and Yulia Goldshtrakh
100	5/11/2021	Russell Barretta
101	5/11/2021	Sanders Ranch HOA
102	5/11/2021	Andy Amstutz
103	5/11/2021	Carole Amstutz
104	5/11/2021	Eugene L Gottfried
105	5/11/2021	Marianne McKay
106	5/11/2021	David Zeimer
107	5/11/2021	Roberto and Maria Alvarez
108	5/11/2021	Terry J. Murphy
109	5/11/2021	Pearl Toy
110	5/11/2021	Mark Colby Davidson & Linda Z Davidson
111	5/11/2021	Arlene Lyne
112	5/11/2021	Donna Sumner
113	5/11/2021	Noel Gillespie
114	5/11/2021	Elizabeth and Norayr Kalpakjian
115	5/12/2021	Mardi Potts
116	5/12/2021	John & Jane Kotowski
117	5/12/2021	Larry & Barbara Briggs
118	5/12/2021	Susan and Nigel Forman
119	5/12/2021	Linda and Clark Vilas
120	5/12/2021	Michael Brown
121	5/12/2021	Peter Dinkelspiel
122	5/12/2021	Bruce Macler
123	5/12/2021	Jonathan Meyers
124	5/12/2021	Amanda Sherwood
125	5/12/2021	Charles Porges
126	5/12/2021	Dan Hagan

**From:** [Dennis Wanken](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD dissolution  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:40:24 AM

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My wife and I and our family are all registered voters and WE VOTE. We are all against this proposal.

Thank you

Dennis Wanken

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Stan Roth](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD DIssolution  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 11:45:49 AM

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Dear MOFD Board,

As a Moraga resident for the past 36 years, I know I speak for all my Sanders Ranch neighbors in strongly opposing any attempts to dissolve the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. I am a former member of the Sanders Ranch Board of Directors and have served as President of the Board, which strongly supported to formation of MOFD in 1997 and continues to support MOFD today.

The news of this proposed dissolution is only beginning to get out into the Moraga community, and there will be strong opposition to turn our fire and medical services over to the County. Orinda and Moraga exist within a unique fire hazard zone best served by having our local tax dollars go to serving our own communities, vastly different than wider County interests.

Moragans have no desire to have our local needs determined by a County Board of Supervisors rather than our own community representatives.

Please vote to put a stop to this nonsense at the May 19th Board meeting.

Sincerely,

Stanley Roth  
Moraga

**From:** [cristy](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 1:36:52 PM

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As a 35 year resident of Orinda, I very strongly disagree with dissolving MOFD and using the county fire services. With our fire danger increasing with each passing year, it's more important than ever to maintain local control. Please reject this idea.

Thanks,

Cristy Clarke

[REDACTED]

Orinda

**From:** [Tom Trowbridge](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Potential Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 2:07:09 PM

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To the Directors of MOFD,

The dissolution of MOFD would be a disaster for the residents of Moraga and Orinda. We urge you to vote no for the proposal about to come before you on May 19. The reasons the citizens of Moraga and Orinda voted for the establishment of this fire district are even more valid today with the heightened risk of wildfires our communities now face.

Tom and Lynn Trowbridge



**From:** [Betsy Ream](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Dana Ream](#)  
**Subject:** Strong Objection to MOFD Merging with County!  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 2:23:28 PM

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Dear MOFD,

As a citizen of Orinda, I am writing to express my enragement that the idea of Dissolving MOFD and merging into the County Fire District is even being considered. This move would be a catastrophic decision for Orinda and Moraga and would likely lead to the deaths of citizens during a major fire, accidents, medical emergencies or other situations requiring immediate MOFD assistance.

Orinda and Moraga are one of the highest risk areas for fire danger in the entire state and absolutely require the highest level of fire prevention possible. It is beyond absurd to consider the possibility of eliminating any resources that would help this area during a time of crisis.

I strongly oppose the process for dissolving our local fire district and merging Moraga and Orinda into the County fire district (ConFire).

Thank you,

Betsy & Dana Ream, Orinda residents



**From:** [Barbara Chaconas](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [imiller@cityoforinda.org](mailto:imiller@cityoforinda.org); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dgee@cityoforinda.org); [aworth@cityoforinda.org](mailto:aworth@cityoforinda.org); [dfay@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dfay@cityoforinda.org); [nkosla@cityoforinda.org](mailto:nkosla@cityoforinda.org); [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org)  
**Subject:** DISSOLUTION OF MOFD  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 3:28:54 PM

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I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE IDEA OF THE COUNTY ABSORBING ALL OUR WONDERFUL SERVICES! I PERSONALLY HAD AN INCIDENT AT HOME, WITH THE NEAR DEATH OF MY HUSBAND!

(incident occurred Dec 7)

The units responded within 5 minutes. (Ambulance and fire truck paramedics) Naturally I was terribly distraught, doubly so, as I could not go with the ambulance to the emergency room, due to COVID. The fire department men stayed with me until my daughter arrived and they helped clean up the huge amount of blood, caused by my husbands internal bleeding).... The thought of having to have waited any longer than I did would have been a nightmare!

Having personal services available so close by is one of the many benefits of living in our wonderful small communities.

Please keep our wonderful services locally!

Barbara Chaconas

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [paulk](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** The idiocy of this union hacks attempt to dissolve the MOFD  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:05:05 PM

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Our fire departments are just fine thank you! I am predisposed to use a lot of profanity right now but I will refrain. Moraga was doing OK prior to the merger with Orinda , a merger which drained off some reserves that Moraga had amassed through increased taxes of it's residents. Tell the union thug to tax other cities in Contra Costa County if they need funding. Our city has worked hard to create what we have and it works.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Carol Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD Proposed merger  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:20:05 PM

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Please count me as one of those **OPPOSED to** this idea. What we have is good and what could come of the merger is not good for our district,

Carol Wilson



Orinda, CA 94563


**From:** [David W Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** ConFire  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:24:05 PM

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What a “con!”

# NO!

Best wishes,

Dave Anderson, 

From: [Caroline Wood](#)  
 To: [Info](#)  
 Subject: Dissolution of the MOFD?  
 Date: Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:29:55 PM

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## No No NO NO

# Moraga-Orinda Fire Exploring Complete Dissolution at Behest of Union-Backed Director

*Unjustifiable Move Would Cede Local Control, Siphon Local Tax Dollars, and Consign Moraga and Orinda to Less-Responsive Service*

At its April 21 meeting and following an earlier "suggestion" by the firefighter union president whose union represents firefighters throughout Contra Costa County, union-backed MOFD Director Greg Baitx successfully placed a **discussion on MOFD's May 19 meeting agenda for financial projections and a process overview to dissolve the MOFD entirely**, having fire and ambulance services absorbed by the county.



**Such a move would return Moraga & Orinda fire and ambulance service to what it was decades ago, before MOFD was specifically created for local control, local tax dollars being used for local fire and ambulance service, and ensuring a high quality of service commensurate with community expectations.**

Prior to MOFD, local residents were consigned to being a small minority subject to county-level decisions on fire and ambulance services (e.g. station locations and staffing), with the county siphoning off approximately \$3 million from Moraga/Orinda and using it elsewhere rather than on local facilities,

equipment and services during the years preceding MOFD's creation.

**The necessity or desire to explore a possible dissolution and merger defies all logic: MOFD is financially, operationally, and service-level superior to Confire and has been for years.**

Further, it strikes us as a wholesale violation of fiduciary responsibility and duty of loyalty for a MOFD Director to initiate such a process, when that Director's fundamental responsibility is to be a steward of MOFD and preserve & enhance its founding principles of local control and high service levels.

**We suggest readers let the MOFD Board and their local town/city councils know how they feel** about this nascent violation of good governance and public trust. Strongly.

How did you all not see this coming? Just when I thought Moraga had finally found new footing, we seem to have fallen back into dumb behavior. I apologize for the lack of finesse but I am exhausted by Moraga's leadership continuing failures to serve the community. Think: Canyon Road Bridge, Rheem Theater, and many road failures.

*Caroline*

*Caroline Woods* [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Laszlo G. Bonnyay](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** I oppose the dissolution of the MOFD  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 4:53:53 PM

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*Laszlo G. Bonnyay*

[REDACTED]

*Moraga, CA 94556*

*Phone:* [REDACTED]

**From:** [David Seldon](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** NO on Merging MOFD and County Fire Department  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:15:21 PM

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As a long time resident of Orinda, my recommendation is **absolutely NO!**

I do not support the dissolution of MOFD and its merger with ConFire.

My primary reasons are as follows:

- 1) Since established in 1997, MOFD has become acknowledged as one of the most effective fire districts in CA so what are the benefits of merging
- 2) MOFD is locally-focused, managed, and has control over the tax dollars that fund our fire district
- 3) MOFD understands our terrain, network of roads, vegetation, open space, and commercial areas
- 4) MOFD has developed approaches to fire suppression, fire-fighting, and paramedic service that are specific to Orinda and Moraga

These are our comments against the merger in advance of the May 19th public meeting.

Respectfully,  
Dave and Joan Seldon

  
Orinda, CA 94563



**From:** [Wendy Bunch](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merging  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:35:18 PM

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To the MOFD Board:

As a survivor from cardiac arrest that happened in Orinda and because of the quick response that was made I was able to survive. I have known this to be the case for many instances that the MOFD has had success due to the equipment, training and the stellar leadership that we are so fortunate to have. Why the change?

Now with fire protection being the top priority and the proactive measures that the department has implemented, we as a community should be also protective with our fire district. KEEP IT LOCAL...NO MERGE...  
WORRIED THAT THIS IS EVEN CONSIDERED!



**From:** [Sue Severson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#); [Winnacker, David](#)  
**Subject:** Why Merging MOFD into ConFire is a Very Bad Idea!!!  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 5:44:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [WHY MERGING MOFD INTO CONFIRE IS A VERY BAD IDEA.pdf](#)

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## WHY MERGING MOFD INTO CONFIRE IS A VERY BAD IDEA!!!

MOFD Board of Directors:

The recent merger proposal made by Director Baitx is a very bad idea that could significantly reduce the fire and emergency safety services to the Moraga and Orinda communities. I urge you to not support and vote against this proposal! Here are just a few of the reasons why merging MOFD into ConFire is not the right thing to do for our communities. A merger would:

1. Reduce critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by MOFD to Moraga and Orinda;
2. Eliminate local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs;
3. Lose the deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our high risk wildfire danger terrain, network of narrow roads and abundant open space;
4. Siphon away Orinda and Moraga tax dollars to other areas of the county, depleting funds available for local safety services;
5. Minimize the extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support wildfire prevention and safety for our local fire district; and
6. Lose our great Fire Chief Dave Winnacker who supports our community with innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

Separating Moraga and Orinda fire and paramedic services from the county (ConFire) agency was the right thing to do in 1997 to allow more local control and secure a higher level of service for our community. It is even more important today for all the same reasons stated when MOFD was formed.


If you as an MOFD trustee support the best interests of the Moraga and Orinda communities as you were elected to do, then you will vote NO to the MOFD merger proposal.

Sincerely, Sue Severson

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Enjoy a great day,

*Sue Severson*

, Orinda, CA 94563

**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Feedback for Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CA  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 6:37:48 PM

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You have received this feedback from Don Moresi [REDACTED] for the following page:

<https://www.mofd.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/126/112>

As a retired veteran firefighter from Con Fire, I can assure you that giving up our invaluable local control of our great MOFD would be a HUGE MISTAKE!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Con Fire does a good job of Fire/rescue/medical issues, BUT it is totally subject to the whims & budget constraints of the county board of supes. They do not give a DAMN about our special needs & would close stations & reduce manpower as needed to balance the county budget!!!! We NEED to maintain local control of our specific safety & fire issues that our MOFD provides to our citizens. This year is probably going to be a critical fire year yet again due to our ongoing drought & many dead trees & brush that have NOT been addressed by Orinda City, EBMUD, & PG&E!! It makes NO sense to drop our local control. Who is behind this attempt to rob our citizens of local control????????????????????? Respectfully submitted, Don Moresi [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Sally Whittaker](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Upcoming MOFD Board Meeting 5/19/21  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:07:47 PM

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Dear Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors,

Shame on you, Director Baitx—despite being born and raised in Moraga, how can you intentionally turn your back on the very community that elected you? Where is your loyalty to your neighbors and the many other citizens of Moraga? What has become of your commitment and responsibility to safeguard our outstanding, forward-thinking MOFD? One thing is certain: a director's first and foremost allegiance should be to MOFD and the area he or she represents, not to any union.

As a longtime resident of Moraga (38 years), I ask that all MOFD Directors make the right call on May 19<sup>th</sup> and protect our trusted, invaluable, locally-controlled fire district.

Thank you,

Sally Whittaker


 Way, Moraga

**From:** [Colleen Lund](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire Department dissolution  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 8:31:12 AM

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As 54 year residents of Moraga we find it absolutely incomprehensible that it could even be suggested that the Moraga Fire Department should be dissolved and that we should revert back to having our fabulous department under county control! All members of the Fire Department Board should ALWAYS do everything in their power to improve our fire department— NOT to dissolve it! We fought hard as a town to get locale control. We CANNOT loose it.

Sincerely,

Colleen & Bill Lund  


Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Ralph Davisson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to consolidate with contra costa  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 8:57:43 AM

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As long term residents of both Orinda and Moraga, we join with our neighbors and friends in opposition to the proposal to fold the Moraga Orinda Fire Department into the Contra Costa Fire District

Local control of our fire and emergency services is essential for the allocation of resources to meet the needs of our communities. The MOFD has demonstrated leadership in addressing our local concerns in many ways. We need to affirm and encourage that leadership, not destroy it.

Sincerely,

Ralph and Diana Davisson

Homeowners in Moraga

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Sabarese, Sean](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD merging into county fire  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 9:58:13 AM

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Director Baitx- I am in opposition to the recent proposal to merge MOFD into the County Fire District. My preference is to keep support local and tax dollars local. In my opinion MOFD knows the community's needs better and will respond better to what we need. In addition the various programs (FIREWISE, wood chipping and fire breaks) are important for our community during these changing times. Please take this email as my opposition to the proposed merger. Please keep MOFD independent!

Best- Sean and Shawn Sabarese [REDACTED], Orinda, Ca 94563



**From:** [dustie robeson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Do not merge with Contra Costa  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 10:06:22 AM

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Hello.

I am writing as a concerned Moraga citizen.

I would hate to see MOFD merge with the county fire district.

As evidenced by the lack of maintenance on St. Mary's Road from Moraga to Lafayette, the county has not done a good job with fire prevention along one of the few exit routes from our town. I would hate to see that kind of lack of preparation and utility oversight matched when it comes to Moraga and Orinda at large. Comparing the St. Mary's exit route and the Moraga Way to Orinda exit route is telling. The sheer volume of trees requiring removal from St. Mary's speaks to the lack of maintenance and fire prevention utility oversight the county has provided in Lafayette over the years and I fear the same neglect for Moraga and Orinda should this merger happen. MOFD's community mobilization has been impressive over these past couple of years as have their abatement efforts. Please don't leave us at the mercy of the county. Certainly they are already overburdened with too much catch up work and don't need two more towns to bog down their progress. Chief Whitaker and his team have been a blessing to Moraga. I do not support this change.

Thank you,

Dustie Robeson

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[Redacted signature block]

**From:** [Patsy Dinstell](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Do not disband MOFD  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 12:00:59 PM

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As a 47 year resident of Moraga, I have lived under Contra Costa County fire services protection and Moraga FD. I voted for the establishment of MOFD and do not want this to change. What we have now is the best service money can buy and I am very happy with the way things are.

Please fight with everything you have to prevent this reorganization from happening.

Sincerely,  
Patsy and Michael Dinstell  
  
Moraga  
Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Patrick Wong](#)  
**To:** [Info](#); [imiller@cityoforinda.org](mailto:imiller@cityoforinda.org); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dgee@cityoforinda.org); [aworth@cityoforinda.org](mailto:aworth@cityoforinda.org); [dfay@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dfay@cityoforinda.org); [nkosla@cityoforinda.org](mailto:nkosla@cityoforinda.org); [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Merge MOFD with ConFire  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 12:58:12 PM

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Dear Board of the MOFD and Orinda City Council:

I am a resident of Orinda in the Bates-Muth area, which I believe is District 4 of the MOFD. A neighbor alerted my family about the proposal made to consolidate MOFD with Contra Costa Fire.

I am emailing you to express my opposition to this proposal. This proposal, if entertained or passed, would be a huge disservice to Orinda and Moraga. Of particular concern to me is losing local control and specific initiatives that MOFD currently provides. I have personally worked with the Fire Chief and the Fuels Mitigation Manager concerning fire abatement on my property (a significant project that I inherited from the prior owners), and their assistance has been invaluable to ensure that I am part of the solution towards reducing and preventing a disaster in our community. Mr. Gordon Graham has personally visited me on the same day I've had conversations with him in order to develop mitigation plans so our community remains safe from fire hazards. I cannot ever imagine having this type of hand in hand working relationship if MOFD is merged with Contra Costa. There were several good reasons why MOFD was created in the first place, and those remain today. To undo all the good things that MOFD has done for our community, especially in this time of extreme drought and high fire season, is not only ill-advised, it is borderline negligent.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patrick Wong

**From:** [james bonnar](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merger  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 3:03:20 PM

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NO\_-NO—NO

**From:** [Michael Hofmayer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Re: BAD IDEA: MOFD Proposal to merge with ConFire 3  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 4:31:25 PM

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Our family is very supportive of MOFD's work under Chief Winnacker. We understand the risks posed by any move to subsume this model fire department into Con Fire. Current wildfire danger resulting from recurring drought and global warming poses an existential menace to our community, which is located on the edge of wildlands stretching north as far as the Sacramento River.

Multiple times each year, beginning in early spring and ending as late as November, we face red flag warnings. We realize that lightning, any accidental spark, or arson could combine with an onshore "Diablo Wind" to destroy our home and threaten our lives.

When Orinda chose to become a City in 1985, our founding citizens did so for many of the benefits at stake here. We particularly value this fire district's independent paramedic response capacity.

We encourage every Orindan to attend the May 19 Zoom event to better understand the issues at stake and how we can permanently prevent adoption of this ill conceived proposal.

Michael Hofmayer and Ann Tipton

[REDACTED]

Orinda

On Thu, May 6, 2021 at 3:39 PM David W Anderson <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Orinda/Moraga neighbors. See below.

I heartily endorse the sentiments of former Mayor former School Board President, [Sue Severson](#) and former Citizen of the Year, [Linda Landau](#).

I would urge you to write to the MOFD at:

[info@mofd.org](mailto:info@mofd.org) with your thoughts. As for myself, I will write with a short, easily understood "thought."

NO!

(probably in larger font)

One thought to keep in mind: The media and many folks and jurisdictions in the remaining parts of the County would love to have MOFD "merge" into ConFire. Why? MOFD has a high funding rate, not easily changed, which would be seen by others as a great subsidy for ConFire's finances. So, for myself, I'm not going to rattle chains for now which are "out of Orinda/Moraga."

Best wishes,

Dave Anderson, 925-[REDACTED]

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jim Landau <jimlandau@.....>

**Subject: Fwd: MOFD Proposal to merge with ConFire Bad Idea**

**Date:** May 6, 2021 at 16:28:51 CDT

**To:** David Anderson <[REDACTED]>

Please forward to your local contact list.

Jim and Linda

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sue Severson <[REDACTED]>

Date: May 6, 2021 at 1:12:58 PM PDT

To: Ralph Severson <[REDACTED]>

Subject: MOFD Proposal to merge with ConFire Bad Idea

### **Dissolving MOFD and Merging into the County Fire District Proposal**

At the request of MOFD Director Baitx, the MOFD Board on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm zoom meeting will discuss the process for dissolving our local district and merging Moraga and Orinda into the County district. Email comments to [info@mofd.org](mailto:info@mofd.org)

#### **MERGING MOFD INTO THE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS BAD FOR MORAGA AND ORINDA CITIZENS**

1. The Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) is one of the highest performing, top-ranked, efficient, effective and innovative fire districts in the State of California. This community cares deeply about its locally-controlled fire district.
2. Our fire district was established in 1997 to provide high quality paramedic and fire protection services to Orinda and Moraga that are tailored to local needs and that surpass the services provided elsewhere in the County.

3. Should our fire district dissolve and merge, **the citizens of Orinda and Moraga will lose the following:**

- a. Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district;
  - b. Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs (for example, fire breaks, neighborhood chipping, and Firewise);
  - c. The locally-elected, locally-focused MOFD Board, which would be replaced by the County Board of Supervisors that looks out for the County as a whole;
  - d. The deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our terrain, network of narrow roads, vegetation, and abundant open space;
  - e. The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district;
  - f. Extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and
  - g. Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.
4. Much of our area has been designated by the State of California as a high fire hazard severity zone. It is therefore imperative that our community not lose its high-performing, nimble, well-funded, innovative, efficient, and locally-controlled fire district.
- 5. The public portion of the May 19<sup>th</sup> MOFD Board meeting (held using Zoom links available at [www.mofd.org](http://www.mofd.org)) where this will be discussed is scheduled for 7:00 pm. **Public comment at the meeting, or in advance via e-mail to [info@mofd.org](mailto:info@mofd.org), is welcome and encouraged. Let your friends and neighbors know about this important issue.****

<https://www.smartmoraga.com/single-post/union-backed-mofd-director-has-moraga-orinda-fire-exploring-complete-dissolution>

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Enjoy a great day,

*Sue Severson*

[REDACTED], Orinda, CA 94563  
925-[REDACTED]



**From:** [rphelon](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to merge with ConFire  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 8:00:08 PM

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We voted to create MOFD in the 1990's due to the poor service from the county fire department. Let's not go back to that!

No, we should not merge with ConFire.

Ronald W. Phelon  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ken LIGHT](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Letter for MOFD Meeting of May 19  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:26:56 AM

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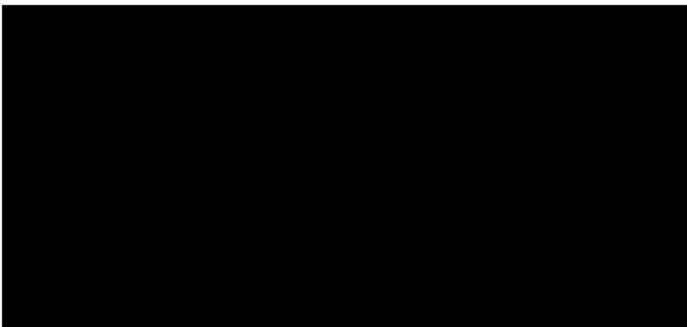
Dear Directors,

I am not sure what MOFD Director Baitz was thinking about when he brought up the idea of discussing merging MOFD into the County Fire Department. As a citizen of Orinda for 23 years I am dismayed by his lack of concern for our community and wildfire mitigation. The dissolution of MOFD would eliminate fire prevention as a priority because Con Fire will not give our unique needs as a WUI the consideration it needs. This is just another example of his not looking around and seeing the incredible work that we as citizens have done to try and mitigate the chances of a catastrophic wildfire in our town. I watched as he and two other directors refused to support the chipper program in our community last year, ignoring community cries of action. Now he thinks after our community has risen to the gargantuan task of joining in the effort to support the new fire code, raise our taxes to support the mitigation of decades of fuel and also organizing ourselves to be fire safe, that a merger is in the best interest of Orinda and Moraga. The Moraga Orinda Fire District is one of the highest performing, top ranked, efficient, effective and innovative fire districts in California. The community deeply cares about MOFD being LOCALLY controlled. I wonder where his loyalties lie, not with the citizens of our community or with the need to make us wildfire safe. I urge that this idea be rejected and that Director Baitz resign from his position, he has lost his credibility and he should allow a concerned and enlightened citizen of his district to assume the tasks that he has forsaken.

Sincerely,

Ken Light

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**From:** [Melanie Light](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** To the Board of Directors for the May 19th meeting  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:48:30 AM

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Dear MOFD Board of Directors,  
I was at the board meeting in which Vince Wells, President of the Firefighters Union, Local 1230 suggested that the directors consider merging MOFD with Con Fire. Director Baitx, who is currently a firefighter in East County and is represented by Wells promptly put this item on the agenda. This is a blatant conflict of interest and Baitx should not be allowed to do this. Clearly his loyalty is to his union and to Vince Wells rather than the welfare of Moraga and Orinda.

MOFD has absolutely no need to be dissolved: it functions well, is financially sound and is absolutely focused and suited to serve the unique needs of our community which is vulnerable to a wildfire as a WUI.

We would lose local control to the county supervisors, who manage Con Fire, and do not prioritize fire prevention. That means all of the important, life-saving work MOFD has done and the partnerships it has created with the citizens like the Fire Adapted Community Ambassadors program and the chipper program with the City of Orinda will cease. There will be little to no support for Firewise. It is likely that the grants that have created and maintain the fuel break around our community will cease, and the fuel will build up again. Moraga and Orinda will become less safe.

Should Orinda return to the County's ambulance service, we will also see a return to 20 minute waits, rather than the current 4 minutes. In addition, Con Fire will no longer pay the difference between the ambulance charge and the insurance payout.

Another grave repercussion is that residents, whose home insurance policies are being cancelled at an alarming rate and having rates tripled will never benefit from the work that the California Department of Insurance is doing with insurance companies to establish protocol and standards to give Firewise and fuel mitigated community discounts on premiums.

With absolutely no benefit to Moraga or Orinda, the proposal to dissolve MOFD is a clear signal that Baitx and those directors who support this move are far more eager to serve the will of the union president than the people they are charged to protect and serve.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Light

**From:** [Brent Meyers](#)  
**To:** [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjjex@gmail.com](mailto:mmjjex@gmail.com); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](mailto:stevedformofd@gmail.com); [mdonnerofd@gmail.com](mailto:mdonnerofd@gmail.com); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Info](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#); [Winnacker, David](#)  
**Subject:** Meeting with MOFD/CCCFPD Merger Discussion on 5/19  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:15:16 AM

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*[please include this letter in the public comment/correspondence for the above-captioned meeting and item]*

Members of the Board,

As a long-time Moraga resident predating the formation of the MOFD, **count me among those firmly opposed to any consideration of dissolving or merging MOFD with Confire.**

MOFD has consistently done an excellent job developing and implementing strategies and programs tailored specifically to the local communities it serves. This success is a direct result of the local funding and management of MOFD, and there appears to be no valid reason nor benefit to Moraga or Orinda residents to even consider handing over this locally-created, high-performing organization to the county. Similarly, there appears to be no benefit to the MOFD as an organization itself.

As a recent local article observed and with which I agree: the board's role is to act as a steward of MOFD as a critical and locally-controlled agency. As such, it seems to me that any consideration of a dissolution/merger directly contravenes this most fundamental duty.

Therefore, any consideration of a dissolution/merger should end posthaste.

Thank you,

**Brent Meyers**

Moraga District 1

**From:** [Greg Andrews](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merger  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:27:34 AM

---

Hi,

I adamantly oppose merging with the county fire department. Our service will deteriorate and will critical response time.

Greg Andrews  
[REDACTED] Dr Moraga

**From:** [Robin Merritt](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:40:21 AM

---

Absolutely an awful idea. We have a great fire department and we were with the county before we formed. It was awful. I have lived here 53 years. My husband headed up the incorporation drive. Our fire department is wonderful. Don't touch it. Robin Merritt

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [CAROLYN LEE](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolve MOFD, What?  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 10:42:53 AM

---

To the Moraga-Orinda Fire Department Board:

I agree with others and am also outraged that you are considering a suggestion to dissolve the MOFD and cede control to the county. Contra Costa County is an elephantine political and administrative entity comprised of cities with diverse populations and distinct characteristics. Many of these cities have have divergent problems and goals. The county government has proven time and time again that it is too unwieldy to adequately serve the unique needs of the Lamorinda community. We need look no further than the Covid pandemic to see how the Lamorinda communities suffered more restrictions than necessary because they were grouped with other communities in the county where the virus was out of control.

We live in Sanders Ranch and about 2 years ago had a fire that threatened all of our homes as well as the surrounding areas. MOFD did an outstanding job, not only fighting the fire, but also aiding in the evacuation of the residents. I cannot imagine how a county-run department would have reacted that quickly. Also, we know many of the firefighters because they live in our community, thus creating a bond and level of trust that might not exist otherwise.

If this issue is about wages or working conditions, let MOFD bring them to our attention without the threat of disbanding the department. Also, let those in favor of putting the department under county control publicize their reasons for doing so. I plan to see you on May 19th.

Carolyn Lee, a Moraga resident

**From:** [Patricia Wong.](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 11:29:07 AM

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Gentlemen:

I live in Moraga and oppose/am against the dissolution of the MOFD. I regret my vote to elect my representative now as there is a conflict of interest but I thought it would have been a good thing for Moraga. I obviously was wrong.

MOFD is great and we are fortunate to have them. They have our interests at heart and I want to keep it that way!

Leave it alone!

Patricia Wong



**From:** [Garen Ingleby](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to dissolution of MOFD, ConFire merger  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 11:54:16 AM

---

Hello -

First off, I sincerely commend MOFD for protecting us and being one of the top, most innovative fire districts in the state. This is something to be proud of, that we want to protect and enhance.

As a home owner and five year resident of Orinda, I'm totally opposed to the dissolution of MOFD and merger into ConFire proposed by the union president. No one seems to have any idea what the rationale would be for such a proposal that would diminish the performance of the district, dilute services, and divert local tax revenue out of local control. Please drop this proposal.

Thanks,  
Garen Ingleby

 Orinda CA 94563

**From:** [Jorge Escobar](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Google Charles Hill Neighborhood](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Dissolve MOFD and Merge With ConFire  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:04:57 PM


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To the Board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District:

This is to express my deep concern with the proposal submitted by Board Member Greg Baitx to dissolve and merge the MOFD with ConFire. This idea advanced by Vince Wells, president of the Local 1231 firefighters union disregards the will of our communities' citizens, who approved the creation of the district twenty-four years ago. This proposal would not only result in losing local control of our top-performing/ranked and efficient fire and ambulance services with deep understanding of our district, but among several other dire consequences siphon significant funds from our Orinda and Moraga communities to other places in the county and make it even more challenging to find companies willing to underwrite home insurance.

As a resident of Orinda for the past thirty-five years and leader of one of our Firewise Neighborhoods, I strongly encourage you to think very carefully about your fiduciary duty and respect for citizens' opinions and avoid making decisions that ignore both. As you may be aware, there is organized opposition to the form and substance of how this proposal is being handled and the councils of the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga and members of several local civil organizations are being asked to steadfastly intervene.

Sincerely,

Jorge Escobar  
  
Orinda, CA 94563

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** merger  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 1:33:33 PM

---

I oppose the merger of the MOFD with the county. I am a member of the fire wise community and we have worked too hard of our fire protection to lose control of our money and our plans. This is a terrible idea.

Maggie Boscoe

**From:** da@[REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#); [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjex@gmail.com](mailto:mmjex@gmail.com); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](mailto:stevedformofd@gmail.com); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](mailto:mdonnermofd@gmail.com); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Against the MOFD Dissolution  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 2:30:42 PM

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To the MOFD Board,

CC Director Gregory Baitx, Director John Jex, Director Steven Danzinger, Director Michael Donner, and Director Craig Jorgens.

We are proud residents of Orinda and love everything about living here with the exception of the dangers from potential fires.

For us, the MOFD means that well funded, experienced and local experts are prepared to protect us. We believe are taxes are allocated efficiently towards our benefit.

We are firmly opposed to dissolving the MOFD and transferring their management and funding to outside control.

Professionals with local knowledge, sensibilities and nuances are better positioned to protect our family and property and respectfully request you disregard this proposed change as presented.

Things can always be improved on and appreciate the efforts to do so. We are in favor of greater cooperation between response teams and would recommend finding ways to leverage the knowledge and resources of others without turning over local control.

Your truly,

Yael and Dan Altschuler Malek

[REDACTED]  
Orinda, CA 94563

This email and any attachments may contain private, confidential and privileged material for the sole use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, please immediately delete this email and any attachments.

**From:** [mike@](mailto:mike@) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOVE TO COUNTY  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 3:48:18 PM

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We moved to Moraga in 1986; in 1994 I incurred not only one (1) but two(2) internal bleeds whereby the MOFD hustled me from home to Alta Bates for treatment. In essence your team “saved” my life. So much, that currently my wife and I are updating our family trust and have instructed our attorney to generously donate \$5,000 to the MOFD upon my demise. You can bet your bottom dollar that if MOFD is dissolved and operated under the County control, my donation WILL be withdrawn. This basically assumes that ambulance service is withdrawn from local control.

Now Retired.....



Happy Trails.....Mike Cox

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Judy Sherwood](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merging Orinda and Moraga into ConFire  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:02:05 PM

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Orinda/Maraga separated from ConFire 25 years ago because we wanted local control. We still want local control. We don't want the loss of our local Fire Marshall, control of services and response times given over to the County Board of Supervisors, increased expenses for wages and benefits, and loss of the Chipper Program, not to mention an expensive ambulance service. We think a great deal of our Orinda/Moraga Fire District and it is simply unimaginable to join ConFire.

The question is, why do Mr. Wells and Mr. Baitx (a member of the MOFD Board no less!) want us to leave MOFD and join ConFire? Please, Mr. Baitx, kindly respond to me and let me know why you think we'd be better off with ConFire! Would we get better service? Lower costs? Answer me truthfully.

Thank you.

Cordially,

Judy Sherwood

**From:** [TomandCZ](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Keep MOFD independent!  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:28:00 PM

---

**The idea of MERGING WITH CONFIRE is dangerously absurd!**

MOFD serves a portion of our county that faces unique dangers which, after years of neglect, have been aggressively addressed because Moraga and Orinda have established their own Fire Department. It was born out of necessity. We left Confire because our steep hills and deep ravines as well as our winding, narrow streets prevented their fire and ambulance services from reaching or even finding the homes in need of emergency services. With our own Fire Department, response times have been reduced to acceptable levels and lives and homes have been saved.

Our dedicated, innovative, charismatic and extremely effective Fire Chief, Dave Winnacker, his Fire Marshall, Jeff Issacs and the rest of the outstanding staff our Chief has assembled are doing a magnificent job of mitigating our Wild Fire risk. All of you must be familiar with the accolades MOFD receives from our grateful citizens, the aggressive and innovative measures MOFD has initiated, the grants it has received and the amazing cooperation it has elicited from our community.

To go back to being merely one of many communities, few of which face the urban-wilderness interface problems that we have here, would be a giant and dangerous step backward.

Tom and Cynthia Czerner, long time residents of Orinda

**From:** [SMARTMoraga Community](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution and Merger Discussion 5/19  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:32:30 PM

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*[this email is intended to be included in and/or read into the public record]*

Dear MOFD Directors,

Our group represents approximately 300 active members (and an untold number of supporters) throughout Moraga, focused on good governance and fiscal responsibility.

**We write to express our strong opposition to any further discussion or attempt by MOFD to dissolve and merge with Confire.** As we noted in a recent article following a significant amount of time reviewing MOFD financials and operating performance, national ISO rankings, MOFD board minutes, MOFD audits, and lengthy discussions with a wide variety of community leaders, **we find no legitimate reason nor bonafide rationale that supports even a preliminary exploration of a dissolution or merger with Confire.**

MOFD's founding principles were to provide high levels of customized service to Moraga and Orinda residents, seeing that Moraga and Orinda fire-related taxes are reinvested locally, and ensuring local control over its fire and ambulance resources. We believe each Director must uphold these core principles (among others) to fulfill their fiduciary responsibilities - particularly the duty of loyalty - as stewards of the organization in which Moraga and Orinda has invested tens of millions of dollars (not to mention the incredible amount of time by volunteers well beyond the significance ones including but not limited to Rescue One and CERT).

**We urge the Board to dispense with any further discussion or consideration of dissolution or merger, dismissing the notion as wholly inconsistent with MOFD founding principles and core values and not reflective of resident best interests.**

Thank you.

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**From:** [Robert Scheive](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFFD Dissolution  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 4:35:49 PM

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Dear MOFD,

I'm writing to ask that you oppose the dissolution of the MOFD. The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously giving our community. To return to that lowered level of service at a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our community under this threat. Our community's protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand it's rank and file by so few. Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert Scheive & Irene Yee  
  
Orinda, Ca

**From:** [Joseph Heil](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire Department  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:38:54 PM

---

I'm writing to ask that you oppose the dissolution of the MOFD. The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously giving our community. To return to that lowered level of service at a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our community under this threat. Our community's protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand it's rank and file by so few. Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Joseph and Alicia Heil

**From:** [Joan Roebuck](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** No on merging  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 5:49:31 PM

---

OUR fire district MOFD knows what is BEST for us! Do not mix or merge at the risk of our homes and our towns.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [borinda@aol.com](mailto:borinda@aol.com)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 6:28:02 PM

---

Please DO NOT dissolve MOFD. We have worked so hard to get such a fine service for our communities.

Mary Beth Read  
[REDACTED]  
Orinda Ca 94563

**From:** [saron](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Joyce Arnon](#)  
**Subject:** Another Orinda voter adamantly opposed to proposed merger with CCC Con Fire  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 7:02:48 PM

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To the three MOFD Board members who may support this merger proposal: We the citizens of Orinda who voted 20 years ago for our own fire district are determined to keep it independent. If doing so requires a recall of the three of you, doubtless there will be much community energy devoted to this task, and it will succeed.

Sincerely,

Stephen S. Arnon, MD

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

**From:** [krobertson2625@yahoo.com](mailto:krobertson2625@yahoo.com) Info  
**To:** MOFD  
**Subject:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:02:37 PM  
**Date:**

---

I have lived in Orinda for 20+ years and would very strongly support keeping the fire/ambulance services local.

Kathleen Robertson

**From:** [Kristina Whitney](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** LETTER OF DISAPPROVAL  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:35:48 AM

---

To the MOFD Board Directors,

I am writing to express my **strongest disapproval** of any proposed or possible MOFD dissolution and/or merger with ConFire.

Much of our area has been designated by the State of California as a high fire hazard severity zone. It is imperative that our community not lose its high-performing, well-funded, locally-controlled fire district.

Should our fire district dissolve and merge with ConFire, we would lose:

- Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district.
  - Moraga's emergency medical needs are best served by our excellent all firefighter/paramedic staff which can respond to medical distress calls quickly and efficiently. Without it, ambulances would have to travel long distances from the freeway to Moraga and then back out to the freeway, resulting in a possible increased risk of deaths.
- Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs such as firebreaks, neighborhood chipping, FireWise neighborhoods, etc.
- The locally-elected, locally-focused MOFD Board, which would be replaced by the County Board of Supervisors that looks out for the County as a whole;
- The deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our terrain, network of narrow roads, vegetation, and abundant open space;
- The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district;
- Extensive volunteer and community efforts (e.g., FireWise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and
- Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

Past negotiations with ConFire showed that the views and priorities of ConFire vs Orinda and Moraga were in conflict, and that ConFire has too many conflicting demands for their time and funding to be a good partner to our towns.

As an MOFD Board Member, you were elected to serve the residents of Moraga and Orinda, not the Unions. We are counting on you to represent and voice the needs and preferences of your constituency.

Sincerely,

Kristina E. Whitney, Ph.D.

██████████, Moraga

**From:** [GREGORY READ](#)  
**To:** [Info](#); [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjjex@gmail.com](mailto:mmjjex@gmail.com); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](mailto:stevedformofd@gmail.com); [mtonnermofd@gmail.com](mailto:mtonnermofd@gmail.com); [craig\\_jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:craig_jorgens@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [shrna@me.com](mailto:shrna@me.com); [imiller@cityoforinda.org](mailto:imiller@cityoforinda.org)  
**Subject:** Strong Opposition to Dissolving MOFD  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:40:54 AM

---

I am a retired attorney and 50-year resident of Orinda. We have raised our children here and our daughter and grandchildren live in Moraga. I strongly oppose the dissolution of MOFD and its proposed integration into the Contra Costa County Fire District.

As you know, Contra Costa County has 19 cities, numerous unincorporated communities, with approximately 1.5 million residents. Orinda is a unique, small community, with its origins dating back to the 1920s, situated in rolling hills with winding Spanish-named streets. Moraga is likewise a small community. The MOFD is one of the highest performing, top ranked, efficient, effective and innovative fire districts in California, which I understand has out-ranked the Contra Costa Fire District for years. The citizens of Orinda-Moraga are extremely proud of our local firemen and EMTs, who are a part of our community and know how to protect our homes and keep us safe.

We do not want to be a small part of a huge fire district which services 1.5 million people. We want local control and we want our tax dollars to be used efficiently to protect our two neighboring communities.

Vote NO to the dissolution of MOFD.

Sincerely,  
Greg Read

[REDACTED]

Orinda

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Bruce Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to dissolving MOFD and being absorbed into CONFIRE  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:26:57 AM

---

Dear MOFD board,

As resident of Orinda since 1993 we feel qualified to comment on the importance of fire safety in Moraga and Orinda. We are very much opposed to having MOFD absorbed into CONFIRE. MOFD provides significantly improved responsiveness to fires and emergencies in Moraga and Orinda, and has higher fire safety standards than CONFIRE. Local control of the funding of MOFD is important to us;

we are not as confident in the distribution of funding/resources for CONFIRE to Moraga and Orinda needs. Having our own local fire chief and local fire marshall is important to our safety. Moraga and Orinda residents have steadfastly supported having MOFD. The Moraga and Orinda residents should determine the continued existence of MOFD.

Thanks for your attention to this matter.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Rd, Orinda, CA 94563

**From:** [James Roethe](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merger with County Fire  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 11:28:33 AM

---

I have lived in North Orinda for over 45 years. Seems like a crazy idea to dissolve MOFD after the residents voted years ago to create it. North Orinda is in a fire prone area. It is also an area of winding streets that our local fire fighters and paramedics have become familiar with. We formed MOFD specifically to assure faster service in the event of a fire or medical emergency. I can see no rational reason to change things now.

Sent from my iPad

Jim Roethe

, Orinda

**From:** [Affi Ansari](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Orinda Moraga Fire District  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 4:30:12 PM

---

Dear Director Baitz:

I have been a resident of Orinda since 1977. I urge you to not pursue having our excellent fire district as part of the county. We already have severe issues with our Police. Leave good enough alone. With all due respect, this is a terrific idea.

Regards,

Affi Ansari

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Greg Hoff](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 4:50:33 PM

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I hope this is a huge misunderstanding. Or that the voters don't understand what is going on. If the latter, then I think it well past time for you to inform us. If you are considering even exploring this idea, please have a second think. We can stop the process at the LAFCO level by getting 25% of voters to register a complaint. If the community has to make that effort – to get 25% to write in - we might as well also recall the board while we are at it. I would bet the next board will not be firefighter union friendly at all. Remember that firefighters are already well compensated, and pigs always get slaughtered. Bottom line, you serve us, not the firefighters.

Greg Hoff

**From:** [ELLE HOFFNAGEL](#)  
**To:** [Info](#); [imiller@cityoforinda.org](mailto:imiller@cityoforinda.org); [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dgee@cityoforinda.org); [aworth@cityoforinda.org](mailto:aworth@cityoforinda.org); [dfay@cityoforinda.org](mailto:dfay@cityoforinda.org); [nkosla@cityoforinda.org](mailto:nkosla@cityoforinda.org)  
**Subject:** MOFD  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 4:59:04 PM

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I am appalled to hear of a possible merge of MOFD with ConFire. As a longtime and informed resident of Orinda I feel that I am aware of the various issues. I feel strongly that if there is a merger it will be a disservice . We have formed MOFD to serve the unique needs of our communities. ConFire cannot serve us but can instead steal the taxes we pay for excellent services both medical and fire related. We have voted to have these services by creating MOFD. If they are to be combined into a much larger ConFire, then the residents of Moraga and Orinda need to vote on it.

Elle

**From:** [Adam Kremen](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** LETTER OF DISAPPROVAL  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 5:03:50 PM

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To the MOFD Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my **strongest disapproval** of any proposed or possible MOFD dissolution and/or merger with ConFire.

Much of our area has been designated by the State of California as a high fire hazard severity zone. It is imperative that our community not lose its high-performing, well-funded, locally-controlled fire district.

Should our fire district dissolve and merge with ConFire, we would lose:

- Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district.
  - Moraga's emergency medical needs are best served by our excellent all firefighter/paramedic staff which can respond to medical distress calls quickly and efficiently. Without it, ambulances would have to travel long distances from the freeway to Moraga and then back out to the freeway, resulting in a possible increased risk of deaths.
- Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs such as firebreaks, neighborhood chipping, FireWise neighborhoods, etc.
- The locally-elected, locally-focused MOFD Board, which would be replaced by the County Board of Supervisors that looks out for the County as a whole;
- The deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our terrain, network of narrow roads, vegetation, and abundant open space;
- The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district;
- Extensive volunteer and community efforts (e.g., FireWise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and
- Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

Past negotiations with ConFire showed that the views and priorities of ConFire vs Orinda and Moraga were in conflict, and that ConFire has too many conflicting demands for their time and funding to be a good partner to our towns.

As an MOFD Board Member, you were elected to serve the residents of Moraga and Orinda, not the Unions. We are counting on you to represent and voice the needs and preferences of your constituency.

Sincerely,

Adam Kremen, Ph.D.

██████████, Moraga

Adam Kremen, Ph.D.


Licensed Clinical Psychologist, PSY15509

**From:** [Ann Griffith](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 6:26:41 PM

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Dear Members of MOFD Board,

I'm writing to ask that you oppose the dissolution of the MOFD. The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously giving our community. To return to that lowered level of service at a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our community under this threat. Our community's protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand it's rank and file by so few. Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,  
Ann Griffith  
  
Orinda

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Robert Etheredge](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Objection to propose fire department changes  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 7:00:38 PM

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Dear MOFD Board ,

I'm writing to ask that you oppose the dissolution of the MOFD.

The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously giving our community. To return to that lowered level of service at a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our community under this threat. Our community's protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand it's rank and file by so few. Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,  
Robert and Cheri Etheredge  
30 year Orinda resident



**From:** [Carol Bergren](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Dissolve MOFD  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 7:57:51 PM

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MOFD Board Directors:

I was both surprised and appalled to learn that dissolution of the Moraga Orinda Fire District will be discussed at the next Board meeting. Also bewildering is the fact that this issue was placed on the Board agenda by Director Greg Baitx, who presumably was elected to serve the interests of the citizens who elected him, not the Contra Costa Fire District, and/or the union to which he belongs. The MOFD is a unique organization that was formed specifically to address the issue of 'underservice' by Contra Costa County in the first place. The fire revenues generated by property taxes in Orinda and Moraga have stayed in our community and have allowed the district to address our 'High Fire Hazard' designation (heavy fireload, difficult topography, and narrow winding roads) that does not exist in other parts of Contra Costa County. We have been fortunate to have excellent leadership that seeks and implements state of the art technology aimed at fire prevention and early fire detection; successfully acquires grants for extensive fire abatement on public lands adjacent to our district; actively commits to education of constituents and enforcement of community wide residential fire abatement, and develops protocols in the event of a firestorm

I cannot under any circumstances understand how disbanding the MOFD and handing control over our resources to the Contra Costa Fire District would better serve the citizens of Orinda and Moraga.

Respectfully,

Carol Bergren

**From:** [mmetcalfe](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Proposal to Dissolve MOFD and Merge with ConFire  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 8:15:12 PM

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Gentlemen:-- Attached is my comment on the proposal to dissolve MOFD and merge the agency with ConFire. Please ensure that my comment reaches every member of the governing board prior to their upcoming discussion on this issue. Many thanks.

Michael Metcalf  
Former Moraga Town Council, 2005-12  
Mayor 2007, 2010, 2012

**From:** [cynthia brian](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Please DO NOT merge MOFD  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 10:35:36 PM

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To all:

Please do not vote for or allow the MOFD to merge with CCCFPD, ConFire, or any other entity. MOFD is essential to Orinda and Moraga communities and respond rapidly and professionally to all matters. We need, want, and support MOFD.

Thank you.

With respect,

Cynthia Brian

  
Moraga, California

**From:** [Gail Walden](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution?  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:21:50 AM

---

No.

We were warned that having representatives of the Union on the board would not be in the best interests of the residents. Don't prove it.

*Until next time,*

*Gail*

*"I'll throw it away." Where is away? It's all here. Look at the garbage you generate. How can you generate less?*

**From:** [Michael Franks](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Do Not Dissolve MOFD and Merge With Con Fire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:22:06 AM

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To the Board of Directors of MOFD,


We are writing as long-term residents of Orinda to express our strong objection to the proposal to dissolve MOFD and merge with Contra Costa Fire (Con Fire).

Orinda and Moraga are unique in Contra Costa in their topography and exposure to wildfires, a fact that in part drove the decision of residents to create their own fire district. Over the years following that decision, the district has developed resources, methods, technologies and local knowledge that have made it one of the highest recognized and rated fire districts in the state. It makes no sense to dissolve all of that progress and readiness now, as wildfire danger is at its highest level in many years.

We would also point out that the decision to create the fire district was made by Orinda and Moraga residents. Allowing that decision to be reversed by a board of five officials would seem to conflict with the will of those residents.

We have read one director say that this issue has been blown way out of proportion and the board has no intention of merging with Con Fire. If that is true, a clear statement to that effect at the May 19th board meeting would go a long way towards addressing the concerns of a large number of residents and city officials.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sharon Abdilla  
Michael Franks  
  
Orinda

**From:** [Howard Weiser](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal that Contra Costa County Fire Department absorb MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:31:38 AM

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Dear Board Members,

I have just been advised that at a May 19 board meeting you will be considering a proposal that the MOFD be absorbed by the Contra Costa County Fire Department. That would be a grave mistake.

Most of the residents in the District live in areas that are vulnerable to catastrophic wild fires. MOFD fire-fighting personnel have dedicated themselves to prevention measures and strategies concerning evacuation and other issues in our District should a fire disaster occur. They are familiar with our neighborhoods, streets, and locations of and access to local resources as well as our evacuation protocols. How ill advised to even consider a proposal that would likely relegate us to an amorphous area within the county whose needs are not fully serviced. Witness the circumstances prior to the establishment of the District-replete with anecdotal evidence of neglect, incompetence and inability or unwillingness to provide adequate fire and first responder service.

There is no demonstrable benefit in a County absorption. If there is a financial advantage it would redound to the County, most likely as services and response times to our District residents decline. Your fiduciary commitment to us is to assure that the services of our fire department will adequately meet our needs. To act otherwise is to breach your compact with your voter/residents.

Your constituency did not vote you into office as directors of the district's demise. There is no benefit to the residents of Moraga/Orinda who decades ago voted to establish the MOFD to improve service. It worked. To dissolve it in these fire-threatening times would be a dereliction of your fiduciary duty to the residents currently served by MOFD.

Howard Weiser

[REDACTED]

Orinda

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Mark Spindler](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [mmcluer@moraga.ca.us](mailto:mmcluer@moraga.ca.us); [townclerk@moraga.ca.us](mailto:townclerk@moraga.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:32:18 AM

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Dear MOFD Directors,

I am writing to ask you to oppose the dissolution of the MOFD. The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously provided to our communities. To return to that lower level of service in a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our communities facing this threat. I also think that it is fair to assume that if Confire resources become stretched or reduced, smaller communities such as Moraga will feel the effects of those reductions before the larger cities of Contra Costa County. Our communities' protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand its rank and file.

Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark and Denise Spindler  
Moraga

**From:** [Sally Lubben](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD dissolution  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:31:30 AM

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MOFD Directors,

In the past 2 years, the MOFD has done more to enhance the safety in Orinda, than has occurred in the previous 30 years. The fire safety public reach out, chipper program, and fire crew inspection of private property has educated and helped citizens reduce their fire risk. Our local firefighters know our unique and difficult to access roads. It makes absolutely no sense to dismantle this high performing organization.

Please keep MOFD intact. Don't make Orinda and Moraga cash cows to fund the county fire department.

Sincerely,

Sally and Rod Lubben  
El Toyonal hill



**From:** [Richard Dudley](#)  
**To:** [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjjex@gmail.com](mailto:mmjjex@gmail.com); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](mailto:stevedformofd@gmail.com); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](mailto:mdonnermofd@gmail.com); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com)  
**Cc:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Vote No on Dissolving MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:04:47 AM

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To MOFD Board of Directors:

I find it sad that I have to write to you today but your steps to consider dissolving MOFD have forced me.

You, as Board members of MOFD, are elected officials. You represent the interests of Orinda citizens and MOFD overall. The idea of dissolving MOFD is not in the best interest of MOFD or the city of Orinda. MOFD was voted on and voted in by Orinda. The citizens of Orinda want MOFD. I have seen nothing in the press, social media, or any other information outlet to suggest anything different.

Orinda primarily sits at the wildlife urban interface and, as a result, it is rated as either very high fire risk or high fire risk. This implies that we need special attention and dedicated resources to keep our city safe from wildfires. Chief Winnacker, Fire Marshall Isaacs, and their team have made tremendous efforts to engage the community in fire safety. The citizens have responded by forming many (more than 23, I believe) Firewise neighborhood groups. We understand that fire is a very real risk in our city and that is why we formed and want to keep MOFD.

For MOFD to consider dissolving is a real slap in the face to the citizens of Orinda. It is like saying, "Those guys over there are making the decisions now. Bye." To me, that is not what an elected official says to the people that voted him into office.

I encourage you to dismiss the idea of dissolving MOFD and if it comes to a vote, Vote No!

Rich Dudley  
A Concerned Citizen

**From:** [Sandra Breber](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Against dissolving MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:16:53 AM

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To the MOFD Board Members,

My name is Sandra Breber and I live on Orinda View Road. I greatly value the incredible work done by our local fire department particularly with respect to fire prevention and suppression. I live on the crest that borders the Bear Creek open space with a very high fire danger. When I first bought this property 25 years ago, fire danger was not as significant as it is today. Our owners community has worked hand in hand with MOFD to maintain fire safe practices and preventions. This partnership has been crucial to our success thus far while droughts in California have become more prevalent and fire risk increased.

Please DO NOT dissolve MOFD or merge it into the county district. This would be a great disservice to our community and cause irreparable harm!

Sincerely,  
Sandra Breber

**From:** [Hana Moran, PhD](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Jane and John Kotowski](#)  
**Subject:** Keep the MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:39:23 AM

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It is essential that the Moraga-Orinda Fire department remains as is.

We live in the area with trees and wildlife and even with all the precautions, there is no way to be overcautious. Having our area Fire Department is the least that the authorities can provide. As a matter of fact, before the MOFD was established, there were too many issues having only the Contra Costa Fire department (CC FD) available – the department was overwhelmed by the needs of the entire county. And it was not able to take care of the smaller communities like Moraga and Orinda. That must not happen again!

I trust that the reason will prevail and the MOFD will stay as it is currently operating. A very difficult fire season is approaching – do not expose us to its' dangers.

Hana B. Moran, Ph.D.  


**From:** [Gim Crew](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition on dissolution of the MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:59:39 AM

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Dear MOFD Board members, as a resident of moraga and someone who as recently as this past Wednesday was treated by MOFD paramedics, I'm writing to implore you to please leave the current set up as is. We do not want to be absorbed into the county. MOFD provides key services to our small community here and it would be a big step backwards to dissolve MOFD.

Respectfully,  
Ms Gim Crew

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Ann Marie](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD to CCCFD? NO!  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 10:06:15 AM

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Hello,

Our family recently relocated to the Orinda community and reside within the northern edge of the city not far from Bear Creek Road. I am writing today to strongly urge the board to maintain the MOFD as it serves our community today. Dedicated support services from this stellar department are imperative to local residents such as those in my neighborhood who reside where we do. As a community, I've learned we are doing whatever we can to coordinate, communicate, and implement fire safety as residents, and we rely on our critical response times, local decision making, and coordinated volunteer and community efforts. PLEASE keep MOFD as it is and do NOT merge with Contra Costa County fire.

-Ann Marie

Mastrippolito Family  
[REDACTED] Orinda, CA 94563

**From:** [LUCILLE ZAMMITTI](#)  
**To:** [Info](#); [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjjex@gmail.com](#); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](#); [Craig\\_Jorgens@gmail.com](#); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](#)  
**Subject:** Moraga Orinda Fire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 11:40:37 AM

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Dear Town Council and MOFD Board members,

As a long time homeowner, who helped when Moraga was first incorporated, I was greatly disappointed and saddened to hear that there is a move to disband the existing fire district that we fought so hard for, only to be swallowed up by Contra Costa County Fire.

This goes against everything we worked for when the MOFD was first established.

1. We will no longer be a priority, but will be put as the lowest rung on the ladder, since we have the fewest residences.
2. We will no longer have a voice as to what is important for our Town to have, but will be told by the County what they will provide.
3. The fees that we will face based on the County's higher rates will raise the rates to the Town, just when all of us have been dropped by our insurance companies and now are forced to purchase additional fire insurance.
4. Why would we give up control of the Fire and Ambulance service to an over blotted bureaucratic board who does not live in the Towns nor understand its unique needs?

Shame on those of you who are trying to force this upon the residents.

Sincerely,

Lucille and Sal Zammitti

**From:** [rickeweb](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Nancy Comprelli](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD Proposed Dissolution  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 11:41:34 AM

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I have grave ethical concerns about the MOFD dissolution. I understand members of the MOFD board of directors are employed by Contra Costa Fire. Is their loyalty to their employer or the citizens of Moraga and Orinda? What personal benefit do they gain by transferring assets to their employer? Are they on fast track for promotions? Are they assigned to preferred houses?

Has the fire board's legal counsel offered an opinion on this matter. I believe the MOFD members employed by Contra Costa Fire should recuse themselves on voting for the dissolution.

Joan Webb  
[REDACTED]  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Cheri Etheredge](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** dissolution of the MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 11:41:43 AM

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Dear MOFD Board,

I am writing to ask that you oppose the dissolution of the MOFD.

The establishment of the MOFD was a result of the poor service that Confire had previously giving our community. To return to that lowered level of service at a time of elevated fire danger would be devastating to our community under this threat. Our community's protection should not be threatened by a union seeking to expand it's rank and file by so few. Your opposition to the MOFD dissolution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely Yours,

Cheri Etheredge

[REDACTED]

Orinda

[REDACTED]



**From:** [Jay Steuer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Soncern re: MOFD Dissolution  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 12:35:17 PM

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Dear MOFD Board,

I believe it would be a total abdication of duty for the MOFD to lose control of such an important infrastructure component for our community. This is especially true in times in which we find ourselves today; extreme fire danger 12 months a year. Local needs should be planned, cared for and acted upon by the residents of the community. We should not let a "union friendly director" decide our fate when the "interest" this person receives might benefit that person at the expense of our community at large.

Thank you

Jay M. Steuer

**From:** [Carol Brophy](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSE Merging MOFD with County Fire District -  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 1:14:46 PM

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Dear MOFD Board:

The imminently **disastrous proposal** of Director Gregory Baitx to **dissolve the MOFD** and merge it with the ConFire has come to my attention. This is an incredibly bad idea: I am literally shocked that any MOFD director could in good conscience even suggest it.

I have read the comments of others in opposition, including Ms. Severson's, and endorse them. But, I want to say something else – a personal observation.

My family and I **truly appreciate** the local fire department, the firefighters, the inspectors, and the paramedics. And, I have voted for the extra funding and measures they have recommended and requested, because we know them and trust them. It's a local control and "personal" relationship issue. When they make recommendations, like tree trimming, and cutting back weeds on our yards, we listen because we have a relationship with them. My neighbors and I have taken their suggestions to heart, and spend our own funds to implement them on our property and for our HOA. The MOPD is not some nameless county group, whose charter encompasses scores of other communities with different needs – they are the men and women with whom we have an enduring relationship and trust.

How rare and precious is this type of relationship in California today? I was born and have lived over seven decades in this state. In the last 20 year, and definitely in the last 10, the State has become unrecognizable. Everything is over-controlled with political agendas at the state and county levels. Critical to the fire issue: California's forest management has been non-existent for 30 years. (As an environmental attorney, I saw it happening and accelerating first hand. So, I know damn well the problems are not "global warning" but primarily mismanagement from statewide leadership.) The last thing Orinda/Moraga needs is to cede even more power and control to *any* county or state organization. Especially, when it come to public safety issues like fire, paramedics (or police).

Yesterday was Mother's Day, and like many we had a family gathering. For the first time, one of the main topics of conversation was "**leaving California**". Property values are high, get out and go somewhere with lower taxes, better schools, more concern for traditional American values and freedoms. My children argued (loudly) that I should sell my property in Orinda, but I said no. In spite of the taxes and problems in California generally, in Orinda I am connected to a local community, local fire, local church, local merchants, local police.

Today, I saw this measure. I believe that I have to stand up (finally) and say "no more". If we do not stop the spread of creeping big government in California (socialism), it will destroy what precious little local control we have left. Keeping MOFD independent is obviously the right choice, but it is also a first step toward trying to halting the further degradation of our State, and its broken infrastructure and MANY, MANY other problems.

**From:** [esunruh](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD Proposal to merge with Contra Costa Fire Department-OPPOSED  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 1:26:34 PM

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Dear MOFA Board,

I am writing to oppose any merger between Moraga Orinda Fire Department and the Contra Costa County Fire Department. I understand this item is on the agenda for the May 19<sup>th</sup> MOFA Board Meeting and at that time I would encourage any further discussion or considerations of this merger to be fully rejected at that meeting.

We currently have an outstanding Chief and Fire Department that does more for our community than we would ever receive if we were to consolidate our services with the county.

Best Regards,  
Eileen and Paul Unruh  
[REDACTED]  
Orinda, CA

**From:** [Teresa Long](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to MOFD merging into County Fire District  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:02:24 PM

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To MOFD,

I feel it is very important for MOFD to remain an independent local district for fire and ambulance service. Orinda & Moraga have unique challenges when it comes to fire prevention and merging it into the county fire district will undermine its mission to keep us safe. MOFD is doing a great job – let's keep it that way!

Teresa Long  
Orinda Resident

**From:** [Ellen Dale](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolution and joining with Con Fire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:31:37 PM

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Dear Chief Winnacker and Directors,

I cannot say strongly enough that joining with Con Fire is a horrific idea!

It is the opposite of local control. It goes against the 80+% and the 60+% vote to form the district by the citizens of Orinda and Moraga. It means that our district-elected representatives would be replaced by the Board of Supervisors who have many, many other obligations to handle.

It will give our local taxes to the rest of the district and result in a diminished capacity for responding to emergencies. We are a district with low housing density which means longer response times. We cannot tolerate even longer response times.

It will mean the end of many programs our citizens have come to rely upon, including fire breaks, chipping and Firewise. The innovative approaches championed by our wonderful Chief would be gone. And all the knowledge our firefighters have of the convoluted streets in our two cities would be lost.

In addition, I believe Director Baitx should recuse himself from this discussion, as should any board member who has involvement with the union. This is an obvious conflict of interest! Director Baitx will be recalled if he doesn't recuse himself.

I sincerely hope that the discussion on May 19<sup>th</sup> will be the end of this "grand idea."

Sincerely,

Ellen Dale

[REDACTED], Orinda  
[REDACTED] Moraga]

*Art makes us feel what we don't yet understand.*

**From:** [Brian Myers](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to MOFD dissolution  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:42:41 PM

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We have lived here for 12 years and we know that things have only gotten more risky with wildfires in the area. Not to mention a. Aging population that will need MOFD's stellar ambulance response times.

We are opposed to MOFD being absorbed into county services, and want to make this position clear to you.

Thank you  
Brian and Heather Myers



**From:** [Doreen Rau](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD Merger? NO!!!  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 2:48:04 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am taking this time as a long time Orinda resident to encourage you to oppose the proposal to merge MOFD and Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (Confire).

We have worked as a community with the MOFD to do so much mitigation work, mobilize our neighborhoods into becoming Firewise Communities, and educated ourselves as to our responsibility in preparing for a wildfire. We would lose local and innovative Fire Chief, grant funding, enforcement of stiff fire code and we would have no control over quality or quantity of services or response times.

I strongly believe this proposal has a great deal to do with the wages and benefit packages being determined by the County Board of Supervisors, which approved a new 4 year contract with 5% per year salary increases in June 2020 for Confire, which is already at the top end of salary scale in the Bay Area. And that this proposal is motivated by greed, not by consideration for the welfare of our community and its citizens.

Sincerely,  
Doreen Rau

**From:** [Carri Maas](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to proposed consolidation  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 3:30:59 PM

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I am an Orinda resident and homeowner and strongly opposed to the proposed merger with Contra Costa County fire. MOFD should not expend any resources studying a process for consolidation with ConFire. Resources should continue to be spent on the delivery of high-quality fire protection, fire safety, and emergency response systems in Orinda and Moraga.

Please note my opposition at the upcoming board meeting.

Thank you.

- Carri Maas  
[REDACTED], Orinda, CA 94563  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Laura Lee](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 3:46:01 PM

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I wanted to express my concern that you are considering merging MOFD into the county fire district. Fires have become a much more serious and constant concern in the past 5 years. It is only May and already I am getting constant alerts about Red Flag days and dangerous fire conditions. Our local fire station is able to operate efficiently and effectively and drive innovation. It also helps to ensure that our community will receive fast responses and prevent local fires from getting out of control. It also ensure knowledgeable planning on fire prevention and evacuation. We absolutely need our Fire Department to be local and not lose its effectiveness by being absorbed into a larger, less in touch organization.

Thanks,

Laura Lee

**From:** [Kersti Peter](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](mailto:Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Drop proposal to merge with ConFire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 3:49:39 PM

---

Dear Directors of MOFD,

I vehemently disagree with the proposal to merge MOFD with ConFire. Please do not consider it a viable option. Fire is arguably the most pressing threat to our physical environs here in Orinda and Moraga. If we did merge with the county, we would lose critical resources that citizens before us fought to put into place for good reason. The reasons in favor of having local control and local response are even more prescient today with climate change and the severe fire threat. Here I second, and wholly support Sue Severson who has stated if we merged, we would sacrifice:

- a. Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district;
- b. Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs (for example, fire breaks, neighborhood chipping, and Firewise);
- c. The locally-elected, locally-focused MOFD Board, which would be replaced by the County Board of Supervisors that looks out for the County as a whole;
- d. The deep understanding that our local district has about fire and evacuation risk posed by our terrain, network of narrow roads, vegetation, and abundant open space;
- e. The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district;
- f. Extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and
- g. Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kersti & William Peter  
Residents of Orinda, District 5

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Kersti Peter  


**From:** [Claudia Winter](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merging MOFD Into Contra Costa County Fire Department  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:01:38 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

I have just become aware of a proposal to dissolve the MOFD and merge it into the County Fire Department so I'm writing to lodge my EXTREME OPPOSITION to this plan.

I live in Sanders Ranch, where just 2 years ago I was evacuated in the middle of the night due to a huge fire raging just behind my home on the open hillside. I'm sure you can image the terror of being awoken in the middle of the night -- during a PGE Planned Power Outage -- to the smell of smoke overtaking your home and the sound of police officers on loudspeakers driving up and down your street telling you to evacuate your home immediately. I have 2 small kids and a puppy, and we awoke to a darkened house (the power was on when we went to sleep), no way to call out (our phone is through Comcast, which is one of only 2 options for phone service in Sanders Ranch, so when the power is out, so if your phone service, and cell phones do not work up here), no ability to really see (I wear contact lenses and can't see without them) -- it was traumatizing for my entire family. My kids were crying and my husband and I rushed around the house trying to grab our essential items and some clothes. Now, of course, we have 'go bags' packed in our car throughout the fire season, as we learned our lesson. But then, we had no idea what we'd need and were unprepared. We are so eternally thankful and grateful to the brave firefighters that stopped the fire before it could creep into our neighborhood and start burning down our homes.

Just last year, there was another fire on the hillside, but thankfully, it was not in the middle of the night and we didn't need to evacuate as a result. I cannot imagine what might have happened in either case if not for the expertise, efficiency, and speed with which the MOFD mobilized and put out both of these fires.

Please please please --listen to those of us most affected by this proposal and DO NOT dissolve the MOFD.

Sincerely,  
Claudia Winter  
  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Muffin Hyche](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Orinda FD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:03:31 PM

---

Please do not merge our Orinda Fire Dept services with the county! We want to keep our resources local and see no need to do this.

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [petepatwms](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [nanapatw](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** MOFD merger with county  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:10:43 PM

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No amount of dollar savings would be worth the lives lost if our paramedic service was reduced. They save lives and even help seniors stay in their homes because we know if we fall and can't get up the paramedics will come by and help us get up and check us out. I once read that a large percentage of your calls were for paramedics so you are used a lot. As senior citizens who are over 80 years old we feel secure knowing you can get here quickly if we ever need you. Please do not reduce our service. Pete and Pat Williams, [REDACTED], Orinda

**From:** [Susan Haas](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire department  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:26:41 PM

---

Please keep our Department independent from the county. Thank you.

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

**From:** [bernard lerner](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** comment on proposed dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:45:15 PM

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Dear sirs,

As a 41 year resident of Orinda, I recall the poor service and lack of local input we had before forming MOFD. We now have superior service.

I see no reason at all to revert to the prior situation. The fact that this is proposed by two of the MOFD directors who have direct ties to firefighters union is a blatant conflict of interest.

At the very least they should recuse from this vote.

bernard lerner

, orinda

**From:** [Anne Chambers](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** To the MOFD Board  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 5:09:04 PM

---

To the MOFD Board,

My family has lived in Moraga since 2003. We read with dismay that an item was placed on MOFD's May 19 meeting agenda for financial projections and a process overview to dissolve the MOFD entirely, having fire and ambulance services absorbed by the county. And there was no rationale for the request.

We strongly support the separate MOFD, especially in these times of high fire risk, as responsive to our local needs. Please remove the agenda item unless there is further exploration of the reason to even do the work to consider dissolution.

Thank you and I hope that you continue to represent the interests of our community.

Anne Chambers and Ed McAlpine

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Anne Chambers



 email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.

[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)



**From:** [David Morse](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Against the merger  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 5:21:01 PM

---

MOFD is a key part of our community.

Merging with the county would lower home values and put lives at risk.

This must be avoidable. What do Orinda homeowners need to do to find a better way?

- Dave Morse

[REDACTED], Orinda, CA 94563

--

c [REDACTED]

**From:** [meyersgconsulting](#) [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed MOFD dissolution  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 6:04:01 PM

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As a resident of Moraga since 1974, I am writing to indicate my opposition to the potential dissolution of the MOFD. This is especially disturbing since the effort appears to be spearheaded by a biased union representative. The service Moraga residents have received to date from MOFD has been exemplary and an excellent example of how a shared service by neighboring communities with common needs and interests can be provided in an efficient and cost effective manner. I urge you to reconsider and withdraw the proposal.

Gerald Meyers

[REDACTED]

Moraga, CA 94556

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Cynthia Brian](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** PLEASE DO NOT DISSOLVE MOFD!  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:34:37 PM

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We appreciate and need our local MOFD. MOFD does an excellent job for our small communities.

PLEASE do NOT dissolve MOFD or merge with ConFire. Vote against any merger.

The residents of Moraga and Orinda count on our own MOFD.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian and Cynthia Sheaff

Moraga, California

**From:** [Amy E. Smith](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to consolidation of MOFD and ConFire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:48:48 PM

---

We are opposed to any dissolution of MOFD,

Amy Smith  
Frank Mewborn

Amy Smith

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].org

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Chris Laszcz-Davis](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Chris Laszcz-Davis](#)  
**Subject:** Dissolving MOFD and Merging With County Fire District Proposal  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 7:55:07 PM

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Dear Sirs:

In short, this is an absurd concept for several reasons:

- We exist in a high fire hazard district, with challenging terrain. A broader generic county response does no justice to the risks faced when working within our hilly, foliage covered terrains with a street network that is anything but symmetrical.
- As it is, many in this community are having their homeowners insurance policies pulled, with the need to find other insurers to cover them at higher premiums. Why? We are recognized as a CHALLENGING FIRE RISK. A merging would result in fewer knowledgeable resources in higher risk areas and less than acceptable critical response times. Trust me—homeowners insurance policies would also increase given the reduced mitigation features with a merger.
- Local control has influence over weed cutting, fire risk mitigation, etc. A broader county jurisdiction would never result in these types of preventative efforts and responses.
- Presently, extensive local community fire prevention task forces exist to protect what we own, protect who lives here and exert some influence over remediation efforts. A broad county response would result in Lamorinda being lost in the shuffle.

I strongly oppose the proposed merger. Think risk mitigation, not administrative homogeneity!

**Chris Laszcz-Davis, Principal**

MS, CIH, COH, FAIHA, AIC Fellow

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Kate Bullis](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Re: merging Orinda's emergency services with Con Fire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:09:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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To whom it may concern,

My family and I live on upper El Toyonal in Orinda. The mere thought of fire engines having to come from Walnut Creek or Concord in order to address fire at our home – or anywhere on this winding, narrow and high hill – is terrifying. There is no way we could afford the kind of time those trucks would take. We know way too much now about how fast fires move in California. I hope you're not *even considering* merging our dedicated emergency teams with those based so far away.

Thank you,  
Kate Bullis-Trani  
[REDACTED], Orinda

**From:** [Anthony Trani](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Merging of MOFD with Con Fire  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 8:16:19 PM

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to oppose the potential merger of MOFD with Con Fire. I have been a resident of Orinda for 7 years and I have reluctantly accepted the fire concerns plaguing our hills. My only relief is that we have a fire department experienced and equipped to handle fires in our particular area. For the amount of taxes we pay, this is unacceptable. I implore you to oppose this merger for the safety and well being of the residents of Orinda and Moraga.

Sincerely,

Anthony Trani

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA 94563

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Charlie Coane](#)  
**To:** [bernard lerner](#); [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Re: comment on proposed dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 9:23:21 PM

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Agreed. Is this good for the Union and bad for all residents of Orinda/Moraga? You have to be kidding.

*Charlie Coane*

[REDACTED]

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**From:** bernard lerner <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 10, 2021 4:45 PM  
**To:** info@mofd.org <info@mofd.org>  
**Subject:** comment on proposed dissolution of MOFD

Dear sirs,

As a 41 year resident of Orinda, I recall the poor service and lack of local input we had before forming MOFD. We now have superior service.

I see no reason at all to revert to the prior situation. The fact that this is proposed by two of the MOFD directors who have direct ties to firefighters union is a blatant conflict of interest.

At the very least they should recuse from this vote.

bernard lerner

[REDACTED] orinda



**From:** [leslee lamer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Orinda Citizen Commentary on Proposed Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Monday, May 10, 2021 10:31:41 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board Members,

Please note my strong objection to the proposed merger of MOFD with the county fire department. I am in favor of local control and reject the fire union trying to interfere with our local MOFD fire district by suggesting MOFD merge with ConFire.

There appears to be no local benefit to any such merger.

I appeal to you to reject this proposed merger.

All of my friends and neighbors who I have discussed this issue with agree that any such merger would be in direct opposition of Orinda's interest.

Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Thank you,

Leslee Lamer  
[REDACTED], Orinda

**From:** [David Volk](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposition to MOFD Proposal to merge with ConFire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:08:42 AM

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Dear MOFD,

As a resident of the El Toyonal neighborhood in Orinda, I am viscerally aware of the fire danger that we face in our community, and the strong need for local engagement to mitigate fire risk. This was visible just three days ago when we saw our only safe exit route once again on fire due to a malfunctioning PG&E pole at the corner of El Toyonal and Camino Pablo. If this fire had happened in September or October, it could have been devastating for our community.

The financial implications of this fire risk is also apparent for many residents. I am the Treasurer of Orinda Park Pool, where our property insurance was cancelled due to fire risk in the neighborhood and we were forced to pay \$12,000 more per year for insurance on the secondary market.

As a community, we urgently need to continue the progress that we've been making over the past several years in collaboration with MOFD. Our fire district is one of the most effective and innovative districts in the state. Therefore, I am **strongly opposed** to the proposal to merge MOFD with ConFire. As I'm sure you will hear from many other residents, we need to maintain local control to both continue and accelerate the progress that MOFD has made in partnership with the community over the past several years.

Kind regards,  
David Volk

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David Volk



**From:** [Yulia Goldshtrakh](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire Services merge  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:45:39 AM

---

Good Morning,

We are against merging the fire services with the country and want to keep local resources here in Orinda.

Thank you,

Yuriy and Yulia Goldshtrakh

  
Orinda, CA

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Russell Barretta](#)  
**Cc:** [gina.barretta](#) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** MOFD Vote on May 19 to Merge with Contra Costa Fire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 7:59:32 AM

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Hello,

My name is Russell Barretta. My wife and I have owned a home in Orinda for the past 20 years. We are now retired and concerned about the proposed merger of MOFA and Contra Costa Fire. We don't see any logic or benefit to this merger and are requesting a detailed cost/benefit analysis be prepared and made public.

These are some of our concerns:

- Our aging and need for short response time for ambulance and paramedics
- Increasing levels of fire danger, the lengthening of fire season and the associated standby equipment and response times
- How this change will impact our Home Owners Insurance
- Ability to focus/control on our community needs and priorities vs the expanded region
- Dilution of costs that will find there way into the proposed larger region
- Weaker fire code and enforcement efforts; dilution again, loss of focus, and local knowledge
- Support to residence with fuels mitigation

I am sure there are many other aspects to consider. The preparation of a Cost Benefit Analysis Matrix with input from a diverse group making the assessments is required if this proposal is going to be entertained.

Thank you for your kind consideration.

Sincerely,  
Russell Barretta

**From:** [Brent Meyers](#)  
**To:** [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjex@gmail.com](#); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](#); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](#); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](#); [Winnacker, David](#); [info@mofd.com](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** ["Michelle Kolodziej"](#); ["Larry Jacobs"](#); ["Junaid Mohiuddin"](#); ["Lesli Fellman"](#); ["Eduardo Carranza"](#); [mmcluer@moraga.ca.us](#); [swoehleke@moraga.ca.us](#); [tonoda@moraga.ca.us](#); [rsos@moraga.ca.us](#); [dstromberg@moraga.ca.us](#); [townclerk@moraga.ca.us](#); [cbattenberg@moraga.ca.us](#)  
**Subject:** Sanders Ranch HOA Letter re: Opposing MOFD/Confire Merger Exploration  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:31:54 AM  
**Attachments:** [SRHOA MOFD Merger Opposition Letter Final.pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Members of the MOFD Board and Chief Winnacker,

Attached please find a letter from the Sanders Ranch Homeowners Association related to your upcoming 5/19 agenda item on the exploration of an MOFD/Confire merger.

At its special meeting last evening, **the Board unanimously agreed that - on behalf of its 273 homeowners and 21 HOA-owned parcels – it is OPPOSED to this endeavor.**

Please also distribute/include this as public comment in any agenda packets and materials.

Thank you,

**Brent Meyers**

Moraga

[cc: Moraga Town Council & Town Manager, Sanders Ranch HOA Board of Directors]



SANDERS RANCH HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION  
 2 SANDERS RANCH RD, MORAGA CA 94556  
 315 DIABLO ROAD, SUITE 221, DANVILLE CA 94526

May 11, 2021

Board of Directors  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
 1280 Moraga Way  
 Moraga CA 94556

Re: **OPPOSITION TO STUDY OF MOFD/CONFIRE MERGER**

Dear President Jorgens and Members of the Board:

We understand that an agenda item and associated discussion of financial forecasts and process overview for a potential MOFD/Confire merger will occur at your May 19 Board meeting.

As you may be aware, Sanders Ranch HOA is the second-largest HOA in Moraga consisting of 273 single family detached homes and 21 HOA-owned parcels. Beyond its excellent, customary firefighting and ambulance services, our HOA has benefitted repeatedly from the Chief's and Fire Marshal's customized presentations and best-practice advice to make our community as fire safe as possible. In addition, we have benefited from MOFD's exemplary response to two sizable open space fires in as many years, neither of which resulted in any structure losses or injuries.

Quite simply, we believe these levels of service and associated outcomes are a direct result of our local investment in MOFD, and would not be possible without the local control and focused services that are specifically tailored to Sanders Ranch and the broader Moraga and Orinda communities.

**We therefore OPPOSE the exploration of a potential merger with Confire, and ask that MOFD resources (including the time and cost of further exploring any consolidation) continue to be spent on the high-quality fire safety, firefighting and emergency response services we have invested in and enjoyed for decades.**

Thank you for your consideration,

/s/ BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SANDERS RANCH HOA 

Copies To:  
 MOFD Chief Winnacker  
 Moraga Town Council  
 Moraga Town Manager Battenberg

**From:** [Andy Amstutz](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Opposed to dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:43:28 AM

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To the MOFD Board of Directors:

I am strongly opposed to the dissolution of our Moraga Orinda Fire District.

Our fire and ambulance service level has been significantly better since its beginning in 1997, and should be continued.

Andy Amstutz



**From:** [Carole Amstutz](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** I am opposed to dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:45:53 AM

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To the MOFD Board of Directors:

I am strongly opposed to the dissolution of our Moraga Orinda Fire District.

Our fire and ambulance service level has been significantly better since its beginning in 1997, and should be continued.

Carole Amstutz





**From:** [Gene Gottfried](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Dissolution of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 11:41:49 AM

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Dear Directors of the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District,  
 In 1997, the citizens of Orinda voted overwhelmingly in favor of a merger with Moraga in order to rescue Orinda's emergency services from disgraceful neglect. MOFD became one of the finest small fire districts in California and a role model for others. My personal experience with ambulance services before and after the merger demonstrates the dramatic contrast: *Before:* a one-hour delay for an EMT-staffed ambulance from Walnut Creek that got lost on the way to the hospital. *After:* A 10-minute trip from Station 45 with both an engine and an ambulance staffed by skilled firefighter-paramedics familiar with our streets. MOFD has been at the forefront of innovative ideas and procedures for wildfire prevention and emergency medical services. We are not about to give that up!  
 As directors of MOFD, your fiduciary responsibility is to protect the interests of the residents of Orinda, Moraga and Canyon, not other parts of Contra Costa County and certainly not the firefighters union. Director Baitx, your strong union connection demonstrates a blatant conflict of interest. You may want to consider resigning now in order to avoid the further embarrassment of a recall election.

*Eugene Gottfried*

\*\*\*\*\*

Eugene L Gottfried, MD  
 [REDACTED], Orinda, CA 94563  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]  
 [REDACTED]

**From:** [Marianne McKay](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** re proposal to consolidate into ConFire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:08:24 PM

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I am very disturbed and **opposed** to any dissolving of MOFD to be folded into ConFire. MOFD was established in 1997 to provide high quality paramedic and fire protection services tailored for the local needs of Moraga and Orinda. Both communities have a very high fire risk and require that you have an excellent knowledge of the area. MOFD is doing a great job and is very proactive within the community to start neighborhood Firewise groups, chipper services, landscaping guidelines, high tech monitoring in remote areas and many other outreach programs. I have had to use both their medical and their fire services and can attest to outstanding response. There is a tremendous advantage to be smaller and more nimble to the local situations. It would be a BIG mistake to rob the community of those services.

Please do not go down this path of consolidations and remove the very local presence by MOFD.

Thank you

Marianne McKay

Moraga

**From:** [David Zeimer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Moraga/Orinda fire department  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:18:52 PM

---

Hello,  
Please KEEP Moraga and Orinda fire departments separate from Con Fire.  
Thank you,  
David Zeimer  
[REDACTED], Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Salerno Dragonetti, M<sup>a</sup> Amelia](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Decision on Dissolving and merging with county fire (CCCYPD)  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:27:17 PM

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Dear MOFD Board Members,

As residents of Sanders Ranch in Moraga we would like to communicate our **strong OPPOSITION** to dissolving and merging with the County Fire Department.

It is going to negatively impact the locally controlled and tailored levels of services we receive from MOFD.

We would highly request your reconsideration of this topic and leave this issue as it is.

Thank you for your kind attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
Roberto and Maria Alvarez  
Sanders Ranch, Moraga

**Terry J. Murphy-Orinda****Open Letter to MOFD Board****5/10/2021**

You have on your agenda for May 19<sup>th</sup> of this year an item placed there by one of the Board members [Baitx] under “items initiated” that seems to ask if MOFD should merge with Confire. I am not sure what is/was intended by putting this on your agenda since there has been very little said by anyone from MOFD regarding the reasons for it but since it will be on your agenda and you can discuss or take action on it as you see fit I will answer the question and hope you will take notice.

When the voters of both Orinda and Moraga cast their vote and created the fire district there were many reasons for doing it and I am sure there will be many voices telling why so I will only mention those important to me; response times [medical as well as fire], adequate training, up-to-date equipment and facilities and most important **local control**. We wanted a say in where or money was being spent and for what. These were some of the same reasons why we created the City of Orinda and they are still valid today. After voting to form MOFD the voters of both cities voted twice [Fire Flow tax and Fuels mitigation] to provide funds needed to have the fire district we wanted. Now it seems someone wants to go back to the “bad old days” and I am not sure why but I am sure that I don’t want it or need it. We have seen how it was and remember why we made the changes. My answer is **No!** This is not in the best interests of our communities and will be a giant step backward.

When you ran for and won your seats on the Board the promise was to do what is in the best interest of the two communities and merging is not in our best interest and, to date, no one has made the case that we must do it for any reason so I have to ask each of you; If you have come to a point in your life where you cannot put our interests our safety first, be it because you are unable or unwilling to do so, the please resign your position and let the remaining Board members appoint someone else you will. Your resignation will save us [the voters] the time,

effort and expense of a recall and “special election”. Money better spent on wages, benefits and/or equipment. Please include this letter in the public record for the meeting.

Yours,

Terry J. Murphy

**From:** [Pearl Toy](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD and CON fire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 12:50:21 PM

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Dear Directors,

I oppose the merging of MOFD and Contra Costa County fire department CON-Fire because our lives are at stake when we have a medical emergency. Each minute counts when we have a stroke or heart attack!

Pearl Toy MD  
Orinda resident

**From:** [Mark Davidson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** MOFD  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 2:39:21 PM

---

I've lived in Moraga since 1969! My family and I are in opposition to any movement towards change in MOFD unionization! Terrible idea! The existing MOFD is one of the Best in the World why change what's worked extremely well since the early 1970's when we broke away from County Politics and spending!

Mark Colby Davidson

Linda Z Davidson

[REDACTED]  
Moraga, CA 94556

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Arlene Lyne](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire merger  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:00:51 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board Members,

Please note my strong objection to the proposed merger of MOFD with the county fire department. I am in favor of local control and reject the fire union trying to interfere with our local MOFD fire district by suggesting MOFD merge with ConFire.

There appears to be no local benefit to any such merger.

I appeal to you to reject this proposed merger.

All of my friends and neighbors who I have discussed this issue with agree that any such merger would be in direct opposition of Orinda's interest.

Please do the right thing and vote NO.

Thank you,

Arlene Lyne

, Orinda


Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Donna Sumner](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Oppose MOFD consolidation with ConFire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 3:09:37 PM

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As a 53 resident of Moraga, I strongly oppose any change to the MOFD. My family has appreciated the superior quality of our firemen and paramedics over these many years. With high fire danger and many older citizens in our community, it is critical that we control and maintain a level of service that we currently have with MOFD. "If it isn't broken, no need to fix or change it."

The fire district was formed by the citizens of Moraga and Orinda in 1997 to provide high quality protection services designed to meet local needs. As elected board of directors, I request that you make no change to the MOFD, and continue guidance that best serves the fire safety and medical needs of the citizens of Moraga.

Donna Sumner  
  
Moraga, CA 94556

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Noel Simpkin](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** I Do Not Support Study to Merge MOFD with ConFire  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:08:49 PM

---

Hello,

I'd like to voice my concern regarding the proposal to study merging MOFD with ConFire. MOFD has been a valuable resource for the Orinda and Moraga communities, and I am strongly opposed to any effort to merge MOFD with ConFire.

A potential merger concerns me for a variety of reasons, but I am particularly concerned about the loss of our local Fire Marshall who has been instrumental in securing significant grant funding for MOFD and enforcing our fire code to help protect the community from wildfire; loss of local control in determining services and response times; and increased expenses (i.e. wages and benefits as determined by County Board of Supervisors).

I have been a resident of Orinda for the past eight years and have been very pleased with MOFD's quality work. I participated in the chipper program twice and plan to use it again.

Thank you for listening to the residents of Orinda & Moraga as we express our opposition to study merging MOFD with ConFire.

-Noel Gillespie

**From:** [Elizabeth Kalpakjian](#)  
**To:** [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjex@gmail.com](#); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](#); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](#); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](#); [Winnacker, David](#); [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [mmcluer@moraga.ca.us](#); [swoehleke@moraga.ca.us](#); [tonoda@moraga.ca.us](#); [rsos@moraga.ca.us](#); [dstromberg@moraga.ca.us](#); [townclerk@moraga.ca.us](#); [cbattenberg@moraga.ca.us](#)  
**Subject:** No time wasted on MOFD consolidation talks  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:16:06 PM

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Dear President Jorgens and Members of the Board:

I understand that an agenda item and associated discussion of financial forecasts and process overview for a potential MOFD/Confire merger will occur at your May 19 Board meeting.

As a resident of Sanders Ranch in Moraga, my family has benefited from MOFD's exemplary response to two sizable open space fires in as many years, and a 911 call. I am quite sure that having MOFD right here only a few minutes away made all the difference.

I vehemently OPPOSE the exploration of a potential merger with Confire, and ask that you do not use MOFD resources, including time and money further exploring any consolidation which is not in the interest of the Town and Residents of Moraga. I hope that you will do the job to which you were elected, to represent the residents of Moraga and their interests to ensure time and money only be spent on the high-quality fire safety, firefighting and emergency response services we have invested in and enjoyed for decades.

Thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth and Norayr Kalpakjian

██████████  
Moraga, CA

**From:** [Mardi Potts](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** OPPOSITION TO STUDY OF MOFD/CONFIRE MERGER  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:52:30 PM

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Dear President Jorgens, Members of the Board and MOFD Chief, David Winnacker,

On May 19, you will be meeting to discuss and possibly decide the fate of our Moraga Orinda Fire Department. This issue has come to the attention of most everyone in our communities and it is shocking what is even being considered!!!

I am a resident of the Sanders Ranch community and I attended the Zoom meeting last night of our Sanders Ranch residents as well as the Zoom meeting that immediately followed where our Moraga Mayor, Mike McCluer and Vice Mayor, Steve Woehleke met with the members of the Moraga Garden Club. The Sanders Ranch meeting was strictly to address the concerns of the merger. The Moraga Garden Club meeting was proposed by the Mayor and Council as a way to reach out to community groups to address a variety of issues to inform us about what is happening in Moraga now and in the future. This meeting was scheduled before most were aware of the MOFD study. Needless to say, most of the Garden Club/Town Council meeting was spent discussing the MOFD study. I am so grateful to the Sanders Ranch Board and to the members of the Town Council for their quick responses to the above issue and to their transparency affording us all the opportunity to understand what is potentially happening.

Bottom line, I respectfully request that each of you who receive this letter know that this particular merger will NOT benefit the towns of Moraga or Orinda or its citizens. You will be hearing from many who have spent years to bring the MOFD to the level of service that we desire and need.

My husband and I have lived in Moraga for 47 years, coming here to raise our sons. I have served our community by being extremely active for years in our community. I am grateful to our council, police department, park and rec department, merchants, service organizations, and all who make Moraga and Orinda the wonderful communities that they are today. I am also very grateful to the Moraga Fire Department for all they have done for the many years we have lived here. I have also lived through two fires in the last two years that occurred in Sanders Ranch. It was because of the QUICK response of the Moraga Fire Department and Moraga Police Department that those fires did not escalate and create more dangerous situations. Our teams were HERE and READY!

I hope that each of you will take to heart the concerns of our town councils, our community representatives, and our citizens. We want OUR OWN FIRE DEPARTMENT. WE DO NOT WANT TO CONSOLIDATE!!!

Respectfully submitted, Mardi Potts  
Moraga Resident in Sanders Ranch

Cc: Mike McCluer: Mayor, Town of Moraga  
 Michelle Kolodziej: Common Interest Management, Sanders Ranch

Note: I am having to send this individually as the group addresses did not work!

**From:** [John Kotowski](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Continuation of MOFD as a stand alone entity  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 6:10:55 PM

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To the members of the MOFD Board,

It is with great consternation that I learned recently that one member of the MOFD Board has brought forth a motion to consider having MOFD absorbed into the Contra Costa County Fire Department. This is not an action that is in the best interest of the residents of Orinda or Moraga, and I implore the Board to immediately and decisively reject this foolhardy idea, without wasting any additional time or resources in considering, studying or evaluating this notion.

The residents of Orinda and Moraga currently have one of the best, if not the best, fire department in northern California. MOFD is a proactive, responsive, highly effective and efficient organization, that time and time again has demonstrated its dedication and concern for the well being of the citizens of Orinda and Moraga. Our Fire Chief and his staff are compassionate professionals, whom the residents of Orinda and Moraga have come to respect and trust. In these times of unprecedented fire risk to our community, all of us in Orinda and Moraga require,...DEMAND...that we have the best possible fire department. MOFD was originally formed precisely because the citizens of Orinda and Moraga were fed up with marginal fire services from the Contra Costa County Fire Department.

Each member of the MOFD Board has a clear fiduciary responsibility to the residents of Orinda and Moraga, regardless of any outside affiliations for which any individual Board member may feel competing allegiances.

**STOP THIS NONSENSE NOW!**

John & Jane Kotowski

Orinda, CA

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

**From:** [Larry Briggs](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Exploration of Dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 8:24:53 PM

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We understand that you will be considering dissolving the MOFD and relying on the county for fire and ambulance. What are the problems you might be addressing and trying to fix?

We are opposed to dissolving MOFD and having all fire and ambulance service being taken over by the county. Our fire district was formed by the voters many years ago to improve the quality of service to the residents of our communities from that when we were subject to county level decisions. By forming our own district, the level of both fire and ambulance service has been much higher.

I am not aware that the consideration of reverting to county fire and ambulance service is driven by the expectation that our service levels would improve. In fact, I don't know that there would, or could, be a commitment that service levels would even be maintained at our current levels.

Why would we want to risk reduced service levels at a time when we are at increasing fire risk and experiencing another drought (or a continuation of an extended on-and-off drought). When our risks are already higher, we should not be considering adding another element of risk.

As the saying goes, if it's not broken, don't fix it.

Thank you.

Larry & Barbara Briggs



Moraga

**From:** [Susan Forman](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Nigel Forman](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Moving Orinda/Moraga fire services to Walnut Creek/Concord  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:12:06 PM

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Update: meant highway 680.

Sent from my iPhone

> On May 11, 2021, at 7:16 PM, Susan Forman <susanbforman@gmail.com> wrote:

>

> Hello,

>

> As Lost Valley (Orinda) residents - with one way in and out of our little valley - my family and I are incredibly concerned about the proposal being considered to center Orinda/Moraga fire support out of Walnut Creek/Concord. Given weather and drought conditions the last few years (not to mention PG&E malfeasance), we all live with a considerable amount of fear about fire danger across Lamorinda. We work hard to maintain a fire safe property and have a good degree of peace of mind knowing that our local Orinda and Moraga fire professionals are close by and know the twists and turns of our community and topography.

>

> Moving fire services away from our communities fills me with fear. Anyone traveling highways 24 and 580 knows how incredibly jammed up these freeways get today (and this will increase incrementally as we come out of the pandemic). Why would we put our communities and residents at greater risk by pushing this proposal forward? No doubt there must be an economic driver at work here, but has the cost of increased risk to property and life in Orinda and Moraga due to delayed fire service response times been factored into this proposal?

>

> I strongly urge reconsideration of this proposal.

>

> Thank you.

>

> Susan and Nigel Forman

> [REDACTED]

> Orinda

>

>

>

> Sent from my iPhone



**From:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**To:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** [Clark Vilas](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fire dept. merger  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:52:35 AM

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Mr and Ms Vilas,  
Thank you for contacting the fire district and your input has been received.

Marcia,  
Please include the correspondence below in the board packet.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District

-----Original Message-----

From: Clark Vilas [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:39 AM  
To: Winnacker, David [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fire dept. merger

We have lived in Moraga since 1967 and strongly oppose the merger with the larger Consolidated Fire. Keep control/response local, please. It works.

Linda and Clark Vilas  
[REDACTED]  
Sanders Ranch area

**From:** [Michael Brown](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed Takeover by CCCFPD  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:11:52 AM

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Directors Batix, Donner, Danziger, Jex and Jorgens

I strongly urge you to abandon the proposed exploration of MOFD's absorption by ConFire. MOFD is the envy of WUI communities up and down the state for its forward looking and innovative approaches to the existential threat of community erasing wildfire. Over the past three years, Moraga and Orinda have made great strides in becoming more wildfire resilient and MOFD has led this effort under the guidance of Chief Winnacker. Since the formation of MOFD, our ambulance response times have been cut from 20-30 minutes down to 5 minutes and no one wants to go back. The hard-won progress we have made on these, and many other fronts, would disappear were MOFD to be absorbed by ConFire.

We have some of the highest property values in the county and subsequently pay some of the highest taxes towards the operation of MOFD. For the most part we are happy to pay those taxes but in return we want the BEST fire and EMS service money can buy and will not trade those values away in the name of efficiency. Never forget that MOFD isn't your fire department but belongs to the people of Moraga and Orinda. It is your job as a public steward to leave office with our fire district in a better place than when you found it. Guiding the takeover of MOFD by another department would be an abject failure of leadership, trust, and public duty.

When you chose to run for the MOFD board, it wasn't on a platform of dissolution but with a promise to make MOFD the best agency it could be, and not some forgotten backwater of ConFire. ConFire is built for firefighting in urbanized areas like Concord, Pleasant Hill and Walnut Creek. Moraga and Orinda are nothing like those cities and we need a fire department, and governing board, that is focused solely on the threats we face living in the WUI. If you are unable, or unwilling, to serve the interests of the constituents who elected you, and only their interests, then it behooves you to step aside so a more dedicated public servant can take your place.

Regards,

Michael Brown

  
Orinda

**From:** [Peter Dinkelspiel](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposal to Merge MOFD with Con Fire  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:31:14 AM

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The undersigned was a member of the Orinda Fire Commission in 1997 when the decision to withdraw from Con Fire was made. There were several factors considered at that time.

1) Con Fire was utilizing taxes from Orinda and Moraga to fund other areas of the Con Fire District—particularly east county. Among other things, this resulted in a deterioration of the facilities in Moraga and Orinda. An example of this was the disgraceful and dangerous condition of Station House 43.

2) The unacceptable performance of the then contracted ambulance service.

3) The lack of sensitivity by the Board of Supervisors to the unique requirements of the micro area—Moraga and Orinda

4) The lack of training/qualifications of the local assigned staff as EMTs or Paramedics.

Please do not vote to rejoin Con Fire—The decision some 25 years ago was an excellent one and there is absolutely no reason to return to Con Fire at this time.

Thank you

Peter Dinkelspiel

**From:** [Maclers](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Proposed dissolution of MOFD  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 9:52:10 AM

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To Director Baitx,

I am appalled by your proposal to dissolve MOFD and have emergency medical and fire services provided by Contra Costa Fire. The creation of MOFD was specifically to address weaknesses in Con Fire's response time for emergency medical and fire, and to provide for local control. You, as a MOFD Board member, would be ceding that control to the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors, who have shown little regard for Orinda or Moraga.

We have been fortunate to have a proactive Fire Chief and staff that are addressing wildfire prevention and preparedness. The MOFD district you represent is particularly vulnerable to wildfire. I do not see Con Fire capable of similarly providing this to our communities.

You have not provided any rationale for your proposal and I certainly note your close relationship to the union supporting this proposal, which I consider a clear conflict of interest.

Bruce Macler



**From:** [Meyers, Jonathan](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Seeking to understand rationale behind proposal to dissolve MOFD  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:32:57 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Dear MOFD Board,

I'm pasting below an inquiry I sent to Mr. Baitx last weekend, and to which I've not received a response.

Dear Mr. Baitx,

I am a member of the Lost Valley Firewise group, and our delegate to the Orinda Firewise Council. As I'm sure is no surprise to you, the last OFC meeting was focused primarily on the proposal to dissolve MOFD, and roll services back to county control.

I heard a lot of concerns, which I share. But what was missing was any rationale for the proposal in the first place. There was some vague speculation, but no one could articulate what was motivating the proposal.

I'd like to keep an open mind, and provide a balanced view to the members of my local Firewise group. I'm hoping that you, as the MOFD Board member driving this, can provide the rationale, along with any specifics around how the needs of the local community will be safeguarded. I'm going to encourage all of our group members to attend the May 19 board meeting, and I'm hoping you can help us understand, in advance, what is motivating the proposal.

Regards,

Jonathan Meyers

I'm hoping that someone can provide additional context for the proposal. I look forward to receiving your response.

Best regards,

**Jonathan Meyers**

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

**From:** [Amanda Sherwood](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment - Dissolving MOFD  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:50:47 AM

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To whom it may concern:

As an Orinda resident, I am opposed to the proposal to dissolve MOFD district in favor of the County fire district. Moraga and Orinda have unique needs when it comes to managing fire danger, and need a fire district dedicated to meeting those needs. I live in the El Toyonal neighborhood, and the work MOFD has done to improve our neighborhood's chances of avoiding a major fire is invaluable. This work likely would have been delayed or deferred if the County fire district was in charge.

On a more personal note, MOFD saved my life. After returning home from the hospital after giving birth to my son, I began hemorrhaging. Not understanding what was happening at first, I allowed time to pass before calling 911. Once I did, MOFD was at my house within 5 minutes. Without the fire department's quick response, I could have gone into shock and suffered brain damage. Having EMTs dedicated solely to Orinda and Moraga allows them to maintain improved response times which can quite literally be a matter of life and death.

Please, reject this proposal, and keep MOFD under local control.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Sherwood

**From:** [CHARLES PORGES](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** May 19 Public comment. TO BE READ ALOUD PLEASE.  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 11:20:52 AM

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To three MOFD Board members,

Shame on you for suggesting that MOFD be merged with ConFire.

Shame on you for not doing adequate fire prevention and fuel reduction for decades, leaving so much vegetation around us that we are now a high risk fire area.

Shame on you for not funding two year round chipper crews.

Shame on you for refusing to even spend \$17,000 for a chipper service over last summer despite public demand.

You have a \$28 million budget. You can and must allocate more to fire prevention.

It should not be the city of Orinda that pays for chipper service. That was your job all along.

I do not accept your excuse that you may have been looking at cost savings. Yes ConFire may have been able to reduce cost by cutting services but we resident's would still be paying the same taxes to ConFire. Our ambulance response time would increase, personnel reduced, and stations closed. All to the detriment of our cities.

The residents now know that you have failed to "protect and to serve". It has also now become apparent that your loyalties are to the union and not the community.

I will do everything I can to remind our community of your actions until the next elections.

Shame on you.

Charles Porges

May 10, 2021

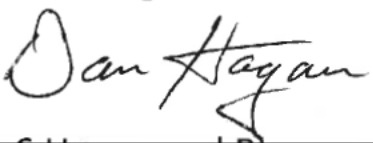
To: Moraga-Orinda Fire District Bd. of Directors  
1280 Moraga Way  
Moraga, Ca. 94556

Re: Opposing a Study of a Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
Consolidation/Dissolution Process

Dear MOFD Chair Jorgens and Board of Directors:

I am very pleased with the current service and tax set-up of the MOFD. Therefore, I am opposed to any consideration of consolidating the MOFD into the Contra Costa Fire Protection District. I respectfully, request that you vote no on this issue.

Dan Hagan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Hagan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

████████████████████  
Moraga, Ca. 94556