



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Communications Received from Public

As of May 19, 2021 at 3:00 PM

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199 5/18/2021 Laura Moran
200 5/18/2021 Nancy Hall
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202 5/18/2021 Rachel Duclos
203 5/18/2021 Liz & Henry Marcil
204 5/18/2021 Pamela Carr
205 5/18/2021 Bonnie and Gene Kaster
206 5/18/2021 Tyler Rust
207 5/18/2021 Emily Clark Rogers
208 5/18/2021 Brent Goetzl
209 5/18/2021 Ann Pierpont
210 5/18/2021 Rick and Beth Bilotti
211 5/18/2021 GORDON D ABBOTT

212	5/18/2021	Mr. and Mrs. M. Mahoney
213	5/18/2021	Don and Karen Kintzer
214	5/18/2021	Ben and Barbara Kacyra
215	5/18/2021	Perrin Kliot
216	5/18/2021	Sandy Roadcap
217	5/18/2021	Michael Patriarca
218	5/18/2021	Maya and Daniel McBride
219	5/18/2021	Richard Nelson
220	5/18/2021	Amy Siu
221	5/19/2021	Beatrice Haase
222	5/19/2021	Jill Lamont
223	5/19/2021	Timothy Lipman
224	5/19/2021	Rob and Jan Formanek
225	5/19/2021	Nan Andrews
226	5/19/2021	Marty and Judy Berg
227	5/19/2021	Robert and Claudia White
228	5/19/2021	Josephine Sabolboro
229	5/19/2021	Eugene and Danielle Shenkar
230	5/19/2021	Sugar Franich Filice
231	5/19/2021	Bill Joram
232	5/19/2021	Sandra Melo/Samir Garzon
233	5/19/2021	Virginia Falconer
234	5/19/2021	Anna Tague
235	5/19/2021	Deb Maurer
236	5/19/2021	Suzanne Jones and Rob Elia
237	5/19/2021	Frank Sperling
238	5/19/2021	Phyllis Kofman
239	5/19/2021	Patrice Bilello
240	5/19/2021	David Keenan

From: [Edward Beck](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposed
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 12:31:56 PM

Dear Board -

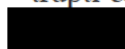
I want to go on record as completely opposed to the idea of moving the MOFD into the County's bureaucracy. We specifically voted to move this function to the local level years ago to make it more responsive to the community's needs. Whoever suggested this idea should publicly repudiate it and commit not to suggest it again.

Edward W. Beck
Orinda, CA

From: [trupti haldar](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Support for MOFD
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 1:00:14 PM

As a 6 year member of Sleepy Hollow community, I vehemently oppose the proposed dissolution of MOFD. Living in a "Very Severe Hazard Zone", I take great comfort in knowing MOFD has our back and will be responsive. Pls do everything you can to keep our local resource local.

- trupti & saptarsi haldar



From: [Denise Coane](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: mmcluer@moraga.ca.us; tonoda@moraga.ca.us; dstromberg@moraga.ca.us; swoehleke@moraga.ca.us; rsos@moraga.ca.us; townclerk@moraga.ca.us; [Winnacker, David](#); king@moraga.ca.us; [Ron Haas](#)
Subject: LET'S END THIS TALK OF CONSOLIDATION AND MOVE ON
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 2:44:03 PM

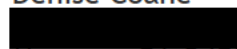
Dear MOFD Board of Directors: For Public Record

In a small town we work together to battle whatever comes our way. Since February 2019 I've personally along with 60 other Moraga Country Club residents sat on a Block Captain Committee established by the Moraga Country Club Home Owners Association and club management. Our mission is to primarily watch out for neighbors and their homes during fire season. We've all sat through countless presentations, Zoomed with our Fire Chief and local fire department, built relationships with Norcal and Firewise representatives, participated in evacuation drills (Dec. 2018) and Country Warning System drills. We go door to door to make sure our neighbors and especially seniors know how to get out of their home in fire and earthquake emergencies. Our monthly block party took one event to help educate neighbors about fire danger by former firemen and an MOFD Director. We all know more about this than we'd like. In addition we (along with every resident of MCC) have invested financially into the Firewise system and while I am writing you they are cutting down a significant portion of our landscaping. Our Police Chief spent over two hours answering Town Hall attendees questions after the 2018 Sanders Ranch fire and we were also there. The church on the hill has all of you, our fire chief and crew as well as town officials and educators in a prayer guide.

This is what we do to work together and watch out for each other in Moraga. A merger, consolidation or union involvement is not the answer to commendable fire service. And, how would you feel if someone died due to County Service slow response because of cut in services?

Is this all about Money ... or Saving Lives?

Respectfully,
Denise Coane


Moraga, CA 94556

From: [Laszlo Bonnyay](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Mofd
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 6:32:22 PM

I strongly object to merge MOFD with the county FD. MOFD was established because the county did not serve our community adequately. Nothing has changed. MOFD saved my life twice. Let's not mess with something that works so well.

Sincerely

Laszlo G Bonnyay

Marcia Fisherkeller



MOraga.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Barry Horn](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: dissolution of MOFD
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 6:41:28 PM

I am writing to you concerned about the potential dissolution of MOFD and reinstatement of Confire services. I have spoken to a number of longtime residents of Orinda who told me that the ambulance services provided prior to MOFD were slow and dangerous. Lives were lost as a result. Obviously, we don't want this in the Orinda-Moraga community.

There is a second issue and that is fire mitigation. We currently have an amazing program developing to reduce our high fire risk in our area. I have friends who have started Firewise groups in Lafayette and the city and the fire department has been no help to them. One friend lives next to a large landowner whose property is a disaster. The city and the fire department will do nothing. A lot of homes in Lafayette are at risk as a result. We need to keep MOFD which is progressive and provides us with outstanding service in terms of fire mitigation and fire suppression and ambulance services.

Barry Horn

From: [Delmar1020](#)
To: [Baitx, Gregory](#); [mmjex@gmail.com](#); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](#); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](#); [Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com](#); [Winnacker, David](#); [Info](#)
Subject: NO to the MOFD Merger into CONFIRE
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 8:28:42 PM

We strongly OPPOSE the proposal to Merge MOFD into CONFIRE.

The MOFD Board Agenda Item to consider this proposal is NOT in the Best Interest of Community and it should never have been given serious consideration by the MOFD Board of Directors.

The towns of Moraga and Orinda have been designed by the State of California as high fire hazard severity zone areas. If the MOFD were to be dissolved and merged in to CONFIRE this action will significantly reduce the Fire and Emergency Safety Services to the communities of Moraga and Orinda.

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

1. Reduce Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by MOFD to our district.
2. Eliminate Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs (for example, fire breaks, neighborhood chipping, and Firewise).
3. Lose 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.
4. Lose the local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district to other areas of the County.
5. Minimize or eliminate extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 Foundation) that support our local fire district; and
6. Lose our Fire Chief Dave Winnacker and his Management Team who support our community with many innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

As a MOFD Board of Director Member you have a fiduciary responsibility to support the best interests of the Moraga and Orinda Communities on fire and public safety matters as you were elected to do, then you should vote NO to the MOFD Merger Proposal.

Sincerely

Tom & Cathy Eberhardt

Sanders Ranch

Moraga, CA

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

From: [Emma Grande](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger Risk
Date: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:10:44 PM

Hello Board Members,

I love MOFD as is and am very concerned about a potential merger. Fire season is my greatest concern as a resident of Moraga. MOFD does an amazing job and I hope we can continue with the current structure. Please let us know if the community needs to do more to support.

Thank you,
Emma

From: [Rick Shriner](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Keep MOFD
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 9:05:08 AM

I am very much in favor of keeping MOFD as it is and appreciate highly the work to reduce Wildfire Risk and keeping of emergency crews for medical problems in older adults.

From: [Charlie Coane](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD Possible Restructure
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 1:41:05 PM

Since this idea seems to have zero benefit to the citizens of Orinda and Moraga...in fact just the opposite....is this just a union inspired idea??

I thought Jimmy Hoffa disappeared a long time ago.

Charlie Coane



From: [Robert Schroeder](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD/ConFire Agenda Item
Date: Thursday, May 13, 2021 5:48:17 PM

Dear Directors,

Like many of my neighbors, I would like to go on record in opposition to considering dissolution of MOFD in order to fall under the protection of the Contra Costa County Fire District. I believe that our community has unique characteristics that make it better suited being served by local fire and medical services. Additionally, we have a dedicated Fire Chief and management team that are forward thinking and innovative in the ways they involve the community. I would never be as involved in fire safety if I hadn't attended one of the many wildfire safety meetings provided by the Chief. His encouragement along with members of the Wildfire Mitigation team have contributed to my seeking grants to remove dangerous vegetation on my street, becoming the neighborhood fire liaison, co-chairing my neighborhood Firewise chapter, and becoming a Fire Adapted Community Ambassador. What outreach is ConFire doing?

Everything from the creation of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break to cutting edge equipment in the ambulances to rapid response times are not what I envision would be possible under county control. The system is working and there is no reason to dismantle it. If anything, we should be making more resources available to them, so that they can continue to build on the enormous success that they have created.

Sincerely,

Rob Schroeder

Rob Schroeder
SHNA Fire Safety Chair
[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA 94563
[REDACTED]

From: [Tish Gleason](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD and Cal Fire merger
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 8:37:59 AM

No please don't do this. I am totally against this. We love our Fire Department just how they are. We as blessed to have them. I will attend the 5/19 meeting showing my support.

Thanks,
Tish

From: [Info](#)
To: [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: Disbanding MOFD
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 10:09:37 AM

Message submitted from the <Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CA> website.

Site Visitor Name: glenn rogers

Site Visitor Email: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Winnacker

I am a resident of Orinda. The purpose of this message is to strongly oppose the disbanding of the MOFD in favor of Con Fire.

Orinda's high fire risk demands a focused, local fire fighting capability. Switching to Con Fire may offer short term financial benefits but it would never be as effective as continuing with MOFD. Thanks

From: [Larry Berger](#)
To: cityclerk@cityoforinda.org; [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD Fire Department
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 10:43:32 AM

Dear Sir or Madam

I am a strong supporter of the MOFD, which was organized more than twenty years ago to serve the needs of the citizens of Orinda and Moraga.;

The MOFG enjoys a strong governance model, structured to be responsive to the community.

This model has worked well, both with respect to fire emergencies and EMT requirements.

The proposed merger with ConFire makes no sense for MOFD,

There is no compelling logic to this initiative.

And I am absolutely opposed to the merger.

Sincerely,

Laurence W. Berger


Orinda, California 94563

From: [kathymfinch](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Agenda item 9.2
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:52:11 AM

I want to add my voice to the many Orindans who object to the MOFD agenda item for May 19 that considers dissolving the MOFD to consolidate with Contra Costa Fire. The MOFD was formed to ensure that our local tax funds would be spent on Orinda and Moraga. This suggestion indicates, like last year's cancelling of the chipper program, that the MOFD does not put the wellbeing of Orinda/Moraga citizens before its own financial interests. I hope the City Council will also voice its opposition to such a callous move.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Finch

From: [Joyce Hawkins](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger with ConFire
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:53:41 AM

Members of the Board

I own a home in Orinda, and I am writing to inform you that I strongly oppose the proposal to dissolve the MOFD and merge with the Contra Costa County Fire Department.

Joyce Hawkins

VICTORIA ROBINSON SMITH[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA 94563
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

May 14, 2021

Via Email Only – info@mofd.org

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board

Attention:

Craig Jorgens, President

Michael Donner, Vice President

Gregory Baitx, Secretary

Steven Danziger, Treasurer

John Jex, Director

Dave Winnacker, Fire Chief

Re: Opposition to Dissolution of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Gentlemen:

I will be out of state and unable to attend your May 19, 2021 board meeting, so I write now to explain my opposition to a dissolution of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

First, I would like to express my thanks to Chief Winnacker, and the Board, for the North Orinda Fuel Break project which has made our community substantially safer in the event of a potential wildfire. My neighborhood, the upper El Toyonal neighborhood, is very appreciative of this. My husband and I, and many of our neighbors, vividly recall the Oakland Hills fire, where we had neighbors watering down the roofs because of the embers falling in our neighborhood, unbelievable smoke, neighbors feeding the firefighters who were stationed half a mile away at the steam trains, and we each had to show our IDs in order to get back to our homes. That is not a situation that any of us want to repeat. It seems counterintuitive to consider the elimination of our fantastic local Fire District at a time when we face the threat of wildfire in our community at a level never seen before.

Additionally, as we all know, the substantial majority of calls for service to the MOFD are medical in nature. In fact, the MOFD was formed by the citizens of Orinda and Moraga precisely because bad medical outcomes were being suffered by our residents, since the ambulance service at that time was stationed at the Walnut Creek/Lafayette border. Since the citizens formed the MOFD, with paramedics on all of our District-owned ambulances, our community has been so much safer.

Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board
Re: *Opposition to Dissolution of MOFD*
May 14, 2021
Page 2

When I served as the Mayor and as a Councilmember for the City of Orinda, I had the honor of serving as the Council Liaison to the MOFD. I witnessed firsthand the dedication and professionalism of our MOFD firefighters and district staff. I studied the Municipal Service Review that the Local Agency Formation Commission was then undertaking. It was undeniably clear that the residents of Moraga and Orinda receive a very high level of service from our District, which, unfortunately, is not possible in many of the other fire districts in our county, who have more constrained resources.

Through its dedicated and well-trained staff, the MOFD provides unparalleled services, dealing with fuel management, fire and medical services, and we are the envy of our neighbors. It makes no sense to dissolve our local Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Thank you for your consideration, and thank you all for your service to our community.

Very truly yours,

Victoria Robinson Smith

VRS:kb
cc: Orinda City Council

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Baitx, Gregory](mailto:Baitx.Gregory); mmjex@gmail.com; stevedformofd@gmail.com; mdonnermofd@gmail.com; Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com
Cc: lfellman@earthlink.net; [Winnacker, David](#); [Info](#)
Subject: consideration of dissolution of MOFD and merger of MOFD into Contra Costa County fire district and control
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 4:12:49 PM

To the Board of the Moraga Orinda Fire District:

We have been informed that the MOFD Board of Directors is undertaking discussion and activities to dissolve MOFD and merge it into the Contra Costa County fire district. We have seen no evidence of any benefit to the residents of MOFD. We are expressing our complete OPPOSITION to your actions on this matter. **We expect that you will uphold your fiduciary duty as directors to act in the best interests of MOFD and its residents.**

Sincerely yours,

Robert Maurer and Lesli Fellman

Robert Maurer

CEO

TIGAR Health

[REDACTED]

Moraga, Ca. 94556

U. S. A.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [Kim McAtee](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: URGENT: DO NOT CONSOLIDATE MOFD WITH CONFIRE
Date: Friday, May 14, 2021 11:15:22 PM

To the Board of Directors:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed consolidation with ConFire. I have been a resident of Moraga since the late 1960's and one of the reasons I returned here to raise my family after college was because of the excellent public schools and the safety and health of the community due in large part to our excellent local fire department. The money that we pay for fire services in our community needs to stay in our community. Our property values are strong in part because of the services that are provided by our Town as well as those provided by our independent Fire Dept.

I represent three voters in my household and we all agree this is a very bad decision for the community. **VOTE NO ON CONSOLIDATION WITH CONFIRE!**
Kim

Kim McAtee, Realtor

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



From: [Marcia Fisherkeller](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: No to dissolution of MOFD
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 8:04:17 AM

I strongly protest the union backed move to dissolve the MOFD. It is unwarranted and appears to be a grab for money. The media must be apprised of this action.

Sincerely ,
Marcia Fisherkeller
Moraga resident

Sent from my iPad

From: [Nicole Valli Hayes](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 9:22:27 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

We feel that having Orinda and Moraga be their own independent fire department, separate from Contra Costa County is critical for the safety of residents in Orinda and Moraga. They know our neighborhoods, streets, fire roads, etc.

Please remain a separate entity.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nicole & Jason Hayes

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Richard Marchick](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Stop the proposed merger with the Contra Costa Fire Department
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 11:50:43 AM

Dear Board members of the Orinda Moraga Fire District,

My wife and I have been residents of Orinda, since 1973. We raised our children here.

My wife and I want to inform you of our absolute opposition to the proposed merger of the Moraga Orinda Fire Department with the Contra Costa Fire Department.

Richard and Gloria Marchick

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA 94563

Richard Marchick

[REDACTED]

From: [Barbara Rogan](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Stop the proposed merger with Contra Costa County Fire Department
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:34:22 PM

Dear Board Members of the Moraga Orinda Fire District,

My husband and I have lived in Orinda since 2002. We are absolutely against any merger of the Moraga Orinda Fire Department with the Contra Costa Fire Department. This would not be beneficial to anyone living in Orinda or Moraga.

Thank you.

Barbara Rogan


Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Winnacker, David](#)
To: [Steve Cohn](#)
Cc: [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: Re: re. Agenda item 9.2; Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:43:26 PM

Steve,

Thank you for contacting the fire district. Your letter is being forwarded to the MOFD board and will be included under correspondence received in an update to the board packet to be published on Tuesday.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker
Fire Chief
Moraga Orinda Fire District

On May 15, 2021, at 10:02 AM, Steve Cohn [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear MOFD Board:

It sounds like the community is universally against the idea of MOFD being dissolved with fire protection and EMS services being transferred to ConFire. But, from what I understand, the board members who asked that the idea be placed on the agenda are explaining that they simply wanted to understand what the process might be to implement the transfer of responsibilities.

My question is, why did they want to understand this? Is there a problem they are trying to solve or is it just an intellectual exercise like trying to understand how a human could live underwater without a breathing apparatus?

If MOFD was dissolved there would be no MOFD Board. Is the board just tired of existing?

If MOFD was dissolved there would be no need for the administration including the Chief, probably most of the BC's, the Fire Marshall, and the office staff. Are they tired of their jobs and want to either retire or move on?

Is it a money problem? The retirement benefits are woefully underfunded and MOFD is dedicating as much as possible to shore them up but still, there is a long way to go. However, thirty years ago the residents of the Moraga Fire Protection District voted to tax themselves up to \$2.7 million a year in a special (Fire Flow) parcel tax. MOFD has never imposed more than 20% of that amount. If the District needs an additional \$2 million, the money is there waiting to be collected.

Is it a service problem? MOFD has 6 response units. In the past year they responded to 3,000 incidents (1/3 of which were non-emergencies). That is 500 incidents per unit or 10 per week (about one every 18 hours). I don't know what the average response rate is for ConFire but this sounds pretty low. I understand that the MOFD service area is spread out so response times are not the greatest at certain points. Is the thought that there could be more stations if we were serviced by

ConFire? The last I heard, several years ago, was that ConFire wanted to reduce the number of stations, consolidating our Station 43 with their Station 16.

What is the reason that dissolving MOFD is being discussed? It can't be to lower our taxes, because our property taxes are fixed except for the parcel tax which costs the average household about 25 cents a day.

Maybe you can discuss what the reason for dissolution was being explored in the first place. Maybe there are other solutions if there is really a problem.

Sincerely,

Steve Cohn
Orinda

From: [Patti Kogan](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Stop the proposed merger with the Contra Costa Fire Department
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 1:47:50 PM

Please do not move forward with the proposed merger. It would be a disaster for Orinda residents. I have lived in Orinda since from 1973 – 1981 and 1990 to present. I moved back here for the community and that includes MOFD. Please do not allow this to happen.

Patti

Patti Kogan | [REDACTED] | Orinda, California 94563-1212 | [REDACTED]

From: [Ray Breslau](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger of MOFD with ConFire
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 2:08:11 PM

Dear Board members of the Orinda Moraga Fire District,

My wife and I want to inform you of our absolute opposition to the proposed merger of MOFD with the Contra Costa Fire Department. We have reviewed the reasoning behind the creation of the MOFD and see no reason to reverse that decision. The MOFD is an outstanding service organization that provides capabilities and functions far superior to those provided by ConFire and other similar organizations. They are a leader in setting guidelines for fire safety and wild fire mitigation which are far more stringent than neighboring fire districts. The Moraga and Orinda communities will be severely negatively affected if this merger occurs.

Please do not let the merger occur!!

Thank you.

Barbara and Ray Breslau



Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Bill Judge](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Baitx, Gregory](#); [Mofd.org](#); [Mofd.org](#); [Mofd.org](#); [Mofd.org](#); ssmith@cityoforinda.org
Subject: Opposition to Dissolution of MOFD
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 2:15:06 PM

I want you to know that my wife Joey and I are adamantly opposed to the proposed dissolution along with the merger with Con Fire. This terrible idea would result in loss of local control over vital fire protection and paramedic matters as well as how our tax dollars are spent. These are the very same reasons that an overwhelming number of Orinda and Moraga citizens voted in 1997 to form MOFD. We do not want to lose these important advantages.

Bill Judge
(former mayor of Orinda 2006)

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Elizabeth Andrews](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 3:21:02 PM

Hi,

I adamantly oppose merging with the county.

Elizabeth

From: [Mimi Wilson](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: proposed study of consolidation with ConFire
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 5:19:56 PM

President Jorgens and Members of the Board:

As one of the founding fathers of the Moraga Orinda Fire District, I urge the current board to abandon any efforts to study consolidation of MOFD with ConFire.

I served on the committee that successfully created the merger in 1997, was elected to the first board of directors, and served as President twice during the next 12 years. I understand the responsibility of a being an elected director to serve the community that elected me. Therefore I understand why to even suggest a study that might give local control of MOFD back to the County seems traitorous to most citizens of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon

As directors in those early years, our board worked to strengthen the District and to face hard decisions; as directors that's what we were elected to do; it is called fiduciary responsibility. That charge remains. Whatever the concerns the District faces today, it remains the board of directors' responsibility to lead to policy solutions within the District itself, not give that control to any other entity.

I implore you, in this era of high fire danger, do not spend time, nor energy nor resources on an *unwarranted* study, nor an *unwanted* consideration of consolidation by the vast majority of your constituents. Please act so that there is never a question of your allegiance to the citizens of Orinda, Moraga and Canyon, and to the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District which protects our very lives.

Pete Wilson

From: [Gloria Marchick](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Against merger firedepartment
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 6:26:04 PM

As a 52 year resident of Orinda I have lived under county & local control of public services. The county sheriff's coverage wasn't 1/2 as good as local police & county fire won't even be 1/4 as good.

The orinda moraga emts & firemen are far better trained than other districts.

This change is being motivated only to get better benefits for personnel & not for better service.

Sincerely,

Gloria & Dick Marchick

Spillchick on iPhone is not working.

Terry J. Murphy-Orinda

Open Letter to MOFD Board

5/10/2021

You have on your agenda for May 19th 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

P.s. I was one of the locals that worked on getting MOFD approved and still remember all the time and effort spent getting the petitions signed, stuffing envelopes, gathering support and getting out the vote. I do not intend to see all that wasted and not by people who clearly do not have the best interests of the community at heart. We have a real treasure in MOFD and should never lose it!

T.M.

From: [Linda Landau](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do not dissolve and merge MOFD into ConFire
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 10:32:26 PM

Dear MOFD Directors:

Our fire district was formed because of very poor service from ConFire. There were no paramedics in Orinda before the district was formed. Ambulances were dispatched from Concord or Walnut Creek and could take 20-30 minutes to get here. Crews often got lost, and there were deaths as a result. Our district now is one of the most advanced, proactive fire departments in the state. You have applied for grants, created the North Orinda Fuel Break, installed monitoring cameras, run a free brush-chipping service, and much more.

I believe it's imperative that the MOFD remain as it is, under local control. If it merges with ConFire, the county Board of Supervisors will be making the decisions on how our tax dollars are spent and what services we receive. Orinda has a much higher fire risk and fewer evacuation routes than much of the rest of the county. Our roads are old, narrow, winding and sometimes confusing. We need medical and fire services that know our community well and respond quickly. They are truly life savers.

We need you. Please reject the proposal to dissolve and consolidate. Thank you.

Linda Landau
[REDACTED]
Orinda

From: [Monica Oakley](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Keep MOFD
Date: Saturday, May 15, 2021 10:32:57 PM

To the MOFD Board:

I live in Orinda and I strongly disagree with the idea of dissolving MOFD and letting it become part of ConFire. What a huge mistake it would be for our community if this were to happen. I believe it is irresponsible for anyone on the MOFD board to suggest such a thing. Please do not vote to dissolve MOFD. Thank you.

Monica Oakley

From: [Ellen](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Please do not allow MOFD to merge with ConFire.
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 7:53:33 AM

Please do not allow MOFD to merge with ConFire.

I believe it's imperative that the MOFD remain as it is, under local control. If it merges with ConFire, the county Board of Supervisors will be making the decisions on how our tax dollars are spent and what services we receive.

Orinda has a much higher fire risk and fewer evacuation routes than much of the rest of the county.

Our roads are old, narrow, winding and sometimes confusing. We need medical and fire services that know our community well and respond quickly. They are truly life savers.

Thank you.

Ellen Griffith



From: [June Yee](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: SAVE MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 8:25:24 AM

I am writing to express my objection to the consideration of consolidating MOFD with ConFire. MOFD understands our terrain, network of roads, vegetation, and has developed approaches to fire suppression, firefighting and paramedics service that are specific to Orinda and Moraga. Please retain MOFD. Our tax dollars are working towards that goal. I urge you to not consider merging MOFD with ConFire.

Thank you,
June Yee
Orinda Resident

From: [Barbara Lyss](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:00:57 AM

Orinda residents need to keep local control and local services of our fire district! I am against a merger with ConFire! Vote no on a merger.

Barbara Lyss




Orinda

From: [Bettina Mutter](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [daVID A ATKINS](#)
Subject: Proposed merger with Con Fire
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:30:24 AM

Hello,

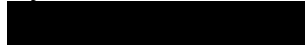
We are homeowners in Orinda, and we are writing to register my protest against the proposal that MOFD merge with Contra Costa County Fire. We have serious concerns that this proposed move would result in the deterioration of our fire and emergency services in the Orinda- Moraga area. Fire readiness is obviously a critically important area at this time and we need a locally controlled fire department to best serve our needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bettina Mutter and David Atkins


From: [Tyler Chan](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: I oppose dissolving MOFD and merging it into ConFire
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:42:55 AM

Tyler Chan



Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Chris Lyne](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Request for Information from MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 12:08:49 PM

MOFD Board,

My name is Chris Lyne and I live at [REDACTED], Orinda 94563.

I would like to express my concern and opposition to the proposal to dissolve MOFD and merge it with ConFire. I plan to attend the upcoming board meeting on May 19th to find out more about where the members of board sit on this important issue.

Regards,
Chris Lyne

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Corinda Barbour](#)
To: [Info; ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org)
Subject: please remain local
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:11:49 PM

Over the years, we have had occasion to call 911 and also to interact with the MOFD on issues related to fire abatement. Always, the response and the advice have been professional, effective, and efficient. Our area is geographically complicated and vulnerable. I appreciate the pro active attitude and commitment of the MOFD to keep the community safe, engaged in emergency situation procedures, up to date, and on the ready. I applaud the frequent drive arounds by fire trucks and the willingness to speak to and to advise residents about reducing potentially dangerous fire situations. Losing the MOFD would be a terrible loss and undermine the work that has been done to create a safer Moraga and a safer Orinda. Please stay!

Sincerely,
Corinda M Barbour



Orinda, CA 94563

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Letter to MOFD Directors
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:45:20 PM

May 16, 2021

Dear MOFD Directors Jex, Danziger, Jorgens, Donner, and Baitx,

As an over forty-year resident of Moraga, I am stunned by the specific request of Director Baitx, without providing any rationale and following a public comment by Vincent Wells. President of Local 1230, during your March meeting. Director Baitx exhibited absolute insensitivity to the long and recorded history of both Moraga and Orinda by ignoring the strong, voter-documented preference for an independent, locally-controlled fire district.

Elected officials owe the district and its citizens what is commonly known as the "duty of loyalty" - to make all decisions in the best interest of the district and to refrain from anything resembling self-dealing. That is what we expect from those for whom we vote and if they are unable to exhibit that they should not seek office.

The barrage of public outrage evidenced in emails, letters, editorial page submissions, as well as public comment and strong Council action during the recent Moraga Town Council meeting once again illustrate the enormous gratitude and respect our residents have for the innovative, highly-responsive, highly-skilled and courteous services we receive from the men and women of MOFD- services that often save lives and property. We citizens have over and over again passed tax funding for MOFD; we volunteer our time and talent to support MOFD whether through Firewise clusters, the new Ambassadors who educate about fire prevention for our homes, service on the Rescue 1 Board, local community appreciation events like the Sanders Ranch community held after MOFD protected homes from a hillside wildfire; or in multiple other ways. Our citizens donate to Rescue 1 enabling this decades old, citizen-formed foundation to invest in cutting edge equipment and training for MOFD.

In recent years, under the outstanding leadership of Chief Dave Winnacker and with the active engagement of many, many MOFD staff, our two communities have benefited from some of the most innovative new technologies, making us a model for other districts who can benefit from MOFD-tested innovations. This is a locally-controlled district in which we all have enormous pride.

While I understand from several people, who have heard directly from Director Baitx, that he will ask or has asked that this item be pulled from the agenda, I sincerely request that it not be pulled. I believe you have an obligation to formally record the many, many comments against consolidating MOFD into ConFire so that the long history of strong community desire for an independent fire district once again is part of the official record, hopefully dissuading another such attempt in the years to come. Secondly, pulling it means that all the time and effort the Chief has invested in researching and preparing the report that Director Baitx requested will be completely wasted right at the time in the year when MOFD is at its



busiest with the opening of wildfire season. We citizens prefer prioritizing public safety.

Sincerely,

Maridel Moulton



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:47:06 PM

I am totally opposed to the extinction of MOFD and replacing it with Contra Costa Fire. The system works well now, don't mess with it.

Richard Rissel
Orinda Resident

From: [Shannon Pedroni](#)
To: [Sheri Smith](#); [Info](#)
Cc: [Ryan Pedroni](#)
Subject: MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 1:58:02 PM

Dear Friends,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly believe it's imperative that the MOFD remain as it is, under local control. If it were to merge with ConFire, it will put the lives of Orinda and Moraga residents at risk. Orinda has a much higher fire risk and fewer evacuation routes than much of the rest of the county and we need the local support that MOFD provides. Our roads are old, narrow, winding and sometimes confusing. We need medical and fire services that know our community well and respond quickly. They are truly life savers.

Please keep MOFD local and cease considerations of merging with ConFire.

Thank you,

Shannon & Ryan Pedroni
Orinda Residents



From: [Michael Mallernee](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Please do not dissolve MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 2:59:51 PM

Hi, my family moved to Orinda a few years ago as a place to raise our young son. One of our biggest concerns is fire safety. It is a significant investment/cost to live in this community and our safety is paramount to us staying here long term. With that I mind, I am writing to let you know I will not be happy with dissolving MOFD and blending emergency services with Contra Costa. MOFD know our community the best and how to keep us safe.

Thanks,
Mike Mallernee

From: [MARGARET SAWYER](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do not merge
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:34:35 PM

Heartfelt thanks for your service dear firefighters,
I believe it's imperative that the MOFD remain as it is, under local control.

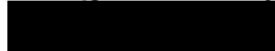
Orinda has a much higher fire risk and fewer evacuation routes than much of the rest of the county. Our roads are old, narrow, winding and sometimes confusing.

We need medical and fire services that know our community well and respond quickly.

You truly are life savers.

Thank you for your attention,

Margaret Sawyer



Orinda

From: [Susan MacCharles Anacker](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Item 9.2 ConFire Consolidation
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 3:49:45 PM

Dear MOFD Board members of the Moraga Orinda Fire District:

My family and I have been residents of Orinda since 1978 and our children have been raised here.

We remember when MOFD was formed by separating from Con Fire. It was the best decision made, and emergency services significantly improved. I still remember in 2006 when the MOFD ambulance came almost within minutes to the Orinda Senior Center to take my 102 year old mother to John Muir Hospital. I am certain they saved her life.

MOFD has also been on the cutting edge of wildfire protection activities, including securing state and local grants. We need their continued support for our high fire risk area.

My husband and I are OPPOSED to the proposed merger of the Moraga Orinda Fire Department with the Contra Costa Fire Department.

Thank you for your consideration.

Susan and Andres Anacker,MD


Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Molly Johnson](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:01:03 PM

Please. Do not allow our department to be merged with ConFire. I foresee alarming results in our communities fire protection services.

Sincerely,
Molly Johnson. Orinda resident since 2010

From: [Vicki Saputo](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Keep the MOFD
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:12:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

It's been brought to my attention that the MOFD may not continue and could be transferred to Con Fire. This is disturbing and scary as an Orinda resident living in an area close to my neighbors and to the beautiful hills and trees of Orinda that are fire dangers. I definitely want the MOFD to continue and not be absorbed by Con Fire.

The dissolution of MOFD would also have fire and ambulance services absorbed by the county as it was decades ago which was a driving reason for the formation of our independent MOFD. Emergency response times were too long for us with Con Fire at the time. We do not want to lose our exceptional ambulance services we have today with MOFD.

It is my desire that MOFD continue to protect Orinda.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Vicki Saputo

From: [Patricia P Hudson](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Bill Hudson](#)
Subject: SAVE OUR MOFD!
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:23:04 PM

Dear MOFD Chair Jorgens and Board Directors:

As Orinda residents for almost 40 years and members of the Sleepy Hollow Firewise Committee, we are writing you to STRONGLY OPPOSE the consolidation of Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) into the Costa County Fire Protection District (ConFire). In addition, we strongly oppose MOFD spending resources to study a process for dissolving MOFD and consolidating with ConFire. If MOFD has extra resources for such a study, they should continue to be used for wildfire fuel mitigation, fire safety, and emergency response services.

We have not heard a single good argument for dissolving MOFD, and we have heard several excellent reasons for staying the current course:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->1.<!--[endif]-->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. ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->2.<!--[endif]-->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. ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->3.<!--[endif]-->Should our fire district dissolve and merge, the citizens of Orinda and Moraga will lose the following:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]-->Improved critical response times for paramedic and fire suppression services that are provided by our district;

<!--[if !supportLists]-->b. <!--[endif]-->Local control over decisions about fire-fighting and paramedic service priorities and programs (for example, fire breaks, neighborhood chipping, and Firewise); ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->c. <!--[endif]-->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; ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->d. <!--[endif]-->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; ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->e. <!--[endif]-->The local control over all tax dollars that currently fund our fire district;

<!--[if !supportLists]-->f. <!--[endif]-->Extensive volunteer and community efforts (such as Firewise Councils, CERT, Rescue 1 ^[1]_[SEP]Foundation) that support our local fire district; and ^[1]_[SEP]

<!--[if !supportLists]-->g. <!--[endif]-->Innovative and proactive approaches to fire protection, paramedic services, and emergency evacuation preparedness.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->4.<!--[endif]-->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.

Collaboration and hard work in our neighborhood, aided mightily by the free chipper program, resulted in our being granted Firewise Certification for 2019 and 2020. We are now starting to feel the self-empowerment of hardening our homes. Yet, just as we know this is not a one-and-done effort and are determined to win Firewise Certification for 2021, we are well aware that our homes lie right in the path of a potential wildfire starting in Briones Park and being blown by the hot, dry winds of late summer right through our part of Orinda.

We are extremely grateful to MOFD for making the North Orinda Fuel Break a reality. We deeply appreciate that MOFD understands our unique terrain, labyrinth of roads, dense vegetation, open space, commercial areas, and high fire risk areas. We are thankful that MOFD is working in partnership with Orinda and Moraga citizens to develop approaches to fire suppression, firefighting, and paramedics service that are specific to Orinda and Moraga. We love the free chipper program! We see no evidence of ConFire taking any such initiatives in their service areas. We do not want to lose the care and commitment that MOFD provides us. SAVE OUR MOFD!

Of course, we hope a wildfire never engulfs our wonderful Sleepy Hollow neighborhood or our vibrant Orinda/Moraga community. With the dedicated leadership of MOFD, we trust we will never have to face the tragedy of Coffey Park or Paradise. Please put a quick end to the foolish talk of dissolving MOFD and get back to the urgent discussion of keeping Orinda and Moraga safe from wildfire and other emergencies.

Respectfully,

Bill and Pat Hudson

From: [Barbara Garman](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:44:51 PM

As a long term citizen of Orinda, I am strongly opposed to the dissolution of MOFD and its proposed merge with ConFire. It's a very bad idea.

Barbara Garman

From: [Info](#)
To: [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: Consolidation
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 4:47:21 PM

Message submitted from the <Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CA> website.

Site Visitor Name: Marty Aufhauser
Site Visitor Email: [REDACTED]

I am a 50-year-plus resident, active in The Town from time to time. I have tried to educate myself to the pros and cons of consolidation. I am NOT in favor. I share this with you because I have also written to the MOFD board members (as well as Town council members and the Town Manager). -- Thank you for your service to the District!

From: [Erin Winters](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Dissolving MOFD and Merging into the County Fire District
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:18:09 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I strongly oppose the proposed dissolution of MOFD. I am a lifelong Orinda resident and one of the many reasons I returned to raise my children here was the community's local-focus and extensive participation in civic issues, such as its creation of MOFD. The District is critical to our community's health and safety. Our tax dollars should remain within the district especially in light of a historic drought and high-risk fire environment.

Thank you for your consideration.

Erin Winters



Orinda

From: [Derek Southern](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do not consider merging with ConFire
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 9:37:54 PM

As voting citizens of Orinda we believe that the proposal from MOFD to merge with ConFire is an “unjustifiable move that would cede local control, siphon local tax dollars, and consign Moraga and Orinda to less-responsive service”.

We need more fire reduction measures, not less, as well as continued rapid responses to fire and health emergencies.

It’s also time to have independent citizens on the MOFD Board rather than union members, their obvious conflicts of interest should not permit them to hold such positions.

Sincerely

Pauline and Derek Southern




Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Nancy Crevin](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD MERGER
Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021 11:15:34 PM

I am **not** in favor of merging MOFD with confire.

Please vote to keep us under local control

Nancy Crevin

Nancy Crevin


From: [Laina Austin](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MERGING MOFD INTO THE COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT IS BAD FOR MORAGA AND ORINDA CITIZENS
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:16:06 AM

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.

Thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Sarah Siegel](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: keeping MOFD
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:05:49 AM

Hello

Living on a hill in Orinda with narrow, twisty, wooded streets, I'm very aware of the fire danger here. That is why I believe it's very important to have a fire department that really knows our area & reaches out to our community like our MOFD does.

They are a special part of Orinda, and I definitely want them to remain in control of here.

Thank you, Sarah Siegel

From: [Nat Taylor](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger Proposal
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:26:20 AM

MOFD ought not decide to merge with Con Fire. That would be an unmitigated disaster for residents and tax payers of Orinda and Moraga. What craziness – or is it greed and selfishness – that has prompted this proposal from Director Baitix? You should resign from this Board as your thinking, as reflected in this proposal, is completely antithetical to the best interests of the District and the people it serves.

I urge the Board to quickly and defiantly send this proposal to the junk heap of bad ideas and get on with the real job of protecting us from fires and responding efficiently to emergency health needs.

Nathaniel Taylor

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Virus-free. www.avg.com

From: [Tracy Apple](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Another citizen AGAINST dissolving our Fire District!!!!
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 9:57:56 AM

No way José!!!!!!

Tracy Apple


Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am writing you today to voice my objection to the proposal to consolidate MOFD into Con-Fire. I am also perplexed as to why Board members who were elected by the citizens of Orinda and Moraga to serve the district by managing our tax dollars to optimize services within the district, would think that dissolution of that district would be considered within the limits of its stewardship??

From 1997 to present, the reasons as to why the communities of Orinda and Moraga approved by ballot initiative to develop a fire-flow tax to fund MOFD, are as valid if not more valid today.

First, it was to improve ambulance response times. Since the formation of MOFD, response times have improved. This is critical for an area that houses a large senior citizen population. Con-Fire subcontracts its ambulance services to AMR through a public/private alliance. A contract that must be re-negotiated every 5 years, leaving the county vulnerable if a contract fails, leaving the county scrambling to find alternative ambulance services. MOFD funds its own ambulance service with paramedics, not just EMTs. Better skills, faster response times and providing public service calls (i.e.: helping to lift someone up off the floor to help a caregiver) are still important reasons to keep MOFD under local control.

Second, citizens gained more control over how their tax payor dollars would be spent. This would not be the case with Con-Fire, in which control would be directed by the County Board of Supervisors. Whom have many other commitments to manage in addition to the County Fire District. Keeping MOFD under local control is ESPECIALLY important now as climate change has greatly increased the risk of fire in our area. Moraga and Orinda are listed as a severe fire risk area. Many of us have had our home insurance policies cancelled by major carriers this last year. My experience with "consolidations" is that somewhere along the line, there is a reduction in capital, labor, service or all of the above. We cannot afford that risk!

Let's consider the recent accomplishments by our Fire Chief Steve Winnacker. Since Chief Winnacker has led the department, he has managed to implement strategic and innovative fire prevention and preparedness programs, many funded by securing grants. (It takes a special talent to write and apply for grants, and we have been awarded quite a few.). Some of these accomplishments include:

1. Use of controlled burns and fuel brakes in surrounding open spaces within the district.
2. Establishment and enforcement of fire codes for homes and businesses within the district to protect and better defend these structures.
3. Promotion of "Fire wise Communities" to advocate and cooperate with MOFD and neighborhoods in the implementation of creating and maintaining defensible spaces.
4. Development of the popular "chipper program" to encourage compliance and reduce the disposal burdens of homeowners who are making the prescribed modifications to their homes.

5. Development of strategic evacuation plans in conjunction with an active CERT program, using innovative technologies for early warning systems and mitigation with use of automated sprinkler systems.
6. Building strong partnerships with neighboring fire districts, PG&E, EBRPD, EBMUD and other critical stakeholders to increase cooperation and communication with wildfire plans of action.

So, I am left to wonder what the motivation is that would lead MOFD Board Members would entertain such an idea as to dissolve a self-funded, wildly popular Fire District?? Especially at a time when there is a critical need??

Could it be money?

1. Salaries for Con-Fire and MOFD staff are negotiated by the same union, local 1230.
2. Funding is assured through the fire-flow tax which is equitable in its assessment based on a properties fire risk.
3. Measure R was also just passed in Orinda allocating more funding to the district for wildfire mitigation efforts.

Could it be a few disgruntled residents complaining about the cost of complying with the new fire codes and fear of losing their hedges and trees?

1. Would MOFD be willing to dissolve for the few who put "self" over the collective safety and security of their neighbors?

Could it be a clash of personalities or politics?

1. If so, I hope that the MOFD Board will be transparent and be prepared to answer with honesty and integrity the reasons for entertaining a proposal to dissolve our Special Fire District.

Our family will be paying close attention to the Board meeting on Wednesday evening May 19th. It is my hope that you will carefully consider the positions of the Moraga and Orinda City Council who have made public their disapproval and the voices of citizens like me who are not only against the consolidation but feel that the Board would be acting in an "overreach" of their authority to consider dissolution without the votes of the people who created the district in the first place.

Thank you for your attention.

Donna Johnke

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA 94563

[REDACTED]

From: [MICHAEL CHINN](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Strongly Oppose Dissolving MOFD and merging it into ConFire.
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 11:38:47 AM

I want to register my opposition to dissolving MOFD and merging it into ConFire.

Michael Chinn

From: [Christine Lee](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment for 5/19 meeting item on dissolving MOFD and merging into County Fire District
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 11:56:33 AM

I am writing in opposition to the proposal to merge MOFD into the county fire department:

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.

Thank you for taking my comments into consideration.

All best, Christine Lee (Orinda resident)

From: [Cheryl Wingo](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD and CCCFD
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:03:38 PM

We are writing to say that we are very opposed to having the MOFD be absorbed by the Contra Costa County Fire Department. Our neighborhood is in a high-fire-danger area and we rely on the excellent services of our local fire department. We feel that the county fire department could not respond to us in a timely manner during an emergency. Please add us to those who say NO!

Cheryl and John Wingo

[REDACTED]

Orinda

From: [Pam Rhodes](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do Not dissolve MOFD and merge with the county!!!!
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:16:56 PM

I am writing to you because I am very worried about the proposal to dissolve MOFD and merge with the county fire district. I have lived in Orinda for 35 years and see clearly the effects of global warming and the risk we live with in our town. This is the LAST time to be talking about removing our dedicated service providers and going with a county concern. I will fight this tooth and nail if there is any traction on this proposal. Hopefully it is just a discussion and it will be clear from Orinda and Moraga residents that it is absolutely not acceptable to merge with the county.

Thank you.

Pamela Rhodes

[REDACTED]

Orinda, Ca

[REDACTED]

From: [Dennis Rowland](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: cityclerk@cityoforinda.org
Subject: MOFD Board
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:24:32 PM

March 17, 2021

To: The Orinda-Moraga Fire District Board
Cc: The Orinda City Council

We are shocked and dismayed that Greg Batix, an elected Director of MOFD, would propose at the urging of his union president the merger of MOFD with Confire. It appears that the primary beneficiary of such a merger would be members of the firefighters union at the cost of lost local control and significantly reduced safety and services to our community.

A merger would undo years of effort building one of the highest performing, top ranked, efficient, affective and innovative districts in the state. The loss of local control to address the unique perils and needs of Orinda and Moraga with our proximity to wildlands and unique terrain would put our safety and property at increased risk. The innovative fire prevention and mitigation programs we enjoy, the excellent response times, evacuation preparations are just a few things that the proposed merger would endanger.

We urge the MOFD board to reject Director Batix study proposal and the Orinda City Council to add its strenuous objection to his actions.

Sincerely,

Dennis & Maria Rowland
[REDACTED], Orinda

From: [Jerry Ireland](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Fwd: Opposed To MOFD Joining County Fire
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 12:59:59 PM

As Orinda residents since 1979, we have come to rely upon the Orinda and then the Moraga Orinda Fire District. We have enjoyed excellent, fast response. The county wishing to tap into our financial resources does not strike me as an adequate rationale for this proposed union with the county. The work being undertaken by MOFD to lessen our fire vulnerability is too important to be delegated to the county. Thank you for listening.

Jerry Ireland



Orinda, CA. 94563

From: [Audrone Willeke](#)
To: [Info; ssmith@cityoforinda.org](mailto:ssmith@cityoforinda.org)
Subject: Keep our MOFD as is; do not merge
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:00:51 PM

Dear Decision Makers,
Why fix something that is not broken? Please keep our MOFD as it is; do not merge it with the county.

Thank you,
Audrone Willeke

Audrone and Klaus Willeke

[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA 94563

[REDACTED]

From: [Robert Cooper](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Dissolution of MOFD
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 3:54:34 PM

I strongly oppose the proposed dissolution of the MOFD.

Robert Cooper



Orinda

From: [Aliza Metzner](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: I oppose dissolution of MOFD and merge with CONFire
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 4:04:40 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I vehemently oppose dissolving the distinct fire protection entity of MOFD.

The local focus and management of MOFD as well as personal contact with Chief Winnacker and staff is key to fire safety.

I joined Firewise and became a block captain because of the support I could and have received from MOFD.

I am now a volunteer in the MOFD Fire Safety Assessment Ambassador program. The zoom training and especially the hands on training with Chief Winnacker and Marshall Issacs was invaluable.

It was area, terrain and condition specific and conducted with a group of neighbors. A community of concerned local citizens taking action to harden our community has been created.

Honestly, I would not have endeavored to start a Firewise neighborhood nor undertaken the FAC-A training, much less considered doing home fire safety inspections if all were not in my own neighborhood of Orinda with my own neighbors.

Keeping MOFD under local control assures shorter response times for emergencies and fires. When seconds can make the difference between life or death or the ability to put out a wildfire, it is imperative that MOFD maintain it's individuality.

Further, residents are more likely to comply with ordinances and suggestions when made by our local fire department. I believe that most homeowners know the Chief and Fire Marshall's names and are on a friendly basis with them. We know that MOFD has our best interests and safety in mind. MOFD is respected and trusted. CONfire is not.

Orinda is a small place. I fear our specific needs of living in a high wildfire risk area would be "folded in" - or under the needs of other areas under CONfire's purview.

Orinda's police department is quick to respond, knows the character of Orinda and knows how to deal with local crime. However, if police are needed on the weekend, when the county Sheriff's Department is on duty, the experience is entirely different. It is hard to get an answer and response times are too long. I do not want to see the same denigration of services should Orinda become the "little guy", compared to larger cities served by CONfire.

Respectfully,
Aliza Metzner



Orinda, CA
May 13, 2021

MAY 17 2021

Orinda Moraga Fire Dept
1280 Moraga Way
Moraga, CA 94554

Dear Friends at our Fire Department,
Please do not leave us even though CCC Fire Dept
provided good service.

Your quick responses have been experienced and
respected for years and we have depended on you
to serve our Community.

For our family, we have lived in Orinda for 50 years -
in Sluspy Hollow. I now live in Orinda Woods and our
son and family live in the Sluspy Hollow home. Because
of your urgent response, you saved my husband's life,
getting him to John Muir Hospital in record time. After
an urgent 5-way heart bypass, he survived for 12 years.
These 12 years of life was so much of your special gift to
all of us!

A mate of a past painful experience: The Oakland Hills
fire took one of yours and our (and Orinda's) dear friends
as they were assisting residents leaving the fire where
26 were lost.

On the bright side, your community support and time
have been given to us and our children, a learning and more
"learning and furthering of our respect" for "our firemen"!

However, it is your quick and urgent responses we
have always depended upon and are so grateful for!
We hope it can continue!

Sincerely,

The Davis Family of [redacted]
and [redacted]

Marilynn Davis

CC: Amy Worth,
Mayor of Orinda

From: [Carol Alvord](#)
To: [Carol Alvord](#)
Cc: [Info](#)
Subject: Neighbors: If you want to KEEP OUR FIRE DEPARTMENT (MOFD) -- or not -- PLEASE read info below & either SEND EMAIL BEFORE this Wed., AND/OR ATTEND zoom MOFD Board meeting
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 5:08:51 PM
Attachments: [Chief Winnacker's description of process involved - this is NOT his recommendation.pdf](#)
[Info Email Received via Orinda Citizens Group.pdf](#)

TO MOFD BOARD: the following email has been sent by me to our Orinda Firewise USA neighborhood comprised of over 92 households:

The upcoming Wednesday May 19th zoom Board Meeting has an agenda item to discuss DISSOLVING MOFD and becoming part of Contra Costa County Con Fire.

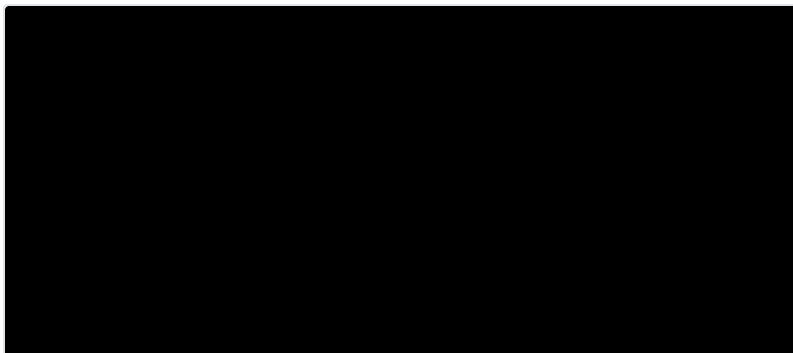
This **idea** for consolidation **was put forward** at the March MOFD board meeting **by** Vince Wells, the Local 1231 **president of the firefighters union**. Greg Baitx, MOFD board member **and East County firefighter** put it on the agenda for May 19th zoom Board Meeting. Con Fire provides fire and ambulance services to most of Contra Costa County except MOFD, San Ramon, East County and Hercules.

I believe it's important to understand both "pros & cons" of issues, but I've read about 2 hours worth of material & can find no "pro" discussion for dissolving our MOFD (**other than** it was put forward as an agenda item by the president of the firefighters union & put on the agenda by an MOFD board member who I understand is an East County Firefighter).

I'm attaching an email that lists a group's opinions re why NOT to dissolve MOFD. Contained in that are links to the zoom Board meeting. To **EMAIL** the Board ahead of the meeting, send to info@mofd.org

You can also read the info in the link below re "Moraga-Orinda Fire Exploring Complete Dissolution" below. It also is AGAINST dissolving MOFD.

[Moraga-Orinda Fire Exploring Complete Dissolution at Behest of Union-Backed Director \(smartmoraga.com\)](#)



Moraga-Orinda Fire Exploring Complete
Dissolution at Behest of Union-Bac...

Unjustifiable Move Would Cede Local Control, Siphon Local Tax Dollars, and Consign Moraga and Orinda to Less-Res...

The MOFD Board **has the authority to do this** (NOT Orinda or Moraga City Councils -- although they've both written letters opposing dissolution). Therefore, it's very important that the MOFD Board hear from us.

I'm attaching the process to dissolve MOFD as written by Chief Winnacker for the upcoming 5/18/21 board meeting. He is the person who has to provide the "how to". This is NOT an opinion by him -- it is only his job requirement to describe the process which would be pursued. The cost for even pursuing further information on the "how to" is expensive as outlined in Chief Winnacker's required response to the agenda item.

I believe as a FireWise USA neighborhood in Orinda that we've made **tremendous** progress under the leadership of Chief Winnacker and our terrific MOFD. It would take **compelling** information for me to even consider supporting the dissolution of MOFD!



Moraga-Orinda Fire District

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: David Winnacker, Fire Chief

DATE: May 19, 2021

SUBJECT: Item 9.2 – Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District

BACKGROUND

At the April 2021 MOFD Board meeting, a member of the board requested a future agenda item to discuss the potential financial impact if the District were to be consolidated with Contra Costa Fire Protection District. The answer to this question is complex and requires further study to present a comprehensive and vetted answer.

CURRENT CONSOLIDATION EFFORTS

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (a dependent special district) is currently in the progress of studying the annexation of East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (an independent special district) and Rodeo-Hercules Fire Protection District (an independent special district).

In these cases, consolidation follows a four phase process:

Phase 1- high level financial study to determine general feasibility. This is performed by a consultant at a cost of less than \$10k and takes 30 to 60 days. This step is not required, however it is the primary mechanism to determine general feasibility.

Phase 2- detailed study to confirm and develop the general findings of Phase 1. This is performed by a consultant at an estimated cost of \$50-60k and can take up to six months. This step is not required, however it largely informs the decision to move forward with a LAFCO application.

Phase 3- Contra Costa County and the special district pass resolutions of application referring the issue to the Local Agency Formation commission (LAFCO). Once referred, the topic is the subject of public hearings and other steps which can take six months to a year to complete. If approved by LAFCO, the special district is annexed into ConFire.

Phase 4- following annexation, the former special district board continues to meet to complete the transfer of assets and other administrative functions. When complete, the board dissolves and the annexation process is complete. This can take up to a year or more depending on the complexity of outstanding issues.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) No action required; Informational purposes only

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Written Public Comments Received as of 5/12/2021 at 12:00 P.M.

The chief WAS ASKED TO provide the process TO CONSOLIDATE with CCC. This is NOT his recommendation.

This will be presented at the 5/19/21 7pm OPEN SESSION (via zoom) of MOFD Board meeting.

As of 5/12/21 at noon, there were 126 emails opposing dissolution 9.2

Where did the Consolidation Idea Start?

- Consolidation idea initiated by Vince Wells, the Local 1231 Union President, in the March MOFD Board meeting.
- Greg Baitx, MOFD board member, supports the idea and added the topic to the May 19, 2021 MOFD Board Agenda.
 - ConFire (Contra Costa County Fire) provides fire and ambulance services to most of Contra Costa County (except MOFD, San Ramon, East County and Hercules)

Issues with Consolidation

- No Local Fire Chief
 - Leading Technical advancements in:
 - Fire detection
 - Quantification of fuel loads by geography to prioritize reduction efforts
 - Automate inspection process
 - Support FireWise formations
 - Train Community Volunteers about Fire Code requirements
 - Lobby state officials for more grants
 - Lobby state insurance companies to recognize fire prevention efforts
- No Local Fire Marshall
 - Secure significant grant funding for MOFD
 - Enforce stiff fire code
- Less Grant money - MOFD has a great reputation of efficiently designing and operating projects
- No control over Quantity or Quality of services or response times, County Board of Supervisors will be responsible for allocation of resources within the county. This is a major reason for separating from the county in the first place.

- Potential for Moraga Fire Flow Tax to be increased by County instead of local Board Members
- Less fire code enforcement (see Lafayette)
- Ambulance write-off for local residents eliminated. ConFire does not write-off ambulance charges that exceed insurance coverage for residents.
- Wages and benefits will be determined by County Board of Supervisors. They approved a new 4 year contract with 5% per year salary increases in June 2020, Confire was already at top end of salary scale in bay area.
- ConFire does not have a free chipper program

MOFD was formed by:

- Approval of both the Orinda City Council and The Moraga Town Council
- Approval of the citizens of each town
- Approval of a fire flow tax increase to fund construction.

To dissolve MOFD it would require:

- Commission a high-level study of the pros and cons of consolidation
- Commission a detailed Study of the pros and cons of consolidation and “savings”
- MOFD Board and County Board of Supervisors vote to approve consolidation
- LAFCO holds public hearings and goes through analysis of consolidation.
- MOFD Board dissolved and Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors overseas entire Contra Costa County Fire system.

GET INVOLVED:

Sent your opinion to your elected representatives and join the MOFD board meeting on Wednesday May 19, 2021 at 7PM.

- The public portion of the May 19th MOFD Board meeting (held using Zoom links available at 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, is welcome and encouraged. Let your friends and neighbors know about this important issue.**
- *See the links below for contact information.*
- To write the MOFD board, [click here](#)
-
- To write the Moraga Town Council, [click here](#) and look for the "email the entire town council" link near the bottom of the page
-
- To write the Orinda City Council, [click here](#) and look for the link to "email all five council members" about 2/3 down the page

Informative article below

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

From: [Jeffrey Rissman](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Merging MOFD with Con Fire
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 5:42:51 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am a homeowner in Moraga. I pay property taxes to support the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD).

I am writing to express my opposition to any proposal that would merge MOFD with Con Fire. I oppose any plan that cedes local control over MOFD and/or that pools funding from Moraga and Orinda with funding from elsewhere.

MOFD protects my family and home. I want to make sure MOFD remains well-funded, is well-supplied with staff and equipment, and provides the best possible fire protection to Moraga and Orinda.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Rissman

From: [TheGorens](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merger of Moraga-Orinda Fire District with ConFire
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 7:19:00 PM

To members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board:

As a 57 year resident of Orinda I am writing to object to any merger of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District with ConFire.

Our home insurance bill increased 150% last year because of Orinda's unique topography, multitude of overhead high voltage wires, and urban/wildland exposure. Many homeowners in the district lost their coverage entirely.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District was formed in order to provide faster fire and ambulance response to the needs our area. Any diminution of that service may result in even higher home insurance increases.

We need to maintain the benefits that our local district provides.

Paula Goren



Orinda

From: [dianakrotz@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:dianakrotz@[REDACTED])
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Proposed dissolution of MOFD
Date: Monday, May 17, 2021 10:17:29 PM

Dear Board members,

I write to express my dismay in learning that dissolution of MOFD is being discussed as an option for our area. I cannot see any reason why this would be something to be desired. Continuing MOFD, particularly in light of the conditions under which we are living, seems to best protect our communities and the individuals who live in them. With my sincerest thanks for your service, and the “boots on the ground”,

Diana Krotz

[REDACTED]

Orinda

Sent from my iPad

From: [Laura Moran](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Dissolution of MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:37:44 AM

Dear MOFD Board,

I have been an Orinda resident for 26 years and understand that there is a proposal to dissolve the Moraga Orinda Fire Department (MOFD) and fold our fire and emergency services under the County Contra Costa Fire District umbrella. I am writing to voice my strong opposition to this idea. MOFD is locally-focused and managed with control over the tax dollars that fund our fire district and should remain that way. MOFD understands our terrain, network of roads, vegetation, open space, and commercial areas. MOFD has also developed approaches to fire suppression, firefighting, and paramedics service that are specific to Orinda and Moraga. MOFD is financially, operationally, and service-level superior to Confire and has been for years. I urge you to take this proposal off the table and leave the MOFD intact as it is today.

-

Laura Moran

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA

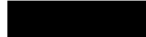
[REDACTED]

From: [Nancy Hall](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merge
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:38:17 AM

To whom it may concern:

Please, please do not merge with ConFire! I remember the old days.

Nancy Hall



Orinda

From: [Carol Brovelli](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Save our MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:47:50 AM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I have lived in Orinda for 23 years and I am genuinely concerned and upset that you are considering dismantling MOFD and folding our fire and emergency services into ConFire.

No money should be spent on studying this proposal. Moraga and Orinda have fought hard to keep local control over fire and emergency response services. **We have a very unique geography, long, winding narrow roads and border very high fire severity regions which make our community much more risky from a wildfire stand point than most of the rest of the county.**

MOFD is locally-focused, managed, and has control over the tax dollars that fund our fire district. MOFD understands our terrain, network of roads, vegetation, open space, and commercial areas. MOFD has developed approaches to fire suppression, firefighting, and paramedics service that are specific to Orinda and Moraga.

It doesn't matter if it potentially saves money. It won't save our tax dollars. We want our tax dollars going to pay for our MOFD. We love and need our MOFD. They are an integral part of our community. Since Dave Winnacker has become our Fire Chief, our fire preparedness has increased exponentially.

Sincerely,

Jim and Carol Brovelli

██████████

██████████, Orinda

From: [Rachel Duclos](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Comment for tonight's meeting 5/19/21
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:56:16 AM

Dear MOFD Board of Directors,

I am writing about tonight's discussion about potentially dissolving MOFD in order to become part of ConFire.

I am strongly opposed to dissolving MOFD as an independent organization. Orinda and Moraga need our own fire and emergency department, and voted and have paid taxes to support MOFD for many years. Our community is semi-rural, wooded, and has (unfortunately in the case of a fire) many narrow and winding roads. We need a firefighting and emergency crew that knows Orinda and Moraga. MOFD is a model modern firefighting and emergency group working hard on innovations and community relationships to prevent loss of homes and lives. All of the work that we have done to get Orinda up to speed and as safe as possible will stop if we become part of ConFire. I consider any move to begin a consolidation process to be a betrayal of fiduciary duty (ethically if not strictly legally) and a direct risk to my family's safety and my home as we lose programs and institutional knowledge of our town. I will very reluctantly commit energy, time, and money to a recall effort if necessary.

Equally important, I demand that MOFD maintain competitive salaries, benefits, and retirement plans for our firefighting and emergency crews. Coming out of several ever worsening fire seasons, with more to come, it is essential to retain the highly skilled crew and leadership that we are lucky to have. I have heard that the ConFire union was able to negotiate a 5% raise for three years. I support these raises wholeheartedly, and can't imagine any decent reason to negotiate contracts that prevent MOFD from being the first choice of employment for firefighters and emergency crew.

My best,


Rachel Duclos
Orinda Firewise Council, Executive Committee

From: [Elizabeth Sparrowe Marcil](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: ConFire Proposal
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:10:53 AM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

We are writing to voice concern regarding the proposal that MOFD be folded into ConFire. We are fairly new residents - a young working couple with a toddler who moved to Sleepy Hollow last year. We didn't fully appreciate when we moved to Orinda just how unique and serious our fire danger would be here, but we have been comforted by the incredible work that MOFD has done and continues to do in our community. We are very concerned that if folded into ConFire, our tax dollars and more importantly our very specific issues and challenges in Orinda and Moraga will get lost in the shuffle, and our families will ultimately be less safe. We value the local control and local savvy of MOFD, and we hope that you will decide not to pursue a combination with ConFire.

Thank you,
Liz & Henry Marcil
(Members of the Sleepy Hollow Neighborhood Association Leadership Team)



From: [Pamela Carr](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Discussion about dissolution of the Moraga Orinda Fire District - I am against it
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:51:08 AM

Dear Friends of the MOFD Board,

I think it would be a very unwise move to dissolve the Moraga Orinda Fire District and transfer responsibility for services to Contra Costa County. The State of California is in an extreme drought situation and the fire season is essentially all year around. Orinda and Moraga are particularly vulnerable because of the trees and vegetation that drew people to these communities in the first place and I think changing anything at this point would put all of us in even greater danger should a fire break out.

There is nothing in anything I have read to justify the dissolution of this fire district and I would prefer that the cost of creating a transfer plan and implementing it be, instead, applied to better and smarter ways of serving the residents of Orinda and Moraga.

Our street, Monte Vista Road, has worked very hard to clear brush and trees in an effort to protect ourselves and others and the staff of the MOFD have been instrumental in helping us. I believe that a local fire chief and local fire marshall are essential to an effective response team.

This idea just doesn't make sense and I hope you will heed the concerns and desires of everyone who expresses their disbelief and disagreement that such a move would be in the best interests of the people of Moraga and Orinda.

Sincerely,
Pamela Carr
Orinda

From: [Gene Kaster](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: ssmith@cityoforinda.org
Subject: MOFD proposed merger.
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:24:04 AM

When we moved to Orinda forty plus years ago it was the Santa Anna winds of Southern California that brought the wildfires to the state. About five years ago the Diablo winds began more and more to bring fire gusts to Northern California with Orinda thought to be an area in danger. Now is not the time to take away the Moraga Orinda control over fire response.

Bonnie and Gene Kaster [REDACTED]

Postscript:; We don't know why the southern winds are named after a saint and the northern ones after the devil

From: [Tyler Rust](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD Consolidation
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:27:42 AM

Dear MOFD,

I am writing to express my concern about any notion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire.

This regards agenda item H.1 “Report on Possible Moraga-Orinda Fire District Consolidation Study” for the [May 18, 2021](#) City Council meeting.

While studying the impacts of a potential consolidation of MOFD with ConFire may be appropriate, it is clear that any such consolidation would reduce the level of service that the critical fire danger areas serviced by MOFD would receive.

In North Orinda Canyon Ranch area, we have worked very closely with MOFD over the last several years on major fuel reduction efforts, something that ConFire would not support. This includes developing FireWise communities and running specific programs such as working with MOFD and their chipper program.

I am deeply concerned about fire danger in our area, and any step back from the progressive actions by MOFD in recent years would be counter-productive and dangerous to our community.

Please act to continue to support MOFD as a model fire safety program in Northern California.

Best regards,

Tyler Rust



Orinda

From: [Emily Clark](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to joining ConFire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:42:01 PM

Reaching out to voice my opposition to the proposed dissolution of MOFD/merger into ConFire.

Emily Clark Rogers

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA

From: [Brent Goetzl](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Decision on whether or not to dissolve the MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 12:55:39 PM

To whom it may concern,

I wish to express my objection to the possible dissolution of our MOFD.

To date, we have had very good fire protection with even more fire prevention efforts in the works. All of which is a direct result of the MOFD's leadership and oversight.

Please put me down as a NO on any effort to dissolve this valuable entity.

Best regards,

Brent Goetzl




From: [Ani Pierpont](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: keep it small
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:08:03 PM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

My family built our house in Sleepy Hollow in 1952, 69 years ago. I live in it today. Then, there were not many trees or bushes, it was mostly grassland. We had only one egress, that was out Miner Road as the ranchers still had cattle grazing on their land at the east end of Lombardy Lane, a short walk away. With fewer people and combustibles fires weren't a big concern.

Now, that grassland is filled with houses; trees and bushes have been planted everywhere. This, added to climate change, makes the chance of a catastrophic fire a daily worry. Plus, the Orinda area is filled with winding, narrow roads up and down steep hills making escape from any fire problematic which the MOFD is well aware of.

How is dismantling the MOFD and folding it into ConFire a help to those in Orinda? It isn't. Money should not be spent on studying this proposal. The MOFD is familiar with our specific needs and problems which are not like those of the flat lands in Contra Costa County to our east. Our fire chief Dave Winnacker has encouraged us to follow the Fire Wise system to make our area free of excess foliage, dead trees and plants. Everyone has been working diligently to reach our goal for a safer Orinda. Incorporating us into ConFire will be of no use to us. Local control is the best for Orinda's unique situation. Bigger is not better!

Sincerely,
Ann Pierpont

Orinda

From: [Beth Bilotti](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Merging Fire Depts
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:32:09 PM

We strongly oppose dissolving the Moraga Orinda Fire Department.

Rick and Beth Bilotti



Orinda

Sent from my iPad

From: [GORDON D ABBOTT](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 1:58:14 PM

Directors: Losing our Orinda Fire Protection District to Con Fire is thoughtless to say the least. I have lived in Orinda for close to 50 years and have enjoyed the excellent service the district has provided. "My Compliments to the Chief" The only winners in this case if Con Fire and the Union for obvious reasons. Two other considerations, the cost of fire insurance and possible cancellation. Your efforts on our behalf will be sincerely appreciated. A concerned resident of Orinda. GDAbbott

From: [Jane Doe](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Retain local control
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 2:40:21 PM

We request that MOFD remain independent of Contra Costa Fire. We appreciate the excellent and responsive service provided to our community by our own fire district and do NOT want to be rejoined to Contra Costa County Fire District.

Thank you.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Mahoney

From: [karyn kintzer](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Keep our MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 2:45:45 PM

As long time residents of Orinda, we STRONGLY oppose MOFD services being turned over to CONFIRE!!
MOFD has the unique experience to keep the citizens safer- they know our roads and unique terrain. It would be a colossal mistake!

Please listen to the people who live here and do not turn over the services!

Many thanks for listening and caring about the safety of the community.


Don and Karen Kintzer

From: [Barbara Kacyra](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do NOT dissolve MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:01:53 PM

We believe it is imperative that the MOFD remain as is and under local control. We believe it is imperative that medical and fire services respond quickly and efficiently to emergencies in our community. We DO NOT support the merger of MOFD into the CCC fire district.

Sincerely,
Ben and Barbara Kacyra, Orinda residents since 1969

Barbara B. Kacyra



From: [Perrin Klot](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Please Do NOT Disband the MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:13:21 PM

Dear MOFD Board

I find the recent discussions regarding disbanding the MOFD disheartening to say the least. I moved to Orinda in 1997, the same year that the MOFD was formed, since then it has become one of the highest performing departments in the district. The list of reasons that we need to keep the MOFD intact are obvious and endless. So far the only argument for dissolving the department is monetary savings but it ignores the much larger cost that we will endure without the support of the MOFD in the event of a large scale fire.

If the budget was the main concern the MOFD would have never been formed. Our main concern has always been our unique topography and having a department that is dedicated and focused on our community under the control of the community that it protects.

The MOFD under the direction of Chief Winnacker has developed programs and worked with the community to get everyone involved in and working together to make Orinda and Moraga as fire safe as possible. This is something that can only happen with a local department where the community can actually connect and work with the leaders of the department. This has put our community way ahead in terms of fire safety than most of Contra Costa under ConFire.

Perrin Klot

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] |
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: s.roadcap@
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Resident Support for MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:21:20 PM

Honorable Moraga Orinda Fire District Board members,

Thank you for discussing the proposed dissolution of Moraga Orinda Fire District. While it is always good to propose alternatives and keep an open mind, I strongly believe MOFD as-is has served Orinda very well.

Key reasons to keep MOFD:

1. **Local control** - Once you lose local control over priorities and funding, towns like Orinda rarely get proportionate service. I learned this from volunteering for many years in Orinda's schools, where local control had been ceded to Sacramento by a court case years before. As a result, OUSD priority can never quite compete with more populous areas, and its per-capita funding from property taxes funneled through Sacramento dropped to near the bottom of California's 997 school districts.
2. **Firewise partnerships** - I live in an area with a very enthusiastic and effective Firewise Committee. I understand there are over a dozen others in Orinda. We have partnered with MOFD to learn what we as homeowners can do, arranged three chipper days so far, and have another planned. Our neighborhood has learned so much, accelerated our fire prevention and emergency planning efforts, and really feel a partnership working with MOFD personnel who are dedicated to just our two towns.
3. **Ambulance response time** – My neighbors and I recently worried about the tradeoff between a 3-second delay versus the improved pedestrian/vehicle safety from traffic calming measures. How absurd it seems then, to accept minutes-long delays if we switch to ambulances based elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sandy Roadcap


25-year resident of Orinda

From: [Michael Patriarca](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment Agenda Item # 9.2
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 3:56:59 PM

Directors:

Who would have guessed that members of the board of the fire district would be the ones to prompt a firestorm of protest? Yet, during a period when community awareness of fire danger is at an unprecedented level, public employee union chicanery prompts a proposal that would degrade preparedness and eliminate local control of vital assets. But you picked the wrong community. We will not only oppose the proposal, we will oppose the continued tenure of its proponents. You were elected to serve the community, not the other way around.

Michael Patriarca
Orinda

From: [Maya McBride](#)
To: [aworth@cityoforinda.org](#); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](#); [dbiggs@cityoforinda.org](#); Inga Miller; [dfay@cityoforinda.org](#); [nkosla@cityoforinda.org](#); [Sheri Smith](#); [Info](#)
Subject: RE: dissolving MOFD into ConFire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:10:25 PM

Dear City Council, MOFD and City Manager,

Our family thinks it's a BAD IDEA to merge MOFD into Contra Costa Fire District.

We want local control and given the extreme fire dangers our community faces we think MOFD is the best organization to protect our lives and properties.

I wonder what the motives are behind Director Baitx's push to dissolve MOFD? Certainly not with our best interests in mind.

Please take the time to listen to your citizens. We think MOFD is doing a fantastic job and appreciate the work Fire Chief Winnacker has done.

Thank you,

Maya and Daniel McBride



Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Richard Nelson](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Baitx, Gregory](#); mmjix@gmail.com; stevedformofd@gmail.com; mdonnermofd@gmail.com; Craig.Jorgens@gmail.com
Subject: Item 9.2.Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:53:44 PM

To the Board of Directors of MOFD

I am writing with reference to item 9.2 on the agenda for Wednesday, 19 May 2021 to express strenuous opposition to the proposal under discussion to consolidate MOFD into ConFire. It is outrageous that the will of Orinda citizens could be over ruled by action of the MOFD Board, particularly when the issue was not raised with the voters when MOFD Board members themselves were elected. Further, the proposal is completely nonsensical from any reasonable perspective. If MOFD should proceed with this proposal, I believe that Orinda should develop an alternative plan to form a Public Safety Agency for the City and to allocate to it all property tax revenues currently paid by Orinda citizens for the support of MOFD. Those revenues could then be used to support either a new Fire District covering the City of Orinda or to hire fire protection and emergency medical services from existing agencies but under financial control of the City of Orinda.

The fact that this proposal has even been raised suggests to me that the MOFD Board of Directors is completely out of control, and that fundamental changes are needed to protect the interests of the citizens of Orinda.

Thank you for your consideration

Richard Nelson



Orinda

From: [Amy Siu](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Keep MOFD Independent!
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 4:58:53 PM

Dear Board Members

I am writing today to add my voice to the many objections to the proposal to dissolve MOFD into ConFire. I believe my neighbors have written long letters, so I will keep mine short. My husband and I believe that our community is safer and better served by keeping MOFD independent and under local control.

Thank you for your time and attention,
Amy Siu

[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA 94563
[REDACTED]

--

Amy M. Siu

Artist. Coach. Color Analyst. Felicitator.
Inspiring Clarity, Joy, Beauty and Connection

From the inside out.

amysiu@gmail.com



From: [beatrice haase](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: merger proposal
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:43:34 PM

I oppose merging with Confire.

Beatrice Haase



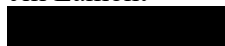
Orinda

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Jill Pedersen Lamont](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to dissolving my fire dept
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:48:31 PM

I do not want my fire and emergency services put under the County Contra Costa Fire District (aka ConFire) umbrella. This is a terrible idea that reduces my services for the same tax dollars.

Jill Lamont



Orinda

From: [Timothy Lipman](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Winnacker, David](#); [Melanie Light](#)
Subject: Topic of consolidation of MOFD with ConFire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 5:57:06 PM

Dear MOFD -

As the Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator for the Canyon Ranch Homeowners Association in North Orinda (about 50 households), I am writing to express my concern about any notion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire.

This regards the informational agenda item 9.2 "Consolidation with Contra Costa County Fire Protection District" for the May 19, 2021 MOFD board meeting.

While studying the impacts of a potential consolidation of MOFD with ConFire may be appropriate, it is clear than any such consolidation would reduce the level of service that the critical fire danger areas serviced by MOFD would receive.

In North Orinda Canyon Ranch area, we have worked very closely with MOFD over the last several years on major fuel reduction efforts, something that ConFire would not support.

This includes developing FireWise communities and running specific programs such as working with MOFD and their chipper program.


We are deeply concerned about fire danger in our area, and any step back from the progressive actions by MOFD in recent years would be counter-productive and dangerous to our community.

We ask that the County and Cities of Moraga and Orinda continue to support MOFD as a model fire safety program in Northern California.

Best regards,

Tim

Timothy Lipman
Canyon Ranch HOA ER Coordinator



From: [formanekassoc](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Jan Formanek](#)
Subject: MOFD Board: Things are Heating Up
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:19:10 PM

MOFD Board Members:

Please do not act to forward the agenda item proposing the merger of MOFD into Con Fire. This would be a great disservice to the community and the residents and neighborhoods of Orinda.

Due to MOFD leadership, in coordination with the Orinda City Council and the Orinda Firewise Council, many residents are actively engaged in removing combustible vegetation and making their homes more wildfire resilient.

Sincerely,

Rob and Jan Formanek

[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA 94563

The Earth is heating up...

[https://www.statista.com/chart/19048/global-warming-monthly-divergence/?](https://www.statista.com/chart/19048/global-warming-monthly-divergence/?utm_source=Statista+Global&utm_campaign=299aa5c94f-299aa5c94f-309176177)

[utm_source=Statista+Global&utm_campaign=299aa5c94f-](https://www.statista.com/chart/19048/global-warming-monthly-divergence/?utm_source=Statista+Global&utm_campaign=299aa5c94f-299aa5c94f-309176177)

[All InfographTicker daily COM PM KW03 2021 We COPY&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_afecd219f5-299aa5c94f-309176177](https://www.statista.com/chart/19048/global-warming-monthly-divergence/?utm_source=Statista+Global&utm_campaign=299aa5c94f-299aa5c94f-309176177)

California and all the US is heating up...

[There's a New Definition of 'Normal' for Weather - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

From: [Nanette Andrews](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Comments to the MOFD board
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:21:43 PM

Dear MOFD Board,

To me, the MOFD is a treasured asset. I have admired them three times when they came to pick up my husband who had fallen.

The capable men arrived at our home quickly and demonstrated excellence in gathering information, determining actions, and exhibiting character and manners.

I am grateful for their service and hope that others have the good fortune to receive their expertise.

Sincerely yours,

Nan Andrews


Orinda, CA 94563

From: [Marty Berg](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Consolidation with Contra Costa Fire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 6:23:50 PM

Hello,

We have been Moraga residents for over 35 years and feel that we have a great fire district. Changing to a new model can only make things more worrisome during these high fire danger years.

Thank you,

Marty and Judy Berg

From: [Winnacker, David](#)
To: [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: Fwd: The Proposed Consolidation of the MOFD with CCC's Consolidated Fire department/Services
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:11:32 PM

Please include the correspondence received file.

Dave Winnacker
Fire Chief
Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Begin forwarded message:

From: Robert White [REDACTED]
Date: May 18, 2021 at 16:14:42 PDT
To: swoehleke@moraga.ca.us
Cc: Claudia White <[REDACTED]>, Connie Chiba <[REDACTED]>
Zohar Chiba <[REDACTED]>, "Winnacker, David" <[REDACTED]>
Linus Eukel <[REDACTED]>, Glen Lewis <[REDACTED]>, mdonnermofd@[REDACTED]
Subject: **The Proposed Consolidation of the MOFD with CCC's Consolidated Fire department/Services**
Reply-To: Robert White [REDACTED]

Dear Mr. Woehleke:

My wife and I as well as of our neighbors are extremely concerned about the proposed closure of MOFD or its amalgamation with the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

Please, oppose this action.

MOFD has been exceedingly successful in controlling fires locally over the years. MOFD has protected Orinda and Moraga. Their presence and actions have safeguarded our community In addition to providing emergency medical services. MOFD is and was designed to meet the needs of **THIS/OUR** community.

Losing local control would needlessly put residents in a far more vulnerable situation.

Moraga and Orinda are in a dangerous fire zone which has particular or special needs. Open space eg imposes at once a blessing and a hazard.

Senior citizens compose a high percentage of the local population whose needs are likely going to be greater in an emergency situation.

Consolidating MOFD with ConFire will jeopardize the safety and well-being of Moraga and Orinda residents.

There is absolutely no benefit to those of us who live here if the fire departments were to merge.

Many thanks in advance for your assistance in rejecting this proposal, and your now long standing commitment to fostering and supporting sensible solutions for our Town.

Most sincerely,

Robert and Claudia White

, Moraga

From: [JOSEPHINE SABOLBORO](#)
To: [Winnacker, David](#); [Info](#); [Baitz, Gregory](#); [mjiex@yahoo.com](#); [mdonnermofd@gmail.com](#); [craig.jorgens@comcast.net](#); [stevedformofd@gmail.com](#)
Cc: [imiller@cityoforinda.org](#); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](#); [Teresa Onoda](#)
Subject: Do Not Dissolve MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 7:58:08 PM

Dear Chief Winnacker and MOFD Directors,

As an Orinda citizen who has lived here for nearly 10 years, I am deeply concerned about recent efforts by certain union sponsored MOFD directors, to put their self interests ahead of Orinda and Moraga citizens and businesses. These self centered actions run counter to the Firefighters' Code of Ethics and the Fire Fighters' Prayer. This latest proposal to dissolve MOFD does NOT support our community's extraordinary fire prevention efforts, nor does this enhance our community's uniquely specific fire safety considerations.

Firefighter Code of Ethics

Always conduct myself, on and off duty, in a manner that reflects positively on myself, my department and the fire service in general. Accept responsibility for my actions and for the consequences of my actions. Support the concept of fairness and the value of diverse thoughts and opinions.

A Firefighter's Prayer

When I am called to duty, God
 Wherever flames may rage,
 Give me the strength to save some life
 Whatever be its age.
 Help me embrace a little child
 Before it is too late,
 Or save an older person from
 The horror of the fate.
 Enable me to be alert and
 Hear the weakest shout,
 And quickly and efficiently
 To put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbor
And protect their property.
 And if according to your will
 I have to lose my life,
 Please bless with your protecting hand
 My children and my wife (partner).

For these reasons, I underscore that Directors Baitz, Danzinger and Donner **recuse themselves from voting due to significant conflict of interest** when it involves pay increases and benefits for MOFD firefighters.

We strongly oppose dissolving MOFD and merging Moraga and Orinda into the County Fire District. We want to support our communities and do whatever we can to ensure our highest level of fire safety, and underscore our commitment to maintain MOFD locally.

Concerned (especially during this severe drought season),
J Sabolboro

From: [Eugene Shenkar](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Danielle Iovino](#)
Subject: Supporting MOFD
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 8:19:43 PM

Dear MOFD Board,

As residents of Orinda / Sleepy Hollow, we want to express to you our strong support for MOFD. We oppose any proposals for dissolution. Dissolving MOFD would reduce the quality of our fire / emergency services and siphon local tax dollars away from local issues.

Please consider our support for MOFD and OPPOSITION to dissolution.

Thank you,
Eugene and Danielle Shenkar
[REDACTED]
Orinda, CA

From: [Sugar Filice](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do Not Dissolve the Moraga Orinda Fire Department
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 9:38:52 PM

Please do not dissolve the Moraga Orinda Fire Department. Placing our current MOFD under the auspices of the County Contra Costa Fire District would undoubtedly reduce greatly the quality of our fire & emergency services. The cost in taxes would be the same.

It is imperative for the future of our community that MOFD continue to exist & be allowed & encouraged to provide the high quality of service that Orinda citizens have the right to expect.

Thank you for your consideration.

Joan (Sugar)Filice

Sugar Franich Filice
Sent from my iPad

From: [Joram Lenore](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Discussion of Folding MOFD into Con Fire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:21:51 PM

Greetings,

First, may I recognize the excellence of the entire Moraga Orinda Fire District staff and management. You are a tremendous asset to our community and even more so in light of the pandemic and increasing fire dangers in our area. Thank you!

I am opposed to the Board spending money and time on consideration of folding MOFD into Con Fire. The Board's and our community's #1 focus should be on reducing fire hazards throughout our community, avoiding distractions with no significant benefits.

The Orinda and Moraga Fire Districts were established to focus on the specific needs of the respective towns and that has served us well ever since.

I am a 25-year resident of Donald Drive in Moraga.

Sincerely,

Bill Joram

From: [Sandra Melo](#)
To: [Info](#); [imiller@cityoforinda.org](#); [dgee@cityoforinda.org](#); [aworth@cityoforinda.org](#); [dfay@cityoforinda.org](#); [nkosla@cityoforinda.org](#); [ssmith@cityoforinda.org](#)
Subject: Fire safety and ambulance services in Orinda
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 10:27:11 PM

Dear MOFD Board and City Council Members,

We moved to Orinda just two months ago. While we were attracted by the schools and the natural beauty of the area, it took us more than 9 months to decide that Orinda was the right place for us. The main reason: Fire risk. What made us make the move was our own research on the Moraga/Orinda Fire Department. Knowing that Orinda has its own department, its own Sheriff, that there are stricter regulations than in other parts of the county, and that the department understands the unique needs of this area gave us the confidence we needed to buy in Orinda.

Once we bought the house, it was difficult to get home insurance, and we live two houses from a fire hydrant. After calling several agents, we finally could insure our new home, but I can definitely see how it will be more difficult for future residents if MOFD is dissolved. It will be a mistake to merge MOFD with the Contra Costa County Fire District. The needs of the area are very different, and the interest and commitment the community shows towards fire abatement comes in part from having MOFD, its unique programs and its stricter regulations. Given the increased fire frequencies in CA, it is not the time to let areas more susceptible, like Orinda, without their own fire department.

Please, don't let the merge happen. It will impact the community in a very negative way.

Thanks for your time,

Sandra Melo/Samir Garzon
[REDACTED], Orinda

From: [Gini Falconer](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: MOFD vs. ConFire
Date: Tuesday, May 18, 2021 11:02:40 PM

MOFD Board of Directors:

As a resident of Moraga for 26 years I support the MOFD and reject any attempt to dissolve it in favor of ConFire coverage. Given the surrounding natural areas, we need fire teams extensively trained to deal with wildfire. Moragans are distanced from any hospitals and so must have well-trained EMT personnel and related medical equipment proximate at our homes. If we were made to rely on a county fire department, our special needs would not be prioritized and that could mean disaster in the event of a big fire or emergency. Please shelve any suggestion of dissolving MOFD.

Virginia Falconer



Moraga, CA 94556

From: [Anna Tague](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Please support MOFD
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 5:53:07 AM

You have the support of my family to fight for the continued existence of our dedicated MOFD.

Thank you for all you do.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Deb Maurer](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Do not merge
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 7:49:47 AM

I do not want MOFD to merge with ConFire.

Deb Maurer
Dias Dorados

From: [Suzanne Jones](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Comment for tonight's Board Meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 9:51:29 AM

Dear MOFD Board of Directors,

We're writing to express our objection to merging MOFD with ConFire. MOFD has worked intensively and effectively with the community in recent years to get us educated about and prepared for wildfires. Thanks to its hard work, MOFD has earned the community's confidence, and the Fire Chief and the staff are highly regarded and trusted. We are going into what will likely be the driest summer on record with unprecedented fire danger and we need to preserve that relationship now more than ever. In short, MOFD is serving the community well and this is not the time to make radical changes to the district.

Thank you,

Suzanne Jones and Rob Elia



Moraga, CA 94556

From: [Frank Sperling](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Public Comment - Agenda item #9.2 (5/19/21 Board of Director's Meeting)
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 10:55:04 AM

PLEASE FAST-FAIL THIS AGENDA ITEM

Hello, my name is Frank Sperling.

In 1997, I had the privilege of serving the Town of Moraga as Vice-Mayor and was appointed to the joint Moraga-Orinda Committee to Develop Plans for the establishment of a separate Fire Suppression and Emergency Medical Services for our two cities.

After years of promises by Contra Costa County to maintain a level of service driven by the community's desire for equipment, personnel, skills-set, and emergency service response, we experienced broken promises, life-endangering response times from ambulances coming from Walnut Creek to belatedly serve our immediate needs and – essentially, we were fed up. The establishment of MOFD while I was on Town Council is the achievement during my tenure that I am most proud of.

Tonight, you have the opportunity to make a decision that you and the citizens of the Town of Moraga and City of Orinda can be proud of for years to come...that is, as long as you view the supposed issue with untainted eyes.

I have heard that there are board members who are employees and/or are involved with ConFire. Going to the MOFD website today I was pleased to see the word “Transparency” as a major tab on the homepage. I soon realized that transparency was a word and not a commitment by the Board of Directors as only 2 of the 5 Directors' bios' are published with the other 3 director's pages simply saying “coming soon”.

Now, I am confident that all of the Directors are honorable men and as such, they have discussed the issue of conflict of interest with MOFD's attorney. I think we would all appreciate the Directors and the District attorney disclosing their interpretation of Brown Act and other relevant legislation with regard to potential conflicts of interest. Furthermore, I think we would all appreciate each Director disclosing any conversations they have had with employees of ConFire and/or the Firefighter's Union outside of public meetings with regard to the issue before them.

Finally, two issues that previously came up with the MOFD Board, while I served as Director, and have direct impact on the issue before you. First, in approximately 2010, MOFD developed a strategic plan and endorsed the concept of striving for both efficiency and effectiveness. Being efficient means to do things right. Being effective means doing the right thing. Essentially, if you're efficient at doing the wrong thing, you're wasting time and resources. Second, in approximately, 2012, MOFD had the opportunity to build a jointly staffed fire station at a point where ConFire's and MOFD's support areas meet at the Lafayette border. There were overtures from Contra Costa County supervisors and ConFire staff and there were promises that MOFD could maintain our superior response time service levels regardless of who was staffing the station at any point in time. Even though Contra Costa promised a lot, they never delivered – as

a result, the proposed deal was called off and we have never looked back. Unfortunately, much time and effort was put in by MOFD staff. I was against this from the beginning because while the project had the potential for efficiencies, it definitely was not an effective project and did not align with our strategic plan nor our mission statement. I wanted to terminate this effort at the beginning because I felt it was a waste of time and effort and advocated what I called a “Fast-Fail”. In other words, why go through the steps if ultimately it wasn’t going to happen because (unfortunately) past promises from Contra Costa were not honored and there was no new evidence to make us believe things have changed.

Tonight, you have the opportunity to implement a “Fast Fail” on this misguided project. It is too easy to say “well, why don’t we just take the next step, after all, not much time and effort is involved”. I say, “why even take that next step and expend any more time and effort from MOFD”. Tonight, **please vote for a Fast-Fail.**

Thank you,

Frank Sperling

From: [Phyllis Kofman](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Dissolution of MOFD
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 12:11:53 PM

To whom it may concern:

As a taxpayer in Moraga and a long term resident (over 30 years) I am very opposed to the dissolution of the Moraga Orinda Fire District. Moraga particularly has special medical needs since we are so far removed from the freeway. We have spent a lot of money to provide training and equipment for our fire department to meet those needs. To have that money siphoned off to the county is absurd. This appears to be a money grab to line the unions pockets.

Also, if we were to become part of the county organization, our priority would certainly be down the line from the larger areas in the county. One of the features of Moraga and Orinda are the top rated schools, rural quality and superior services we offer while being close to San Francisco. I would hate for us to become an afterthought.

Phyllis Kofman



Moraga, CA

From: [Patrice Bilello](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Against dissolving MOFD
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 1:12:22 PM

Hello,

Sending a short message in support of MOFD and all of their efforts in Moraga and Orinda.

Thank you,
Patrice Bilello

From: [David Keenan](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Letter to Board: 5/19/2021 Board meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 2:57:44 PM

Board of Directors, MOFD,

My family bought our first home in Orinda in 2016. I was concerned about moving to Orinda because of the wildfire risk, and in the years since that risk has continued to grow. MOFD has continued to find innovative ways to reduce our risk and has been a real partner of the community through the chipper program and FireWise. MOFD is the only organization that has given us a sense of safety living here during fire season.

MOFD provides a unique advantage to living in Orinda, and I find it troubling that the board is studying dissolving MOFD into the much greatly and widely distributed ConFire. The inquiry by the board is misguided, and its surfacing at this time of pressing wildfire risk, suggests political forces are more at play than attempts to improve the welfare and safety of the community.

MOFD should instead consider expanding its efforts in fire prevention innovation and take more of a leadership role with peer districts throughout the area, and not be burdened by a threatening inquiry from its own board of directors. The proposal to consider dissolving MOFD has sent ripples through the Moraga-Orinda community, I can only imagine the impact it has had on the morale of our firefighters and leaders within the MOFD ranks.

I urge the board to reject the proposal to study MOFD dissolution. The notion is misguided, and ill-timed when MOFD is one of the highest performing and innovative fire districts in California.

Thank you for your consideration.

David Keenan

[REDACTED]

Orinda, CA 94563

[REDACTED]