



City of Orinda
22 Orinda Way • Orinda • California • 94563

May 19, 2021

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
1280 Moraga Way
Moraga, CA 94556

Dear Chair Jorgens and Members of the Board of Directors,

The Orinda City Council writes to express our firm and resolute opposition to the merger of the Moraga Orinda Fire District with the Contra Costa Consolidated Fire Protection District. To that end, we also oppose any consideration or initiation of a study of such a merger by the MOFD Board of Directors. As shown by the overwhelming public response to this discussion brought forward by an MOFD Board member, our constituents share this view completely.

Providing essential fire and paramedic services to our communities has a long and storied history. The provision of fire and paramedic services evolved into its current form as a high-quality independent fire district through considerable and sustained efforts by the residents of Orinda and Moraga and their elected officials. The establishment of the independent Moraga Orinda Fire District to replace the prior separate Orinda and Moraga dependent districts was the only way to ensure that our residents received the highest possible fire and paramedic services in an area characterized by rugged terrain, a network of narrow winding roads, extensive vegetation, abundant open space, and located a significant distance from local hospitals.

Fire protection and preparedness is one of our community's highest priorities, as evidenced by the recent passage of Measure R and our residents' active engagement in fire mitigation and fuel management through efforts such as the Fire Wise Councils and the neighborhood chipper program. The City of Orinda values the dedicated service of the Moraga Orinda Fire District to our community and for their invaluable role in making Orinda significantly safer. The recently adopted joint fire building code and fuel reduction ordinance was a stellar example of the important partnership between the Moraga Orinda Fire District and our two communities. The innovative North Orinda fire break, work funded through highly competitive state fire prevention grants, is clear evidence of the importance of having a local fire district, whose management resources are devoted solely to MOFD.

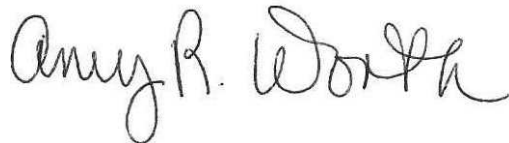
Having anything less than a full-service independent Fire District with resources available to meet our area's unique needs, for both life-saving paramedic and fire suppression services, is of grave concern to our residents and their elected City Council.

The MOFD is governed by a board elected by our voters, and it is incumbent upon the Board to represent the interests of the Moraga and Orinda communities as its highest priority.

As the Orinda City Council has done on several occasions in the past, we stand ready to protect and ensure the continued provision of the highest quality fire and paramedic services to our community. This can only be done through maintaining our strong and independent fire district with a Board of Directors whose highest and only priority is to serve the residents of the Moraga Orinda Fire District.

We urge you to abandon this ill-conceived, untimely, and unnecessary consideration of consolidation.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy R. Worth". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Amy Worth
Mayor of Orinda