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From: [Richard Olsen](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Winnacker, David](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)
Subject: MOFD Post-2020-Census Board Election Districts Redistricting -- Election Districts History
Date: Thursday, January 13, 2022 10:47:45 PM

Gentlemen:

I am responding to a "Notice of a Public Hearing" in the January 11, 2022 East Bay Times, which Hearing is scheduled to occur during your Board's Wednesday, January, 19, 2022 Regular Meeting. That Hearing relates to the potential redistricting of the Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board Election Districts following the 2020 Census. The Notice indicates that one of the Hearing's purposes is to "receive input from the public". I believe that it might be helpful to you in your deliberations to learn how and why the current Director Election Districts were established from someone who was significantly involved in their initial structuring some 25 years ago. That is my purpose in writing to you.

The MOFD's Board Election District boundaries for the Board's five members were established at the time the MOFD was formed. They were detailed in Exhibit E of the August 30, 1996 "Application to the Local Agency Formation Commission Requesting Reorganization of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts". In the LAFCO Application's "Governance" paragraph on page 20, the basic rationale for having Directors elected by District, rather than at-large, was: "to recognize the importance of geographical representation". The LAFCO Application was prepared by a ten-member working committee. Its membership consisted of two members from each of: the Moraga Town Council; the Orinda City Council; the Moraga Fire District's Fire Commission; the Orinda Fire District's Fire Commission, plus one member from each of the Orinda Fire Committee and the Moraga Fire Committee. (I served as Vice Chair of that working committee.) The Town of Moraga's Town Manager, Ross Hubbard and the City of Orinda's City Manager Bill Lindsay provided staff support to the committee.

The LAFCO Application -- including Exhibit E's Director Election District boundaries -- was subsequently approved, as originally submitted, by Contra Costa County LAFCO, the County Board of Supervisors and by the electorates of both the Moraga Fire District and the Orinda Fire District.

In formulating the boundaries of the 5 Director Election Districts, the working committee's intent was to carve out two Director Election Districts from the area served by the Moraga Fire Protection District, two Director Election Districts from the area served by the Orinda Fire Protection District and to form a fifth district from parts of both of the two then-existing fire districts on approximately a 50/50-split basis. The LAFCO Application on page 9 notes that at that time (1996) there were approximately 13,200 land parcels within the boundaries of the proposed Moraga Orinda Fire District -- 6,900 within the Moraga Fire District and 6,300 within the Orinda Fire District. It also noted in a "Population and Demographics" paragraph (also on the Application's page 9) that per the 1990 Census, the population within the boundaries of the proposed MOFD was approximately 34,000. 18,000 residents (including 1385 resident students at Saint Mary's College) were served by the Moraga Fire District and 16,000 by the Orinda Fire District.

I believe that it is worth noting that while the Town of Moraga and the City of Orinda are parts of the geographic area of the MOFD, and the municipal boundaries of the Town of Moraga and the City of Orinda are displayed in the LAFCO Application's Exhibit E for informational purposes, the boundaries of the two municipalities were **not** factors in the drawing of the Director Election District boundaries.

Following is my recollection of the major elements that were involved in drawing the Board Election District Boundaries back in 1996:

District 1 was fashioned from the Moraga Valley geographic area. The northwest boundary of District 1 was drawn to start from the southern portion of Pinehurst, then run to the Pinehurst/Canyon Road intersection. The boundary line then runs East on Canyon Road to Saint Mary's Road, then east on Saint Mary's Road to the eastern border of the Moraga Fire District. District 1 includes the Sanders Ranch

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subdivision, the Sanders Drive, Larch Avenue and Camino Pablo areas, four Townhouse subdivisions at the Canyon Road/Saint Mary's Road intersection, and the Saint Mary's Gardens and Bollinger Bluffs developments. District 1 also included Saint Mary's College and the rural, unincorporated portion of Bollinger Canyon. Unincorporated Bollinger Canyon had always been part of the Moraga Fire District and has also long been a part of the Moraga School District. All the parcels in unincorporated Bollinger Canyon also have Moraga postal addresses. The other major unincorporated area of District 1 is the East Bay Municipal Utilities District lands that surround and feed into the Upper San Leandro Reservoir.

District 2 was fashioned from Moraga's Rheem Valley geographic area. Saint Mary's Road provides much of District 2's southern boundary. A portion of the Rheem Valley Orchards (Corliss Drive) area was also included in the District. Its major elements include the Campolindo and Rheem Valley Manor subdivisions, the Ascot Drive multi-family residential area and the Rheem Shopping Center. District 2's northern boundary is the Lafayette City line. Also part of District 2 is the as-yet undeveloped Palos Colorados subdivision area east of Moraga Road and of the Campolindo area, which has been approved for a 123 unit, single family residential housing development. There are no unincorporated areas within District 2.

District 3 is the previously noted District that was intended to consist of approximately equal portions of the Moraga Fire District and the Orinda Fire District. Its principal parts are: most of Orinda's Ivy Drive Area; Orinda's Crestview and Lost Valley areas; the then-undeveloped Gateway Valley; the Moraga Country Club; Moraga's School Street District; the Moraga Center Specific Plan high-density residential area; Indian Valley, the Moraga Shopping Center and the unincorporated area of Canyon (aka historically "Redwood Canyon"). The Canyon area was also part of the Moraga Fire District. However, in contrast to the unincorporated portion of Bollinger Canyon, Canyon has its own school district and post office. Linking it to District 1 would have grossly distorted District 1's boundaries. Canyon is also due west from the major portions of District 3.

District 4 was essentially designed to include Central Orinda. A small portion of the Ivy Drive area is its southern limit. Its western boundary is Moraga Way. It also crosses over Highway 24 to include portions of Orindawoods and the Orinda Country Club area. Both ends of the Orinda Shopping Center area (Village and Theatre) are within District 4.

District 5 was designed to consist of most of Orinda that lies north of Highway 24. It includes the El Toyonal and Miner Road areas most of the Orinda Country Club area plus the Sleepy Hollow and Orinda Downs subdivisions -- all of which are single family residential areas. Much of District 5 is unincorporated land that lies within the boundaries of the East Bay Regional Parks District and also the East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

The final work of drawing the exact Director Election District Boundaries was performed by the Town of Moraga's Town Manager, Ross Hubbard and the City of Orinda's City Manager Bill Lindsay. I readily concede that there are some minor twists and bends in the Districts' boundary lines for the reasons for which I don't recall.

I plan to attend your January 19th meeting via Zoom and would be happy to answer any questions you might have at that time.

Richard J. Olsen

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