

**Public Comments/Correspondence**  
**(Ordinance not adopted / Item pulled from the Agenda on 03/16/2022)**

**Ordinance 22-03**  
**Designating the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) previously designated as Wildland Urban Interface – Fire Area as (LRA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Person</b>	<b>Comments</b>
02/16/2022 First Reading	Tim Meltzer	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Jan and Mary Lou Blumer	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Tim Meltzer	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Marianne McKay	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Colleen Brannon	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Nick Waranoff	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Ann Walgenbach	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Michele Turre	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Rob Elia and Suzanne Jones	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Melanie Light	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Ken Light	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Amelia and Pete Wilson	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Susan Anacker	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	William Hudson	Written Correspondence
02/16/2022 First Reading	Ann Walgenbach	Public Comment encouraging the Board to pass Ordinance 22-03. Mrs. Walgenbach shared the insurance benefits and discounts her community has received for becoming a Firewise community.
02/16/2022 First Reading	Suzanne Jones	Public Comment encouraging the Board to support ordinance 22-03 and reported her positive experience with her insurance company
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Bruce Cohen	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Judy Clayton	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Nick Mitchell	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Rob Elia and Suzanne Jones	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Michele Turre	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Sheerin Ong	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Ann Walgenbach	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Nick Mitchell	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Pamela Rhodes	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Darlene & Keith Davidge	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Judy Clayton	Written Correspondence
03/16/2022 Second Reading	Ivy Anderson	Written Correspondence
03/21/2022	Mike Delehunt	Written Correspondence
	Judy Clayton	Public Comment asking how MOFD plans to proceed with the Ordinance. Fire Chief Winnacker answered

		that the Ordinance had elements that have unknowable impacts with regard to future insurance carrier rate making decisions. The District has no intention of bringing the Ordinance back for adoption after receiving the community's concern regarding the potential impacts on insurability.
	Carol Alvord,	Public Comment asking for an explanation of the benefits of the proposed regulation and requested more information on the Ordinance. Fire Chief Winnacker explained a community meeting was held on March 10, 2022. The meeting explained the rationale, legislative background, and applicability of the State's fire safety laws triggered by the administrative designation of very high fire hazard severity zones. The video of the community meeting is available at <a href="http://www.mofd.org">www.mofd.org</a>
	Keith Davidge	Public Comment requesting more information on the proposed Ordinance.
	Melanie Light	Public Comment asking if the goals of the Ordinance could be accomplished by changing the MOFD fire code. Fire Chief Winnacker explained there is no mechanism through which local ordinances or regulations can be applied to achieve the goals of Ordinance 22-03 as SB-9 explicitly states that Title 14 Fire Safety Regulations can only be applied in Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones
	Chase	Public Comment asking about the advantages of changing the designation zones and expressed concern regarding the insurability of homes. Fire Chief Winnacker explained significant portions of the City of Orinda are already designated as a high fire hazard severity zone by CAL FIRE. There are smaller subportions designated very high fire hazards severity zones by CAL FIRE. Administratively changing the high fire hazard severity zones to very high would trigger additional State Fire Safety Regulations, specifically Title 14
	Carlos Baltodano	Public Comment asking what impact the Ordinance would have on SB 9 and the requirements. Fire Chief Winnacker explained there would be no impact on ADU or junior ADUs. ADU construction methods are regulated by the fire district's designation of a Wildland Urban Interface fire area. ADU and junior ADU's are allowed under SB 9 and other regulations. The Ordinance would have applied to SB 9 lot splits
	Suzanne Jones	Public Comment expressing concern about abandoning the need to apply the Title 14 regulations

		to the areas in the LRA. Ms. Jones shared her positive conversation with two insurance agents and insurability. Ms. Jones encouraged the Board to reconsider the adoption on the Ordinance
	Ann Walgenbach	Public Comment expressing concern about future construction in the area and asked for clarification of the Ordinance. Fire Chief Winnacker summarized there are regulations in Title 14 that can only be enforced through Title 14 that the District sought to apply to larger areas of the District. The current maps were published in 2007 in draft form, and final maps were published in 2009. The State is required to produce new maps every five years. These new final maps are now eight years overdue. The severity zones are expected to spread when the new final maps are published. The District is concerned that new construction development will proceed that would have otherwise been subject to Title 14 regulations.
	John Anderson	Public Comment expressing concern about homeowners' insurance, home sale values and the buyers' ability to secure loans from banks if they are unable to insure their homes.
	Nick Waranoff	Public commenting that SB 9 has a highly complex safety exception, which could limit or prevent the development of additional homes or ADUs in the very high fire severity zones where the roads are narrow. The cities of Oakland and Berkeley have taken this approach and have enacted restrictions in their Hills. Mr. Waranoff stated this is a zoning issue for the City of Orinda and not the MOFD. Mr. Waranoff recommended residents encourage the City of Orinda to invoke the safety exception in SB 9

**From:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**Cc:** [Jonathan Holtzman](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#); [Sasser, Gloriann](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: MOFD Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Thursday, March 10, 2022 7:58:10 AM

---

Directors,  
Please see below for correspondence received.

Respectfully,

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief  
Moraga Orinda Fire District

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Holbrook, Marcia" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** March 10, 2022 at 6:30:42 AM PST  
**To:** "Winnacker, David" <[REDACTED]>  
**Cc:** "Holbrook, Marcia" <[REDACTED]>, "Sasser, Gloriann" <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** FW: MOFD Ordinance 22-03

Hi Chief,  
Please see correspondence received.

Thank you,  
Marcia

Marcia Holbrook, District Secretary/District Clerk  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District  
1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556  
Phone: (925) 258-4501  
[REDACTED]  
Fax: (925) 376-1699

---

**From:** Timothy Meltzer <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 9, 2022 5:14 PM  
**To:** Info <Info@mofd.org>  
**Subject:** Re: MOFD Ordinance 22-03

Dear Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors:  
I wrote to you on February 13, 2022, regarding the proposed adoption of Ordinance 22-03. I have since received relevant information that should reduce the concerns that some have expressed, namely, that passage of the Ordinance will make it impossible to obtain and/or retain insurance on our property. I therefore present the following revised message.  
I have been a Moraga resident for over 33 years. My daughter, son-in-law and three children have lived in their home on Sanders Drive for the last eight years. It was only a few years ago that a late-night grass fire threatened the homes at Sanders Ranch and those on Sanders Drive, among others in

the adjacent areas.

With the threat of fire becoming ever more alarming in our area, we need up-to-date maps that accurately depict the real dangers and trigger the needed policies and guidelines to best protect public safety and prioritize mitigation work in the district.


Doing so will not affect the availability of insurance. I have confirmed with my insurance company, State Farm, that they do not drop any of their clients due to the rezoning of one's property or entire sections within a town, city or larger region, even when the rezoning leads to a higher fire hazard designation.

Furthermore, insurance companies will be less inclined to change their policies or leave the market when they see a community and its residents squarely face the increasing risks of fire danger and then take steps to reduce that danger as we have done in removing dead and dangerous brush throughout our Town and around our homes.

Accordingly, we urge you to adopt Ordinance 22-03 to re-designate the MOFD's high fire hazard severity zones within its local responsibility area to very high.

Thank you,

Tim Meltzer

  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Jacques Blumer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 22=03  
**Date:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 9:58:04 AM

---

Members of the MOFD Board,

I am writing in support of adoption of Ordinance 22-03 to re-designate MOFD's Wildland Urban Interface as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. I live in the Bluffs, one of the areas that would be re-designated, and believe that this change is prudent. It will help give MOFD more tools to help us prepare for wildfire and make our properties as well as any new construction that occurs safer for everyone.

Sincerely,  
Jan and Mary Lou Blumer



Moraga, CA

**From:** [Timothy Meltzer](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Sunday, February 13, 2022 3:17:00 PM

---

***Dear Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors:***

***I have been a Moraga resident for over 33 years. My daughter, son-in-law and three children have lived in their home on Sanders Drive for the last eight years. It was only a few years ago that a late-night grass fire threatened the homes at Sanders Ranch and those on Sanders Drive, among others in the adjacent areas.***

***With the threat of fire becoming ever more alarming in our area, we need up-to-date maps that accurately depict the real dangers and trigger the needed policies and guidelines to best protect public safety and prioritize mitigation work in the district.***

***Accordingly, we urge you to adopt Ordinance 22-03 to re-designate the MOFD's high fire hazard severity zones within its local responsibility area to very high.***

***Thank you,***

***Tim Meltzer***



***Moraga, CA 94556***

**From:** [Marianne](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 4:42:50 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board of Directors,

I urge you to please pass Ordinance 22-03. I am a resident of Valley Hill/Bollinger Canyon and the maps need to reflect the reality of the whole area. We have worked very hard to become a Firewise Community and we want MOFD to have all the tools to make sure our community is as fire-ready as possible. I spent many hours last year mowing and clearing brush on my property and neighbors property. It will enable MOFD to require needed mitigation measures to make sure that new developments as well as major remodels and add ones are as fire safe as possible.

Thank you for being so proactive.

Marianne McKay

Sent from my iPad



**From:** [Colleen Brannon](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Adopting Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 5:15:55 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board of Directors,

I am a resident of the Bollinger Canyon portion of the State Responsibility Area which is already subject to title 14. Please pass Ordinance 22-03 so that the adjacent neighborhood whose fire risk is as high, are made subject to the same requirements .

Thank you for working on being proactive in reducing a fire disaster.

Colleen Brannon

**From:** [Nick Waranoff](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Feb. 16, 2022 Items 8.5 and 8.6  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 7:08:34 PM

---

I write to support the adoption of these ordinances, for the reasons stated by Chief Winnacker and Fire Marshal Isaacs (8.5), and by Chief Winnacker (8.6).

Nick Waranoff

**From:** [Ann Walgenbach](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Requesting you vote yes on Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 15, 2022 11:37:14 PM

---

Hello,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my family to request that you approve Ordinance 22-03. We are residents of Valley Hill Drive off Bollinger Canyon Rd. I was the lead who submitted our FireWise application and I am very aware of the hard work that my neighbors are doing here on Valley Hill and on nearby deeper Bollinger and Bluffs to reduce our fire risk. We are all very concerned about the increasing fire danger back here and we would really appreciate that the areas in question- one directly adjacent to us, be held to the same high fire standards to which our area is being held. It is important that these regulations also apply to other areas in Moraga and Orinda that are high fire danger. Our past several fire seasons have just been too scary....

Thank you for your consideration and we hope that the Board will see the importance of this matter and vote in support of the Ordinance.

Thank you!

Ann Walgenbach

“Life is not a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in a pretty and well preserved body, but rather to skid in broadside, thoroughly used up, totally worn out, and loudly proclaiming, wow! what a ride!!!”

Anonymous

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [Michele Turre](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:01:03 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board of Directors,

As the owner of property and a residence in the Valley Hill Drive neighborhood of Bollinger Canyon abutting the Bollinger Canyon Study Area, I was very concerned to learn that the Study Area is not subject to the same Title 14 Fire regulations as our abutting neighborhood.

For the safety of all residents in Bollinger Canyon, and the surrounding vicinity, it is critical that the study area share fire regulations comparable to those regulating the adjacent unincorporated land. We share the same access roads and fire protection in a remote very high-risk area, all of which should be subject to the same high fire-safety standards.

Bollinger Canyon residents have worked hard to become a FireWise community. MOFD should be able to require mitigation measures to ensure future development is as fire-safe as is possible.

To help protect our lives and property, I urge you to vote yes on Ordinance 22-03.

Thank you,

Michele Turre

[REDACTED]  
Moraga, CA 94556  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Suzanne Jones](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Comment re 2/16.22 Agenda Item 8.6 , LRA VHFHSZ  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:41:29 PM

---

To the MOFD Board of Directors:

We are writing to express our support for the adoption of Ordinance 22-03. First, however, we want to express our sincere appreciation to the District for the critical work it is doing to help the Moraga-Orinda-Canyon community become better educated about and prepared for wildfire.

The District's outreach and support efforts—including the Chief's excellent community presentations explaining the risks, District staff's consultations to help residents improve defensible space, and the MOFD chipping program--have very directly helped us do a much better job preparing our home and our family to survive a wildfire.

We are also grateful for MOFD's ongoing work to secure funding for additional shaded firebreaks, and that it is collaborating with natural-resource agencies and organizations to take a balanced approach to protecting habitat and environmental resources while significantly reducing the ability of wildfire to spread through the community.


Within this context of MOFD's many efforts to respond adequately to rapidly increasing fire dangers, we write in support of Ordinance 22-03 before you tonight. As important as all the aforementioned strategies are, the District cannot mitigate our area's fire risks to the maximum extent feasible without the ability to apply state regulations within the LRA, where appropriate, as well as the SRA.

We currently live within the SRA and are thus already subject to the Title 14 fire regulations. We have noted with concern that abutting LRA lands, with fire hazards every bit as great as ours, are not currently subject to the same set of rules.

Ordinance 22-03 would enable these LRA zones to be treated in accordance with their true risks, allowing for appropriate measures to reduce fire dangers in both the SRA and the LRA, to the benefit of everyone. We urge you to adopt the ordinance.

With very best regards,

Rob Elia and Suzanne Jones

  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Melanie Light](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Input regarding items 8.5 and 8.6 for tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:01:30 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board,  
Please note for the record that I am **very much in favor of** Item 8.5 – Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 22-02 an Ordinance of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District of Contra Costa County, California, Adopting Requirements for Undeveloped Parcels and Certain Low Density Large Developed Parcels and Findings of Fact Establishing Additional Requirements in the State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas.

Item 8.6 – Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 22-03, An ordinance of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District of Contra Costa County, California, designating the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) previously designated as Wildland Urban Interface – Fire Area as (LRA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones

There is a pressing need to update fire hazard severity zones to reflect the current reality.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Light  
Orinda resident

--

Melanie Light



**From:** [Ken LIGHT](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Yes for 8.5 and 8.6 on tonight's meeting packet  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:09:27 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board

I am very much in favor of item 8.5 – Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 22-02 an Ordinance of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District of Contra Costa County, California, Adopting Requirements for Undeveloped Parcels and Certain Low Density Large Developed Parcels and Findings of Fact Establishing Additional Requirements in the State Responsibility Areas and Local Responsibility Areas.

Item 8.6 – Public Hearing and First Reading of Ordinance 22-03, An ordinance of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District of Contra Costa County, California, designating the Local Responsibility Areas (LRA) previously designated as Wildland Urban Interface – Fire Area as (LRA) Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

There is a immediate and pressing need to update fire hazard severity zones to reflect the current reality we are facing in our community. PLEASE SUPPORT THESE MEASURES AND SUPPORT THE WILDFIRE SAFETY OF ORINDA.

Sincerely,  
Ken Light

**From:** [Amelia Wilson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Ordinance 22003  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 1:25:45 PM

---

Dear President Donner and Directors, MOFD:

Please pass ordinance 22-03 tonight. I live on Lost Valley Drive and there is no doubt that we are a very high severity zone; just look down on us from the top of Hall Drive and you'll see – despite all the clearing of brush and trees in the Valley – we live in a virtual forest. And have been living in a very high fire zone for years even if not designated as such.!

We value MOFD and the emphasis it places on fire prevention, and believe Ordinance 22-33 will give added tools to keep Lost Valley and all of Orinda in a much safer situation.

Please vote yes on Ordinance 22-33.

Amelia and Pete Wilson



**From:** [Susan MacCharles Anacker](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Item 8.5 - Ordinance 22-02, Item 8.6 - Ordinance 22-03 Public Comment  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:21:49 PM

---

Dear Board of Directors:

I am writing in support of these two Ordinances. Both will reduce the risk of uncontrolled wildfires and by updating the fire hazard severity zones it will provide a realistic map for MOFD to follow in evacuation and fire fighting.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Susan Anacker  
Firewise Leader Orindawoods

**From:** [William Hudson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** In re Ordinance 22-03 at tonight's meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 2:41:36 PM

---

Dear MOFD Board of Directors:

I live in Sleepy Hollow, love it for its semi-rural character and have been very appreciative of all of MOFD's work, for literally decades, to help reduce fire risks of that setting on my property and in my neighborhood. I am very appreciative and impressed by the escalation of its work—from the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break to the chippers which I and my neighbors have used several times-- to match the growth of the threat and the understanding of it.

Ordinance 22-03 on your agenda tonight is another step the process that makes MOFD so outstanding, proactively evaluating threats and developing appropriate responses. My area is currently in a "high" fire severity zone, and I am in favor of the ordinance re-classifying it to "very high" for the many prevention benefits it will bring.

Sincerely,

William Hudson  


Orinda, CA 94563

**From:** [Bruce Cohen](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Fire safety rating for Orinda-- proposed change??  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 11:17:05 AM

---

We understand that Chief Winnacker may wish to alter the fire safety rating of all of Orinda to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Before making such a change, please consider the deleterious effect this will have on whether we homeowners will be able to buy fire insurance at any affordable rate or at all. You already have our attention on fire safety, and many Orinda residents are improving the fire safety of our properties. Many of our neighborhoods, such as mine, are making fire safety improvements to get the Firewise rating. Not being able to get affordable fire insurance is a nightmare. Can't we find other means to improve fire safety rather than change the fire safety rating to "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" ?

Thanks  
Bruce Cohen



**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Very High Fire Hazard designation  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 7:38:58 PM

---

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

**Site Visitor Name:** Judy Clayton

**Site Visitor Email:** [REDACTED]

I received a message about your proposal to change our designation from Wildland Urban Interface to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones which does not sound like a desirable change.

A few months ago I was informed that both my homeowner's and umbrella insurance policies would not be renewed. Although I did get coverage with a different insurance company, I wonder how this change would affect us.

At a minimum, I believe you should postpone taking action on this proposal to ensure that the communities that will be affected by this change be fully informed about the rationale for this change; any effects it would have regarding insurance issues; and be provided with an opportunity for public discussion.

Judy Clayton  
cc: Fire Chief Winnacker

**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Email contact from Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CA  
**Date:** Monday, March 14, 2022 8:02:34 PM

---

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

**Site Visitor Name:** Nick Mitchell

**Site Visitor Email:** [REDACTED]

Hello Chief Dave, I strongly oppose your recommendation on changing our designation from Wildland Urban Interface to Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones for many matters and encourage you to ld postpone taking action on this proposal to ensure that the communities that will be affected by this change be fully informed about the rationale for this change

**From:** [Suzanne Jones](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Comment re 3.16.22 Agenda Item 8.2 Ordinance 22-03  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:11:07 AM

---

Dear MOFD Board of Directors:

We wanted to follow up with additional information relevant to our comment letter of 2.16.22 (pasted below) regarding Ordinance 22-03.

Since that meeting, and in light of concerns raised regarding homeowners insurance, we spoke directly with two insurance agents including our State Farm agent, Jay Scott. Our takeaways from the conversation with Mr. Scott were as follows:

- State Farm has its own experts that calculate fire risk based on physical factors (e.g. topography, wind currents, vegetation, etc.) which form the inputs into their risk models. Mr. Scott does not expect local fire district maps to become a factor in these assessments.
- He was unequivocal that State Farm would not cancel anyone's policy or raise rates based on a change in the District's maps.
- State Farm welcomes any steps at the local level that will encourage safer, more fire-resistant homes.
- He said we may be eligible for a discount on our insurance premium thanks to the extensive fuels mitigation we've completed around our home and that we are part of a Firewise Community; he is sending us information about how to request that.

After that conversation, Suzanne also stopped by the newly opened State Farm office in Moraga, and spoke to agent Timi Adeyemo, who concurred with the points above as well.

As a result of these direct conversations with our insurance company, we are not concerned about our coverage should Ordinance 22-03 pass. We are, however, very concerned about construction in our area that does not comply with the State's current ember-resistant, emergency access and other hazard mitigation regulations.

Redesignating the District's LRA "high" fire severity zones to "very high" appears to be the most efficient and legally robust means by which to apply the State's Title 14 regulations promptly to areas which, we must all acknowledge, do objectively warrant that classification, and which will likely be so designated anyway when the State maps are updated.

As such, we strongly support passage of this ordinance. We live in an SRA zone that is already subject to the Title 14 regulations. This ordinance will bring neighboring LRA properties into conformity with the same strict regulations, making both our property and those of our neighbors safer in the face of the serious fire dangers we must now all manage together.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rob Elia and Suzanne Jones

[REDACTED]  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** Suzanne Jones [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 16, 2022 12:41 PM  
**To:** 'info@mofd.org' <info@mofd.org>  
**Subject:** Comment re 2/16.22 Agenda Item 8.6 , LRA VHFHSZ

To the MOFD Board of Directors:

We are writing to express our support for the adoption of Ordinance 22-03. First, however, we want to express our sincere appreciation to the District for the critical work it is doing to help the Moraga-Orinda-Canyon community become better educated about and prepared for wildfire.

The District's outreach and support efforts—including the Chief's excellent community presentations explaining the risks, District staff's consultations to help residents improve defensible space, and the MOFD chipping program—have very directly helped us do a much better job preparing our home and our family to survive a wildfire.

We are also grateful for MOFD's ongoing work to secure funding for additional shaded firebreaks, and that it is collaborating with natural-resource agencies and organizations to take a balanced approach to protecting habitat and environmental resources while significantly reducing the ability of wildfire to spread through the community.

Within this context of MOFD's many efforts to respond adequately to rapidly increasing fire dangers, we write in support of Ordinance 22-03 before you tonight. As important as all the aforementioned strategies are, the District cannot mitigate our area's fire risks to the maximum extent feasible without the ability to apply state regulations within the LRA, where appropriate, as well as the SRA.

We currently live within the SRA and are thus already subject to the Title 14 fire regulations. We have noted with concern that abutting LRA lands, with fire hazards every bit as great as ours, are not currently subject to the same set of rules.

Ordinance 22-03 would enable these LRA zones to be treated in accordance with their true risks, allowing for appropriate measures to reduce fire dangers in both the SRA and the LRA, to the benefit of everyone. We urge you to adopt the ordinance.

With very best regards,

Rob Elia and Suzanne Jones  
[REDACTED]  
Moraga, CA 94556

**From:** [Nick Mitchell](#)  
**To:** [Winnacker, David](#); [REDACTED]; [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Nick Mitchell](#)  
**Subject:** 22-03 and changes to fire district designation  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:45:21 PM

---

Board, Chief Winnacker and District Secretary Holbrook:

Thank you for your service and the support of our community.

I am unable to attend the Board Zoom meeting this evening, please include this letter as my **objection** to 22 03 in that the consequences of a high fire danger to the individuals, families and homeowners in the Orinda area may be significantly impacted with a change in the fire zone designation in Orinda. Particularly, the costs on fixed income, elderly and lower income residence can be significant, lower property values, cancelled insurance policies, etc.

I strongly encourage you to delay any action on this until all options (including stricter local codes and enforcement of codes) can be studied in full and the entire community can understand the costs that this action will create.

I do support enforcement of existing codes and stronger codes, but I do not support a categorical designation of high fire danger.

The Mitchells – [REDACTED].

Thank you,

Nick Mitchell, CPA

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



**From:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**To:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** [Pam Rhodes](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fire danger rating change - very concerned  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:57:32 PM

---

Marcia,  
Please see below for correspondence received to be included in this evening's meeting.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District



**From:** Pam Rhodes <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:49 PM  
**To:** Winnacker, David <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Fire danger rating change - very concerned

Hello Chief Winnacker. I cannot attend the meeting tonight so I'm emailing you instead. I'm an Orinda resident and very concerned about why we can't achieve the goal of stricter fire codes simply by changing our own code? Why do we have to change our fire danger rating? Will our insurance be at risk?

Thank you!

Pamela Rhodes



**From:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**To:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: MFOD proposed zoning change to make Orinda a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:57:32 PM

---

Marcia,  
Please see below for communication received to be included in this evening's meeting.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief  
Moraga-Orinda Fire District



**From:** Darlene Davidge [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 4:35 PM  
**To:** Winnacker, David <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** MFOD proposed zoning change to make Orinda a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone

**Dear Chief Winnacker:**

We respectfully request this zoning change proposal be postponed until it is understood how this will affect homeowners and fire insurance for the residents of Orinda. Many of us are currently facing huge hikes in the cost of insurance, or being dropped completely from our insurance companies. My husband and I will unfortunately be unable to attend tonight's zoom meeting, so we are sending this email to voice our concern.

Thank you for your consideration.

Darlene & Keith Davidge  
[REDACTED]

--  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**To:** [Judy Clayton](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Postpone the vote on the rezoning proposal.  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 5:14:40 PM

---

Marcia,  
Please see below for communication received to be included in this evening's meeting.

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief  
Moraga Orinda Fire District

On Mar 16, 2022, at 5:12 PM, Judy Clayton [REDACTED] > wrote:

Dear Chief Winnacker,

I am writing to request that you postpone the request to Rezone Orinda/Moraga to a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone at tonight's meeting.

My neighbors and I have just been made aware of this proposal and have many questions which should be properly addressed before any action is taken.

Thank you,  
Judy Clayton  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Ivy Anderson](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Moraga fire hazard designation  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 5:33:25 PM

---

Dear Director Jex and MOFD Board of Directors -

I live at 4008 Campolindo Dr in the Campolindo development of Moraga. I'm writing to ask you not to raise the fire danger designation for Moraga.

Our neighborhoods - certainly this is true in Campolindo - have already been highly proactive in fire mitigation over the past year and more. We have active wardens who advise homeowners on mitigation requirements and strategies and work actively to organize such activities. For example, my husband and I have just spent nearly \$10,000 in fuel break mitigation on a section of our property adjacent to the Lafayette Rim trail, specifically to protect against wildfire spreading. The evidence of this kind of continuous fire-wise activity is everywhere in our neighborhoods.

I believe that this is evidence of the already high fire safety consciousness in our town. To raise our fire danger status seems to risk punishing homeowners for the care and attention we already place on this issue, risking a potentially severe impact on future home sales and insurability. This cannot be good for the town; we need homeowners, and indeed the town as a whole, to be focused on fire safety implementation, not punitive designations.

We all take fire risk seriously, and we're all in this together. If more needs to be done, education and outreach, and where needed, enforcement, would seem to be more productive strategies rather than enacting ordinances that put our insurance statuses at risk.

Thank you,

Ivy Anderson  


**From:** [Michael Delehunt](#)  
**To:** [Winnacker, David](#)  
**Cc:** [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Rezoning Orinda to Very High Fire Hazard Zone  
**Date:** Monday, March 21, 2022 12:23:31 PM

---

Dear Chief Winnacker,

Thank you very much for your detailed response. We appreciate and support your efforts to improve fire safety. Thank you again.

Best regards,

Mike Delehunt

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 21, 2022, at 11:33 AM, Winnacker, David <[dwinacker@mofd.org](mailto:dwinacker@mofd.org)> wrote:

Michael,  
Thank you for contacting the fire district.

In response to community sentiment this item was pulled from the agenda at last week's meeting and will not be revisited.

While future actions which may be taken by insurance carriers are unknowable, the extensive outreach and research conducted during the development of the proposed ordinance strongly suggested that the sophisticated models used to underwrite fire risk would not be influenced by an administrative change to a 15 year old map. To put it in the simplest terms possible, a carrier is unlikely to "discover" an overlooked case of fire risk in our community as a result of local ordinances. The ordinance was the only mechanism available to apply the state's fire safety to lot splits and, in my professional opinion, was worth pursuing. That said, it became apparent that community support was not widespread.

We continue our multi-year effort to bring the over 14,000 parcels in our community into compliance with the fire code and appreciate your support of this work.

Thank you,

Dave Winnacker  
Fire Chief

Moraga-Orinda Fire District



---

**From:** Holbrook, Marcia  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 10:56 AM  
**To:** Winnacker, David <dwinacker@mofd.org>  
**Cc:** Holbrook, Marcia <mholbrook@mofd.org>  
**Subject:** FW: Rezoning Orinda to Very High Fire Hazard Zone

Hi Chief,  
Please see the below correspondence received.

Thank you,  
Marcia

Marcia Holbrook, District Secretary/District Clerk  
**Moraga-Orinda Fire District**  
1280 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556  
Phone: (925) 258-4501  
Fax: (925) 376-1699

**From:** Info  
**Sent:** Monday, March 21, 2022 9:45 AM  
**To:** Holbrook, Marcia <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** Rezoning Orinda to Very High Fire Hazard Zone

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

**Site Visitor Name:** Michael Delehunt  
**Site Visitor Email:** [REDACTED]

Dear Chief Winnacker,

My wife Linda and I appreciate the substantial efforts you and and MOFD have made, and continue to make, to address fire safety in Orinda. We realize that we as a community need to address the wildfire dangers that effect Orinda.

However, we do oppose rezoning Orinda as a Very High Fire Danger area. Doing so is likely to have a disastrous effect on the ability of Orinda residents to obtain fire insurance at affordable prices or at all. Rather than take this rezoning step we would like to see intensified fire prevention efforts and heightened efforts to make the community aware of the need to protect property and mitigate fire risk. These efforts might also include requiring homeowners to take affirmative steps to address fire risk to their property and neighboring properties.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Michael Delehunt