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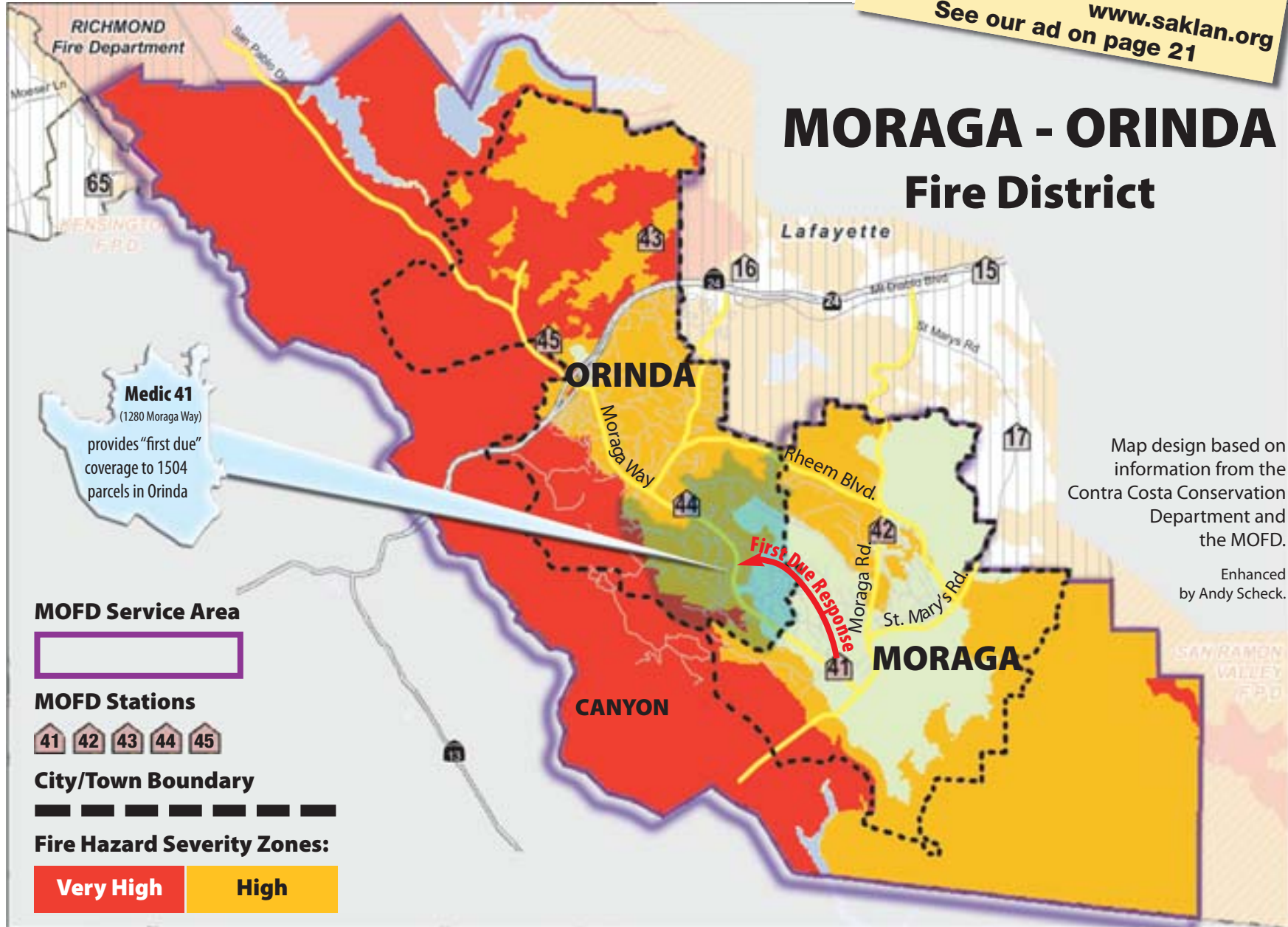
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Wednesday, March 4, 2009



Council Members from Moraga and Orinda and members of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board of Directors recently met to discuss the Fire District's property tax allocation. According to Orinda's Revenue Enhancement Task Force (RETF), currently Moraga contributes 35% of the MOFD property tax revenue and Orinda kicks in 65%. Fire Chief Pete Nowicki reported that the property tax revenues that Moraga and Orinda contribute to fund the Fire District are allocated fairly and reflect the level of services received by each municipality. Nowicki emphasized that the MOFD responded and functioned as a single fire district and that quantifying service on a per parcel basis was not possible. However when pressed, he provided examples of infrastructure expenditures and service coverage that supported his position that Moraga and Orinda each pay for and receive their fair share.

The tri-agency meeting was prompted by the recommendations of the RETF which has proposed capping the MOFD's property tax revenues at 4.5% with plans to commit the excess tax revenues toward Orinda's much needed infrastructure repairs.

"I am very pleased to see you all here," stated Art Haigh, Chair of Orinda's Infrastructure Oversight Committee and a member of the RETF. "It is my fervent desire to address Orinda's rapidly deteriorating infrastructure," he added. Haigh stated that the RETF had identified the need to explore two issues: the funding inequity between Moraga and Orinda and the high cost of the MOFD services as compared to other districts. This two-hour meeting was only able to tackle the first issue posed by the RETF.

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Moraga, Orinda and MOFD Meet

Nowicki Reports Property Tax Allocation on Target
 By Andrea A. Firth

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Moraga and Orinda Council Members Talk Trash
 By Sophie Braccini



Council members David Trotter, Karen Mendonca, Victoria Smith and Steven Glazer listen to Steven Moore, President & CEO Pacific Rim Recycling in Benicia
 Photo Andy Scheck

On March 1st, the solid waste residential rate increased by 7.7% in Orinda, from \$25.23 to \$27.35, by 4.2% in Moraga, from \$19.98 to \$20.82 and in Lafayette by 9.02% from \$19.83 to \$21.62. On February 26, the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority's (CCCSWA) Executive Director Paul Morsen invited some local city council members who also sit on the CCSWA Board to tour some CCSWA partners and facilities. The tour was followed by a discussion of strategic goals.

Moraga Council Member Karen Mendonca and Mayor Dave Trotter, and Orinda Council Members Victoria Smith and Steve Glazer are recyclers in their everyday lives and advocates in their cities, and they all chose the assignment of sitting on the CCSWA Board because of their commitment to recycling.

"I am involved because I want to work to increase our recycling rate and to keep hazardous sub-

stances out of the waste stream," said Glazer.

Trotter explained, "I have an interest and some previous background in solid waste matters...for a number of years during the 1990's I represented garbage collection and recycling companies as an attorney."

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St. Mary's College Suspected Rapist Caught
 By Cathy Tyson

On Friday February 27, 20-year-old St. Mary's College student Blake Johnson was arrested in class for the January 23 alleged rape of a fellow student who wishes to remain anonymous. "She was instrumental in identifying the suspect," said Moraga's Interim Police Chief Robert Priebe.

Johnson was booked at the Martinez Detention facility and released after posting \$100,000 bail. The case will be presented to the District Attorney on March 4, 2009.

Summer Camps 2009

see pages 19-21
 25 Camps listed

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