



**Moraga Orinda Fire District Board of Directors Meetings** Meetings of the MOFD Board of Directors are open to the public and take place on the third Wednesday of each month in the Board Room, Administration Building, 1280 Moraga Way, Moraga

#### **Next meeting:**

Next regular MOFD Board meeting is October 19th, 7:00pm, Station 41 (1280 Moraga Way, Moraga), (go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

## **MOFD** Nixes **Building Purchase**, Approves 2011/12 Budget

### **By Lucy Amaral**

Atrict (MOFD) Board of Director's meeting held September 27, the Board conducted its final deliberations on whether or not to purchase a separate building to house the District's administrative staff. After several hours of discussion, and months building." of debate, the Board voted 3-2 against the purchase.

in need of several upgrades. Station 41 also houses part of MOFD's administrative staff, with the other portion of administrative offices housed in MOFD's Station 45 in Orinda. One the project. option offered by the facilities report was to combine administrative offices in an off-site location, then repurpose the existing administrative space in Station 41.

Randy Bradley presented the option to purchase a vacant building located administrative facility. In Bradley's

t the Moraga Orinda Fire Dis- a prudent move. "The economy is bad and predicted to get worse," said Mancinelli, who voted against the purchase. "There just isn't the money or the prospect of sufficient new money coming in to justify the risk of spending over a million dollars on a

Sperling and Olsen echoed Mancinelli's concern over the econ-As reported in MOFD's facilities omy and the timing of the purchase. report approved in April, Station 41 is The two assenting votes came from John Wyro and Fred Weil. Board President Wyro said one must weigh the options and he said he saw more opportunity than risk, and voted for

> With the defeat of the proposal, the Board requested that an item be placed on the next agenda to discuss how to proceed.

The Board also gave final ap-In April, MOFD Fire Chief proval to the 2011/12 General Fund and special Revenue Fund budgets. In his staff report, Bradley said that at 1150 Moraga Way to be used as an while the preliminary budget he presented to the Board was considered staff report he said the cost to pur- balanced, the assumptions for revenue chase and renovate the building projections were off. Bradley said would be approximately \$1.9 million that the District's original projection for property tax revenue was based on a .6 percent increase. The staff report added that while Moraga's secured property tax revenue increased by one and the audience in attendance were half of one percent, Orinda's property divided. Concern over the economy, tax revenues decreased by three perpension issues and construction costs cent, causing final property tax revwere common themes for those enue projections to decrease 1.8 against the purchase. The efficiencies percent. Using revised projected revcreated from having the staff in one enue combined with proactively made cost-cutting measures, Bradley said that the budget now shows a prosetting the cost, was offered by those jected deficit of approximately \$355,000. The revised budget, along with three options for the board to con-Bradley added leasing space from sider, was presented. Alternatives to approving with the deficit, then adjusting mid-year. The Board decided to approve with deficit, opting to balance the budget using reserves from the General Fund. "We have approved the budget with the shortfall, balancing the budget with the use of reserves, using approximately ten percent of our General Fund reserve to do so," said Wyro. "The final Budget is consistent with the preliminary budget with respect to expenditures. The change was the reduced revenue as a result of



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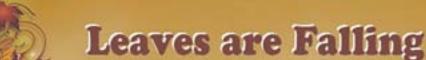




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with the funds coming from the Special Revenue Fund.

In the Board meetings that followed, opinions from both the Board place, as well as the possibility of renting part of the space thereby offin favor of the option. The Board eventually requested that Bradley return with additional ideas.

the City of Orinda, renting space in ranged from selective staff furloughs, Moraga, constructing a prefabricated building behind the Station 41, retrofitting the basement of Station 45 in Orinda, as well as the purchase of the building, for the Board's consideration. Bradley consistently stated that due to the location, adaptability, improved efficiencies and costs, the purchase of this building should be considered the best option for the District.

As the contract to purchase the building was set to expire on September 30, the Board meeting this night was only to decide whether or not to the property tax numbers." purchase the building in Moraga, not act on the other possibilities.

Board members Frank Sperling, voiced their concern as to the timing of the purchase. With a strained economy, they felt spending over \$1 million on a building did not seem to be nancial situation."

"If upon further review at our mid-year budget session we feel a need to make adjustments, we can Brook Mancinelli and Richard Olsen amend the budget at that time," he added. "We can (also) amend the budget at any time based on new information or re-evaluation of our fi-

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