



**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. Please note new meeting location: Sarge Littlehale Room, Orinda City Hall, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda

Next meeting:

Regular Board Meeting

August 15, 2012

7:00 PM Closed Session only

(go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for more information)

MOFD Board to Monitor Progress of Con Fire's Station 16 Repairs

By Lucy Amaral

Contra Costa County Fire Protection District's (Con Fire) Station 16 on Los Arabis Road in Lafayette closed in June due to infestation and mold issues. With no estimated time for reopening, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors is keeping an eye on the situation and its effects on MOFD.

Con Fire's Station 16 is located within two miles of MOFD's Station 43 on Las Cruces and both Districts employ what is called an "Auto-Aid Agreement," whereby the closest resource from either participating agency responds to an incident. With Station 16's closure, one of the Board's concerns is that the MOFD would be called more frequently into Con Fire's district, leaving MOFD residents vulnerable.

At MOFD's Board meeting held August 1, Battalion Chief Stephen Healy offered a staff report outlining recent call volume and how it has changed since the closure of Station 16. Healy stated that since June 20, MOFD's response into Con Fire's jurisdiction increased 13 percent, while Con Fire's responses into MOFD's territory decreased 16 percent. Healy noted that because the closure was recent the data is limited, but the trend indicates MOFD will provide an increasing number of responses while Station 16 is closed.

Healy said that auto aid agreements are rarely equal in their distribution and it would be important to remember that simply by their size, Con Fire would always be able to send more units to an emergency than MOFD. He emphasized that the auto aid agreement is mutually beneficial and worth protecting, however an unreasonable increase in calls for MOFD outside the district would be unacceptable.

The Board was cautious with its comments. Board Member Frank Sperling said that one month or even one season does not make a trend, but voiced concern about the possibility of multiple calls out of the district leaving District residents under-covered. Board President Fred Weil was also concerned about the long-term effects if voters do not pass the tax increase Con Fire has placed on the No-

vember ballot.

Con Fire's Fire Chief, Daryl Louder, recently asked the Contra Costa District Board to place a parcel tax on the next ballot to address serious budget shortfalls. Concerning Station 16, Louder said the current situation has nothing to do with funding or taxes other than if revenue were available before it would have been replaced sooner. "Our requirement and desire is to provide a healthy and safe environment for our personnel," he said. "This has caused us to close the station, not a budget issue."

Louder added that the firefighters that were housed in Station 16 have been temporarily moved to Station 15 in downtown Lafayette and progress is being made to reopen Station 16. "We have completed the environmental studies," he said. "The facility would require a significant amount of work as far as remediation of areas that were affected by water leaks and rodent infestation so we are exploring other options."

Louder said that a short-term option would be to place a re-fitted construction trailer on the site, getting the firefighters back into the area quickly while a longer-term solution, either repairing or rebuilding, is considered. Those discussions, he said, are ongoing. He noted that if a construction trailer were approved, it would take about 45 days from the time of the approval to reconfigure one to be appropriate for firefighters and get it set on the fire station property.

As the presentation by Healy was for information only, no action was required, however the Board asked to be kept informed of the progress. "We are watching this closely and talking to (Con Fire)," said Healy. "We are still waiting to see the long term impact of that closure. Presently we don't know how long that station will be out of service."

Weil said he appreciates how much support MOFD receives from Con Fire. "We certainly don't want to create an unfriendly situation with Con Fire, which is providing us with so much backup and support," he said. "I just hope they will be able to kill those rats in a hurry and get Station 16 up and running again."

MOFD Board Candidates Run Unopposed

Members will be appointed in lieu of election

By Lucy Amaral

Three candidates stepped up to run for the three seats available on the Moraga Orinda Fire District's (MOFD) Board of Directors. With the candidacy application deadline passed, all three Board of Directors seats went unchallenged, and according to the Contra Costa Elections office, those running will be appointed in lieu of election and their names will not appear on the November Ballot.

Two of the Board seats had been vacant since the end of February and current Board President Fred Weil's term is set to expire in November. Weil chose to run for reelection in Moraga's Division 2, while District residents Alex Evans and Stephen Anderson each filed to run for one of the remaining empty spots— Evans in Orinda's Division 5 and Anderson

in Division 3, which encompasses parts of Moraga, Orinda and Canyon.

In February, former MOFD Board Members Brook Mancinelli and Dick Olsen resigned their seats. In March, the three remaining MOFD Board members voted to fill the two vacant seats by way of election and have it coincide with the General Election held in November.

Olsen, who represented Division 3, had several years remaining in his tenure and Anderson will serve out that term. The other two positions will be for the full, four-year term. Weil, Evans and Anderson will join current Board members Frank Sperling and John Wyro.

The new and returning Board members will be sworn in at MOFD's December Board of Directors meeting.

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People are talking...about The Terraces of Lafayette

Mention the proposed Terraces of Lafayette apartment community to people around the city, and you're likely to hear a lot of conflicting information. We thought we'd set the record straight on some of these concerns:

"New development is going to make traffic in the Pleasant Hill Road/Deer Hill Road area unbearable."

The Terraces proposes a new southbound lane from Deer Hill Road to the freeway and a protected left turn lane from Pleasant Hill Road into the community that would actually IMPROVE traffic flow. Although the Draft Environmental Impact report (DEIR) agrees that the addition of a southbound lane would "increase traffic capacity," it rejects the proposal. (www.ci.lafayette.ca.us)

"How can we support a project that will block views of the ridgelines and natural hillsides?"

The entire project has been planned on 23 acres of the lowest, least visible and most degraded (by road construction and quarrying activities) area of the 85-acre Dettmer family property, nearest to the freeway. The proposed project is located south of Deer Hill Road and NONE of it will be built on the natural open hillsides or the ridgelines. An illustrative plan of the site is available in the Draft EIR, online at the City website.

"The Terraces project is out of character for Lafayette."

The physical character of Lafayette includes several communities of two and three story apartments. The Terraces is entirely consistent with that character and will include planting of more than 700 trees on a denuded and eroded piece of land. Landscaping plans are included in application for development, online at the City site.

"I'm worried that the project will attract transients and people who will not put down roots in the community."

The Terraces could provide much-needed housing for local teachers, City employees, other professionals and long-time Lafayette residents transitioning out of their family homes.

"How can an apartment community live up to Lafayette's green goals?"

O'Brien Homes is one of the Bay Area's most respected builders, known for its design and construction of everything from townhomes to estates. The Terraces is committed to a minimum LEED silver rating. The company is not new to green building; its Fusion project in Sunnyvale has received Build it Green's "Green Point Rating." (www.blogfusionsunnyvale.com)



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