



Fire Districts

Public Meetings

MOFD Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors
 Wednesday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m.
 Go to www.mofd.org as the meeting date approaches for location and more information

ConFire Board of Directors
 Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7 p.m.
 Board Chamber room 107, Administration Building, 651 Pine St., Martinez (Agenda at

Emergency response information and training:
 Lamorinda Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
www.lamorindacert.org

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ConFire to Upgrade One-Third of its Fleet

By Nick Marnell

Fire chiefs know all about timing. Their jobs revolve around - and their performance is gauged by - improving the incident response times in their districts or departments.

Exhibiting this knack for timing, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District Chief Jeff Carman asked that his board approve a \$1 million annual lease-purchase payment for new fire apparatus, subsequently requesting adoption of an ordinance that will allow ConFire to charge \$1 million annually in first responder fees. The Board of Supervisors, acting as the ConFire board of directors, unanimously approved both requests at its Dec. 9 meeting.

ConFire will purchase nine fire engines, three aerial ladder trucks and one rescue truck from Pierce Manufacturing Inc. in 2015 under a 10-year lease-purchase agreement through Oshkosh Capital. "This replaces 33 percent of our aging fleet," said Carman, who added that he expects to request a similar order in the next fiscal year, with an annual goal of \$2.5 million dedicated to replacing district apparatus. The first new vehicles should arrive in the fourth quarter of next year.

Though he would not confirm that any of the new engines will be assigned to Lafayette stations 15 or 17, Carman did say that one of the new

trucks will be delivered to station 1 in Walnut Creek, which is the first backup for structure fires in Lafayette. He also confirmed that the new squad vehicle, ordered earlier this fall, will arrive at station 1 on Jan. 17. It, too, will back up calls into Lafayette.

The cost recovery ordinance allows ConFire to collect reimbursement from insurance providers for the actual costs of its services rendered on emergency medical calls. Carman stressed to the board that all costs recovered will be from the insurance companies or the federal government and not from individuals. "Not collecting this fee is subsidizing the insurance companies," he told the

ConFire Advisory Fire Commission the previous evening. Though individuals without insurance will still be billed, the district expects to facilitate a compassionate collection approach for those without the ability to pay. Carman anticipates \$1 million in annual reimbursements, but he said that a consultant suggested the amount could exceed \$1.5 million.

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District, less than one-tenth the size of ConFire and sporting vastly different demographics, generated \$100,000 in first responder fees in the last fiscal year, according to administrative services director Gloriann Sasser.

Community Service

Lafayette Participates in Regional Drill for Large Scale Emergency

Submitted by Carol Yates



From left: LEPC commissioners Mike Melewicz and Carol Yates, County Health Service representative Ken Binkley, LEPC commissioner Duncan Seibert
 Photo provided

Members of the Lafayette Emergency Preparedness Commission recently attended a regional anthrax drill in El Cerrito. Commissioners Michael Melewicz, Duncan Seibert, and Carol Yates joined Contra Costa Health Services, American Red Cross, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), and county wide volunteers to partic-

ipate in the exercise.

The drill practiced the establishment of a mock "point-of-dispensing," or POD, site and the delivery of emergency supplies. During the two and half hours the POD was operational, 870 mock doses of life saving medication were distributed.

Training exercises such as these help the City of Lafayette to be able

to rapidly respond to disasters such as an earthquake, wildfire, hazardous material spill, or act of terrorism. Though this drill focused on the response to a bioterrorism event, the planning and collaboration that took place as part of this exercise will help prepare Lafayette for any type of health emergency.

Following the 2001 anthrax attacks, the federal government directed all health departments in the United States to develop plans to rapidly and safely provide medication to the public in the event of a public health emergency. The current exercise was organized by Bay Area Mass Prophylaxis Working Group, formed to coordinate planning and response efforts, which also created the website www.BayAreaDisasterMeds.org to provide the public with information on where to get medication in the event of a real emergency. You can help speed up the process by going to this website and filling out a form to keep ready in the event it is needed.

The goal for Lafayette is to distribute medication within 48 hours to all 23,000 residents and first respon-

ders in the event of a chemical or biological attack. In case of such an incident requiring emergency mass oral antibiotics prophylaxis, the Lafayette Police Department will receive the antibiotic supplies through the county and ensure delivery of them to the Lafayette POD operations site. Volunteers who have been trained will assist in dispensing.

LEPC commissioners also recently attended a FEMA-sponsored program and a statewide exercise to study concepts, plans, and capabilities related to a patient surge during a potential anthrax exposure with a focus on delivering key messages to the public.

Commissioner Michelle Heckle and chair Fred Lothrop keep the commission, including Sherry Hoover and George Figone, informed on the educational programs. The commission works closely with Chief Eric Christensen and Cathy Moscato of the Lafayette Police Department, and Dennis Rein, Emergency Coordinator for Lamorinda. For more information, email lepccarol@gmail.com.

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| Performing Arts | \$372,950 |
| K-5 Instructional Aides | \$300,000 |
| Humanities | \$220,600 |
| Arts (Visual & Industrial Arts) | \$174,550 |
| Math & Engineering | \$151,000 |
| World Language | \$118,700 |
| Student Services | \$99,300 |
| K-8 Health Education | \$70,000 |
| K-8 Professional Development | \$35,000 |
| 2014-15 Total | \$2,433,100 |

