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MOFD and local municipalities create joint fire prevention committee

By Nick Marnell

So that all agencies are in sync with fire prevention efforts, the Moraga-Orinda Fire District board unanimously approved the formation of a joint fire prevention committee with the city of Orinda and the town of Moraga.

"Working together, the city of Orinda, town of Moraga and the district can ensure the separate agencies are up-to-date with fire prevention efforts underway, can identify where the city and town need to assist, and can examine any opportunities to leverage resources," Fire Chief Dave Winnacker said at the May 20 district meeting.

Public outcry for stronger district fire prevention efforts, especially from Orinda residents, led in large part to the formation of the new district committee. Board President Steven Danziger participated in the May 5 Orinda City Council meeting and said he felt the passion and intensity from community residents and elected officials as the city set up its own subcommittee to augment district fire prevention efforts.

"It seemed like almost every item they discussed was about wildfires and fire prevention," Danziger said.

Orinda subcommittee members include Mayor Darlene Gee and Council Member Dennis Fay, with the Moraga representatives including Mayor Kymberleigh Korpus and Council Member Steve Woehleke.

MOFD added power and urgency to the joint project by naming three directors to its committee, calling for more frequent meetings than quarterly and recommending that district concerned citizens be invited to attend.

Once legal details are worked out among the agencies, the first joint meeting could take place in early June.

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