

Company that defaulted on MOFD construction contract convicted of fraud

By Nick Marnell

Principals of the Federal Solutions Group, a San Ramon-based government contractor that failed to live up to the terms of a 2017 construction agreement with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit insurance premium fraud and related felonies Sept. 2. According to the Contra Costa County District Attorney's office, the company principals also admitted to an aggravated white collar crime enhancement for a loss exceeding \$500,000 through a pattern of criminal activity.

Scott Alonso of the DA's Office explained that investi-

gators determined that the defendants, Selina Singh and Kabir Singh, obtained government contracts, including construction contracts that required compliance with workers compensation laws. The defendants then used Federal Solutions Group and their other companies to hire, employ and pay laborers to complete construction work, even as the defendants fraudulently misrepresented the construction payroll to insurance carriers as accruing in less dangerous industries, such as clerical and consulting, in order to lower their insurance rates.

"An audit by a forensic accountant at the DA's Office concluded that the scheme

evaded over \$2 million dollars of insurance premiums that law-abiding competitors would have had to pay in seven years, in addition to over \$200,000 of payroll tax owed to the state of California," Alonso said in a statement.

MOFD awarded Federal Solutions Group a contract to rebuild Orinda Fire Station 43 in September 2017, but two months later the district terminated its agreement with the company over a contract violation.

Per terms of the fire station construction agreement, the company was to obtain a performance bond but it failed to do so, constituting a material breach of the con-

tract. "We couldn't risk taking a waiver and proceeding with the construction without the bond," board President Kathleen Famulener said at the time.

The district hired a new contractor in March 2018 and the Orinda fire station re-

opened in May of the following year.

The Federal Solutions Group principals will be sentenced Nov. 19 in Contra Costa County Superior Court. Each defendant faces a maximum sentence of 11 years and eight months.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 16, 7 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, Sept. 22, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Lamorinda steps up to aid LNU Complex fire victims



Maddie before



Maddie after Photos provided

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"It was lucky for us, but not so much for many members of the community," Held said.

Held drew upon his numerous connections in the Vacaville business community, including Ashley Gall, who runs the Rise and Redemption clothing and home decor boutique in the city. As a way to help fire victims in the area, Gall and Held agreed to put on a downtown fundraiser the weekend of Aug. 29-30.

"Some of these people may have been lucky enough to find a place to live, but some don't even have a place to sit," Held said.

Donner met with Held and Gall and worked through a list of those who had lost their homes and reached out to many of the victims. "Those we determined to help were based largely on our instinct," said Donner, who at the event

distributed more than \$15,000 he said he collected from many Lamorinda residents.

Recipients were given personalized cards infused with cash. Some folks cried. Some screamed with joy. One mother of three appeared so bewildered as she accepted her donation she could not even speak.

Chloe Carroll and her two boys lost their Vacaville home in the fire. The family received \$1,000 cash and gift card. "I was blown away. Someone had given my name, and told me to meet downtown. It opened my eyes that there are still good people in the world," Carroll said.

But the biggest star of the fundraising event was a 12-year-old Lafayette girl.

Maddie David did a complete head shave, live over Facebook the last week of August, and raised \$1,650 for the fire victims, plus \$1,500 for the

All Good Living Foundation in Alameda.

"We thought it would be cool to do something to help others," said Maddie's mom, Sarah David. "What the heck, we're stuck in quarantine anyway."

The family got in touch with Donner, who suggested they take the cash to the Vacaville fundraiser. Maddie met many of the fire victims and posed for photos throughout the event. "Her mom must be very proud," Carroll said.

Michael Karp, owner of the Fourth Bore Tap Room and Grill in Orinda Theatre Square, also heeded Donner's request for help. Karp spent four years reconditioning a 1971 fire engine, adding an oven to the vehicle, and the Vacaville fundraiser proved to be one of the first public events where he could unveil the new apparatus. "It was a no-brainer to bring it there," Karp said.

Karp provided 75 pizzas and 60 meatball sandwiches to the attendees over the fundraising weekend. "I had so much fun putting smiles on people's faces," he said.

For many of the August wildfire victims, those may have been their first smiles in more than a week.



Michael Karp and Sasha Zukanoff of Fourth Bore



Michael Donner, center, with Ashley Gall and Eli Held

What does LNU Lightning Complex mean?

LNU stands for the Sonoma-Lake-Napa Unit – the name of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection operational unit in charge of the fire response.

Lightning Complex refers to the amalgamation of eight fires in the North Bay and East Bay sparked by lightning strikes the morning of Aug. 17.

California comprises 21 Cal Fire operational units. All of Lamorinda resides in the Santa Clara Unit – SCU, in Cal Fire-speak. - N. Marnell

Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours
925-284-5010

Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:
3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt
925-299-3221

Police Department Tip Line
94549Tip@gmail.com

Police Department Traffic Issues
94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:
329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:
22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report
Aug. 23 - Sept. 5

Alarms	29
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	81
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	22
Suspicious Vehicle	23
Service to Citizen	54
Patrol Req./Security Check	39
Public/School Assembly Check	0
Supplemental Report	22
Vacation House Check	5
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	3

Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
1200 Block Quandt Ct.	
3200 Block Acalanes Ave.	
20 Block Olympic Oaks Dr.	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
900 Block Hough Ave. (2)	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Police Department	
Reckless Driving	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette	
Reservoir Entrance Rd.	
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.	
Stolen Vehicle Recovery	
200 Block Lafayette Cr	
Vehicle Theft	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	

Brook St./Oak St.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1500 Block Rancho View Dr.

Other criminal activity

Extortion
3100 Block Plymouth Rd.

Forgery
Police Department (2)

Fraud False Pretenses
3500 Block Terrace Way
1200 Block Warner Ct.

Grand Theft
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.

Identity Theft
Police Department
400 Block Peacock Blvd.

1000 Block Pine Ln.
900 Block Carol Ln.
800 Block Mountain View Dr.

Misc. Burglary
3300 Block Johnson Rd.

Petty Theft
1200 Block Del Arroyo Ct.
3500 Block Terrace Way
900 Block Oak St.

1200 Block Sunset Lp
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Petty Theft From Veh
1100 Block Nogales St.
3700 Block Rose Ct.
1000 Block Windsor Dr.
10 Block Crest Rd.

Shoplift
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
200 Block Happy Hollow Ct. (2)
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
3500 Block Brook St. (2)
1000 Block Carol Ln.
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.

Disturbance-fight
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Disturbing The Peace
Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave.
Fairholm Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Drunk In Public
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

Loud Noise
1000 Block Howard Hills Rd.

Loud Party
Camino Vallecito/N Peardale Dr.
900 Block Hough Ave.
Brook St./Cerrito Ct.
3600 Block Brook St.
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd. (2)

Public Nuisance
3600 Block Chestnut St.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Lafayette

Reservoir Entrance Rd.
Pleasant Hill Rd./Olympic Blvd.

Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

3500 Block Terrace Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)

Other

Covid19 / Ordinance Violation
El Curtola Blvd./Camino Diablo

Phone Harass
700 Block Glenside Dr.

Threats
3100 Block Plymouth Rd.

Trespass
3500 Block Terrace Way
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.

Unwanted Guest
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
3400 Block School St.
3500 Block Plaza Way

Violation Restraining Ord
3400 Block Moraga Blvd.
3100 Block Stanley Blvd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Aug. 25 - Sept. 7

Alarms 10
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 11
Traffic 31
Suspicious Circumstances 5
Suspicious Subject 4
Suspicious Vehicle 9
Service to Citizen 41
Patrol Req./Security Check 45
Supplemental Report 3
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 7
Ordinance Violation 0

Vehicle violations

Dui Misd
Moraga Rd./Brook St., Laf

Excessive Speed
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Theater Dr.
Moraga Way/School St. (2)
St Andrews Dr./Country Club Dr.
Park St./Rheem Ifo Nations
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori
Ivy Dr./Moraga Way
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
700 Block Moraga Way

Reckless Driving
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)
Butterfield Pl./Tharp Dr.
Sanders Dr./Carr Dr.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./Donald Dr.
St Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.

Other criminal activity

Identity Theft
1000 Block Baitx Dr.

Residential Burglary
300 Block Fernwood Dr.

Nuisance to the Community

Disturbance-domestic
50 Block Laird Dr.

Disturbance-fight
300 Block Rheem Blvd.

Loud Music
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
Canyon Club Brewery

Loud Noise
200 Block Tharp Dr.
Juniper Way/Rimer Dr.
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
2000 Block Donald Dr.

Other

Accident Property
20 Block Hour Fitness

Animal Cruelty
Homegoods
Safeway

Failure To Obey
Moraga Way/Moraga Rd.

Fireworks
Joaquin Moraga Int School

Ordinance Violation
Not Available

Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center

Trespass
50 Block Laird Dr.

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report
Aug. 23 - Sept. 5

Alarms 33
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 9
Traffic 13
Suspicious Circumstances 5
Suspicious Subject 5
Suspicious Vehicle 6
Service to Citizen 66
Patrol Req./Security Check 59
Public/School Assembly Check 6
Supplemental Report 13
Welfare Check 3
Ordinance Violation 1

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
200 Block La Espiral
100 Block La Espiral View Dr.

Reckless Driving
Orchard Ct./Moraga Way
Overhill Rd./Glorietta Blvd.

Tc - Property Damage
20 Block Via Callados

Cvs
Throw Moving Vehicle

Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way

Vehicle Theft
10 Block Orinda Way
10 Block Las Vegas Rd.

Other criminal activity

Defraud Inkeeper
500 Block Moraga Way

Dependent Adult Abuse
50 Block Bates Blvd.

Fraud False Pretenses
10 Block La Espiral

Grand Theft
20 Block Lind Ct.
600 Block Fox Run

Grand Theft From Veh
10 Block Hillcrest Dr.

Identity Theft
60 Block Moraga Via

Misc Burglary
400 Block Moraga Way

Panhandling
Camino Sobrante/Orinda Way

Petty Theft
40 Block El Gavilan Rd.
70 Block El Gavilan Ct.
200 Block La Espiral
600 Block Fox Run

Residential Burglary
10 Block Van Tassel Ln.
10 Block Monte Vista Rd.

Shoplift
Safeway
50 Block Moraga Way

Simple Assault
Loma Linda Ct./Ardor Dr.

Warrant Arrest
Brookwood Rd./Camino Pablo
Police Department

Nuisance to the Community

Loud Music
Lucille Way/Knickerbocker Ln.

Loud Noise
Miramonte High School

Loud Party
20 Block Don Gabriel Way

Public Nuisance
St Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24
El Nido Ranch Rd./El Castillo

Vandalism
Donald Dr./Alice Ln.

Other

Accident Property
Miner Rd./Camino Pablo

Fireworks
Tumbling Brook Rd./Vista Del

Orinda
Violation
80 Block Meadow View Rd.