

Petitioning [Victoria Smith](#) and [7 others](#)

Use Orinda Emergency Service Dollars in Orinda

[Steve Cohn](#) Orinda, CA

Should Orinda citizens and the Orinda City Council demand that MOFD honor the promise made to voters when MOFD was formed that Orinda tax dollars be used solely for services in Orinda?

When the Orinda City Council asked the voters in 1997 to merge fire departments with Moraga and form an independent fire district, MOFD, they INSURED the voters that the result would be that Orinda tax dollar would stay in Orinda. The voters believed them and voted to form MOFD. Since then, neither the City of Orinda nor MOFD itself has kept track of how Orinda's tax dollars are being used.

Currently, 2.5 million Orinda tax dollars are being used for services in Moraga instead of enhanced services in Orinda. This petition demands that Orinda's City Council work with Orinda's MOFD representatives to account for the use of Orinda's tax dollars and correct for any use of those dollars outside of Orinda.

For more information see www.OrindaTaskForce.org/using-Orindas-tax-dollars-in-Orinda

This petition will be delivered to:

[Victoria Smith](#)

[Eve Phillips](#)

[Amy Worth](#)

[5 more decision makers...](#)

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Use Orinda Emergency Service Dollars in Orinda

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Recipient: Victoria Smith, Eve Phillips, Amy Worth, Dean Orr, Darlene Gee, Steve Anderson, Alex Evans, and Brad Barber

Letter: Greetings,

Dear Orinda Council and MOFD Directors:

When the Orinda Council asked the voters to merge the Orinda Fire Department with Moraga's in 1997 to form MOFD, they INSURED the residents of Orinda that this merger would mean that Orinda tax dollars would only be used for services in Orinda. Orinda voters believed this pledge and voted to form the new district.

Since then, no accounting of how our tax dollars are being used has been made by either The City or MOFD.

While the pledge was "non binding" (there was no mechanism put in place to force the use of Orinda tax dollars in Orinda) it was still a pledge, just like the current Council's pledge to use sales tax dollars for road repairs.

This petition asks (demands?) the Orinda Council to work with Orinda's representatives on the MOFD Board to honor the pledge made to the voters back in 1997. Currently, approximately \$2.5 million of Orinda property taxes are being used to pay for services in Moraga.

There are great needs for those dollars to be used for enhanced services in Orinda including appropriate response times in Sleepy Hollow / Orinda Downs; a fuel reduction program in large areas of North Orinda deemed Severe Fire Hazard zones; and upgrading of Orinda's three dozen "grossly inadequate" fire hydrants which were identified before MOFD was even created.

Comments

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Bailey Lee	Orinda, CA	2016-07-30	What's fair is fair. The terms of the original agreement are NOT being enforced. \$2.5 MILLION DOLLARS is not small change and the medical and fire services that would pay for are not trivial either.
Virginia Samuelson	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	<p>I think it's about time someone like Steve, Alex and Brad are there for us trying to correct a huge financial wrong regarding allowing Moraga to pay less than its fair share of the fire and medical alert service along with the outrageous benefits MOFED has shown poor judgement to have been put in place. I'm not against reasonable retirement benefits to our fire department personnel, but our former fire chief and our fire fighter union have willingly courted and been given pension payments which grossly take advantage of our taxpayers !</p> <p>It has been disturbing to see our city council's refusal to address these inequities, even in the face of stron Orinda citizen requests.</p> <p>Good luck and God Speed to you, Brad, Alex and Steve !</p>
Tom Trowbridge	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	This disparity continues to grow and must no longer be ignored. When a formula for the allocation of taxpayer funds no longer delivers an equitable solution, common sense calls for an adjustment.
Janet Maiorana	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Orinda's subsidy to Moraga was \$600,000 when we first became aware that Orinda was subsidizing Moraga for their emergency services. We have watched this subsidy grow annually, and now it is approximately, \$2.5 million. What will it be in 10 years? In 2002, we began pleading with the Orinda City Council to detach from MOFD, and form an all Orinda Fire District. We would then have enough money to maintain our roads, and Orinda taxpayers would not be burdened with more and more road bonds. Ours pleas for proper management of our tax dollars have fallen on deaf ears. Our taxes continue to be squandered annually. Orinda continues as the golden goose for Moraga.
B W	orinda, CA	2016-07-31	i helped get orinda out of contra costa consolidated - due to my negative experiences with Livermore FD and my positive experiences with orinda FD . . .
Bill Schmicker	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	It is only fair.
edward mcclatchie	orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Spend the 2.5 million on Orinda's roads.
edward mcclatchie	orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Moraga uses Orinda roads to get to the freeway. Use the money appropriately
Terry Winsor	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Because I believe that pledges should be kept - and appropriately monitored. Spend the money where it was intended
Leann Foster	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	I'm signing this because Orinda deserves to receive services that we pay for.
Nancy Melone	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Currently, 2.5 million Orinda tax dollars are being used for services in Moraga instead of enhanced services in Orinda.
Elizabeth Cehovec	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	Orinda residents should not have to pay more than Moraga for MOFD.
dona snow	moraga, CA	2016-07-31	<p>this must be done and long overdue</p> <p>thank you</p>
Sandra Wooten	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	We need to have the services we are paying for.
Art Haigh	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	I am signing this petition because there is a egregious disparity between Moraga and Orinda in the sharing of financial responsibility for MOFD's operations which demands resolution.

Name	Location	Date	Comment
Kristi Haigh	Orinda, CA	2016-07-31	I want to show support for the MOFD Board members who have agreed to take on the task of righting this wrong; they--and we--need the support of our city council.
Darlene Hamady	Orinda, CA	2016-08-01	I want our tax dollars to be spent on our town and for our protection. The money allotted by our town to the MOFD should be used in Orinda. Moraga should finance their town. The funding of MOFD should be equally shared by both towns. That was the intention of the merger as I understood it.
Robert Thompson	Orinda, CA	2016-08-01	I would LOVE to see a dialogue develop directly between the Orinda City Council and MOFD!
Joe DeGirolamo	Pleasant Hill, CA	2016-08-01	I want to know how our tax dollars have been spent.
Allan Horn	Orinda, CA	2016-08-01	We keep being asked to pay more in parcel taxes (roads, schools, MOFD, etc.) and seem to get less. Spend the money as was promised.
Thomas McCormick	Orinda, CA	2016-08-02	It is the right thing to do!
Jennifer Vigo	Orinda, CA	2016-08-02	I have been a resident of Orinda for more than 30 years
sid afshar	Orinda, CA	2016-08-02	I signing because this is the right thing for our hometown of Orinda.
Keith Jacobsen	Orinda, CA	2016-08-02	I don't think Orinda should be subsidizing Moraga and I'm irritated that the Orinda City Council has done nothing about this well documented inequity.
Mark Nelson	Orinda, CA	2016-08-02	Fair is fair. Orinda taxpayers should not be subsidizing Moraga services.
Ian Baird	Orinda, CA	2016-08-03	I agree with statement in petition.
Charles Sprague	Orinda, CA	2016-08-03	Fair is fair
Worthington worthington	Orinda, CA	2016-08-03	It only makes sense.
Robert Guzikowski	Pinole, CA	2016-08-03	Keep the promise !
Nancy McCaulou-Bernatz	Orinda, CA	2016-08-04	I am signing this because I believe that Orinda tax dollars should go to Orinda citizens for emergency services.
Jeffrey Kingston	Orinda, CA	2016-08-05	MOFD is breaching its promise! This on top of the pension scandal. In short no confidence in MOFD and the Board
Al and Barbara Resnick	Orinda, CA	2016-08-07	It's time to get this issue resolved.
june haring	Orinda, CA	2016-08-07	Its time for a change for the better !!-We have lived in our house for 59 years and expect MOFD a merger !
Kathy Jenkins	Orinda, CA	2016-08-08	Use Orinda emergency services tax dollars in Orinda.
Joye McCoy	Orinda, CA	2016-08-08	Orinda should not pay more than their fair share.
craig jorgens	orinda, CA	2016-08-08	Believe we should honor or commitments to the voters
Richard Colman	Orinda, CA	2016-08-08	The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is spending too much money and wasting taxpayers dollars. Pensions are out of control.
Robert Higgins	Orinda, CA	2016-08-08	I'm signing on the assumption that the information presented in the attached document is correct, and that the promise alleged to have been made was actually made, as I don't have time or resources to fact check
Goldee Gross	Orinda, CA	2016-08-08	I want to Make sure pledges are upheld not just got this but current pledge re the roads.
Bill Moon	Orinda, CA	2016-08-10	Orinda tax dollars should stay in Orinda
Charlie Brown	Orinda, CA	2016-09-08	Words should mean something! A pledge is a pledge. It was pledged that Orinda tax dollars would be used for Orinda services and not to subsidize such service for Moraga. It was pledged that tax dollars from both cities would be segregated and monitored. The Orinda City Council is remiss in its promises to Orinda taxpayers. Enough is enough. We demand accountability.

Signatures

Name	Location	Date
Steve Cohn	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-29
Bailey Lee	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-30
Joan Daoro	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Thomas Park	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Virginia Samuelson	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Wayne Moon	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Tom Trowbridge	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Michael and Marlene Hallenberger Hallenberger	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Janet Maiorana	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Norm Wu	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Michael Garrabrants	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
B W	orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Johnette Perry	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Adam Weber	Hood River, OR, United States	2016-07-31
William Schmicker	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Sheryl Kortright	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Kathleen Andree-Rissel	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
edward mcclatchie	orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Terry Winsor	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Leann Foster	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
HOWARD GUILD	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Donna Green	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Nancy Melone	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Elizabeth Cehovec	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Karin Carroll	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
steve and dona snow	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Sandra Wooten	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Art Haigh	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Richard Rissel	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31

Name	Location	Date
William Couch	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Kristi Haigh	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Kathleen Balamuth	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Joi Shustack	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-07-31
Inez Hileman	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Laura Sanborn	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Mary Beth Read	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Barry Balamuth	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Darlene Hamady	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Bob Thompson	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Karen Ho	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Joe DeGirolamo	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Bill Cosden	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
M'Liss Greenlee	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Allan Horn	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Sandy Gross	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Roger Squier	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Michael Donovan	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
JERRY WOOTEN	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Kerry Curtis	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-01
Kai Deng	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Delinda Trowbridge	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Sebastian Cohn	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
robert schwab	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Chris Kniel	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Anne Marie Kniel	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
wing lau	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Thomas McCormick	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
jennifer vigo	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
scott ostler	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
John Fiero	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Richard Wesrin	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02

Name	Location	Date
Allena Behnke	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Gretchen Bartzten	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Siavash Afshar	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Keith Jacobsen	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Mark Nelson	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Tania DeGroot	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Thomas Sturges	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Joey Judge	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
Suzanne Ashton	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-02
John Schelling	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Paula Reinman	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Martin Resch	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
mike daugherty	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Ian Baird	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Nancy Debemham	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Steve Lalli	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Don Petata	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Charles Sprague	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Worthington worthington	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
John Weller	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Mary Schelling	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
John McGonigle	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Robert Guzikowski	Pinole, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Sandra McGonigle	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Katherine Osterloh	Orinca, CA, United States	2016-08-03
Jacquie Lim	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-03
peter j locke	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Nancy McCaulou-Bernatz	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Kathe Friel	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Nancy Weller	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
PETER VERES	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Mary Jaccodine	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04

Name	Location	Date
Taryn O'Connell	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Moyra OConnell	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Daig OConnell	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Micki Cooper	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-04
Jeffrey Kingston	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-05
Dottie Drumm	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-05
allan resnick	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
Bill Criswell	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
richard Pauletich	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
Stephen Paddock	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
Susan Mellers	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
june haring	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
James Riewerts	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-07
Kathleen Jenkins	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Joye McCoy	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
craig jorgens	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Richard Colman	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Robert Higgins	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Goldee Gross	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Mike Pauletich	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
John Radke	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
joel hamady	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
David Radke	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Evan pauletich	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-08
Greg Baier	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-09
mary ann wittenberg	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-09
Bill Moon	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-10
Rajeev Oak	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-10
Edward Beck	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-13
marshia beck	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-13
Mark Bresnik	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-16
Linda Delehunt	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-08-19

Name	Location	Date
Charlie Brown	Orinda, CA, United States	2016-09-08



**ORINDA FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

MEASURES A, B, C

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF THE
MORAGA AND ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS INTO THE NEW
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF A
PROPOSED ORINDA SERVICE ZONE FIRE FLOW SPECIAL TAX**

Consolidation of the current Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into a new successor district, to be known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, will become effective July 1, 1997 if the voters approve the requisite measures in the June 3rd, 1997 election. The intent of the Consolidation, as specified by the proponents, is to provide more efficient fire protection and emergency medical (paramedic) services throughout the area of the two current Districts, with local governance.

The new District would include separate Moraga and Orinda Service Zones, coterminous with the current Moraga and Orinda Districts. The new District would assume control of the operations, personnel and assets of the current Districts and would provide services throughout the two Zones. The Consolidation measure must be approved by a majority of those voting in *each* of the current Districts if the new District is to be formed.

Further, the Consolidation cannot occur unless two-thirds of those voting in the area of the Orinda Service Zone approve a measure authorizing a fire flow special tax for the exclusive benefit of the Orinda Service Zone, similar to the current fire flow special tax in the Moraga Fire Protection District. If the new District is formed, the current Moraga District tax would be continued for the exclusive benefit of the Moraga Service Zone.

Reflecting the risk of fire to a parcel, the fire flow special tax is calculated by multiplying a fire risk factor for each parcel (determined according to "fire flow" formulas) by a rate set each year for the Zone by the District's Governing Board, depending on financial need. Similar to the uses allowed for the Moraga Service Zone tax proceeds, the proceeds of the new Orinda Service Zone tax could be used only to fund fire protection, prevention and suppression and emergency medical services, equipment and related facilities.

The Moraga District has levied rates from zero to six cents over the past five years. The *maximum* rate that could be levied in the Orinda Service Zone would be six cents. Given the fire flow formulas and rates of six cents, the annual cost of the special tax for a typical 2500 square foot frame home in the new District would be approximately \$80.

The new District would receive the property taxes currently received by the Orinda and Moraga Fire Protection Districts, along with voter-approved fire flow special taxes. If the new District is to be able to spend the proceeds of these taxes, a majority of those voting throughout the area of the new District must approve a measure affirming the appropriations limit set for the new District by the Local Agency Formation Commission. That limit is the combined appropriations limits of the current two Districts, which is \$11,944,423 for fiscal year 1997-8, adjusted for inflation each year thereafter.

At the election on the Consolidation measure, a new five member governing board must be selected for the new District, one member being elected from each of five geographical divisions of equal population.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the proposed consolidation of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into the new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District. If you desire copies of Local Agency Formation Commission Resolution 96-27 approving the consolidation, Board of Supervisors Resolution 97-16 ordering the consolidation subject to confirmation of the voters, or Board Ordinance No. 97-1 adopting the Orinda Service Zone fire flow special tax subject to voter approval, please call the Elections Department at (510) 646-4166 and copies will be mailed to you at no cost.

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

MEASURE A

"Shall the order adopted on January 14, 1997 by the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County to order the consolidation of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District into a single district known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District be confirmed, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the order, including the election of District directors by five geographical divisions?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Join the Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and Orinda Association and vote YES on Measures A, B and C.

It may save your life.

By putting paramedics on every Orinda fire engine and merging fire services with Moraga, we take control of the health and safety decisions that most affect our lives.

A YES vote on these three measures will

- Put paramedics on every Orinda fire engine
Currently paramedics must come all the way from Walnut Creek. Orinda-based paramedics will cut 11 minute average response time to 5 or 6 minutes.

"Every minute saved greatly increases survival rates for cardiac, choking and severe allergic reaction victims."

Gary Hallam, MD Emergency Room.

- Insure that fire protection dollars Orindans pay will stay in Orinda
Merger means a locally elected unpaid fire commission will control our fire protection money, not the County Supervisors in Martinez.

"We must never again let the Supervisors spend \$2.8 million of Orinda's money elsewhere in the County, ignoring Orinda's needs."

Sargent Littlehale, Mayor
City of Orinda

- Insure that Orinda keeps 3 fire stations and current staffing levels

● **Make local fire commissioners responsible for our local needs**

Many of our problems such as overdue replacement of our aging equipment, critical seismic repair to our fire houses and need for paramedic firefighters are due to County neglect. This measure takes control from the Board of Supervisors and places it in the hands of local citizens.

Measures A, B and C must all pass for this to become a reality.

Bring long-needed paramedics and the highest level of fire services for the fewest dollars to Orinda.

Vote YES on A, B and C

Allan Tabor, Mayor Pro-Tem
City of Orinda

Joyce Hawkins, Councilmember
City of Orinda

Robert I. Recker Jr., President
Orinda Fire Commission

Peter F. Erlin, President
Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Aldo P. Guidotti
Former Councilmember, City of Orinda

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
MEASURE A
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

NO fire protection or paramedic improvement will result from merger. In fact the first fire response would be shattered for Battalion 4 would be DOM (dead on merger).

Battalion 4, consists of 9 engine companies from Moraga, Lafayette, County and Orinda under the command of Orinda resident Battalion Chief Greg Holm. This team trains, responds to emergencies as one cohesive unit. Merger would reduce this strike force by 4 units, the county and Lafayette companies.

Fire-fighters are aware of the hazards and risks of their profession and are very concerned that reducing the battalion's effectiveness could jeopardize their safety, efficiency and morale.

This merger will cause losses and degradation of many services to Orinda and Moraga, such as:

- Superior training facilities that have intensive specialized programs.
- Elimination of resource back up provided by Battalion 1, 2, 7 and 8.
- The improved E.M.S. delivery system.
- Loss of the two Fire Inspectors.
- All planning matters relating to land development.
- Plans review for building construction (a blow that could hurt the proposed Gateway development).

All field inspection activities, forms, permits, database information and records.

Fire investigation/arson unit, weed abatement contracts.

The loss of 50 plus years of the county's fire-fighting experience, pool of reserve personnel, equipment and resources would be devastating to fire and medical paramedics in areas being merged.

VOTE NO!

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy
Gilbert K. Dong, Jr. David P. Leimone

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

The merger of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Departments will in no way solve the fire related problems of Orinda, which are:

- Inadequate fire water supply, \$53,000,000 estimated to upgrade.
- 252 obsolete fire hydrants needing replacing.
- State Fire Marshal designation of "VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY AREA".
- 50 tons of fire fuel load per acre.

Professional firefighters of both district state:
"WE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL.

Firefighting is a labor intensive job that requires close coordination among all involved. Any substantial fire requires engines from other parts of the county to respond. Currently as part of a county-wide team we train together and plan for efficient operations. Breaking apart this team would jeopardize efficiency of operations and the morale of the personnel. We have full access to resources that are unavailable to a smaller department such as large training facilities, experts in arson investigation, code enforcement, hazardous materials incidents and special rescue situations."

Moraga does not have Orinda's problems but Moraga will be assuming Orinda's liabilities.

With merger all of Moraga Fire **PROPERTY TAXES** will be pooled with Orinda's. Moragans might have to pay once again their .30¢ fire flow tax to replace property taxes diverted to Orinda?

Moraga's fire insurance rates might increase to Orinda's fire risk level.

Orinda has started a paramedic program with 3 firefighter paramedics expanding to 12 and will purchase a \$130,000 rescue ambulance.

Neither merger or the **FIRE FLOW TAX** is needed to maintain the excellent services that Orinda

now enjoys. Nor are they needed to replace equipment or to seismic retrofit fire stations under option 1 and certainly not needed for emergency medical services.

VOTE NO ! LET US IN ORINDA SAVE OUR TAX DOLLARS FOR A BOND ISSUE THAT WILL RESOLVE THE \$53,000,000 water pipe replacement issue.

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy
 Gilbert K. Dong, Jr. David P. Leimone

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Don't be fooled by the smoke screen created by those who oppose local control.

Fire safety and emergency care for our seniors, school children and families should not be dependent on an insensitive and distant fire bureaucracy in Martinez.

Yes on Measure A will:

- Establish paramedic services at our three fire stations,
- Merge our fire services with Moraga, and,
- Give us local control over the quality and responsiveness of life saving care.

That is why the Orinda City Council and Orinda Fire Commission voted unanimously to support Measure A.

Water supply and hydrant upgrade issues are best solved by locally elected and accountable Fire Commissioners and City Councilmembers. Do you trust the county fire bureaucrats or your local community leaders to get the job done right at the lowest cost?

A merger will not reduce firefighter's training or mutual aid in the event of an emergency. This is a scare tactic without any basis in fact.

"Orinda's firefighters will continue to be as experienced and well trained as any fire district in the county."

Dave Evans
 Orinda Fire Chief, Ret'd.

The County has neglected our fire protection needs, while squandering millions of Orinda taxes on fire services in other cities.

Beware! After years of hollow promises by the County's fire Chieftains, don't be surprised by election eve promises to set things right.

Please join the Orinda Association and Chamber of Commerce in voting Yes on A, B and C: Local

control and paramedics we can count on!

Robert I. Recker Jr. President Orinda Fire Commission	Allan Tabor Mayor Pro Tem City of Orinda	Peter F. Erlin President Orinda Chamber of Commerce
Joyce Hawkins Councilmember City of Orinda	Aldo P. Guidotti Former Mayor City of Orinda	

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
 MEASURE B ELECTION
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

MEASURE B

"Shall the appropriations limit of the consolidated new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Contra Costa County by combining the appropriations limits of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District, be confirmed at \$11,944,423, with annual adjustments for changes in cost of living and population?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
 MEASURE B ELECTION
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Vote YES on Measures A, B and C

Together they will bring paramedics to Orinda and give us control over the health and safety issues that most effect our lives.

Measure B sets the spending limit for the new merged Fire District. Measure B protects taxpayers by containing spending within existing limits. That limit is determined by combining the already existing spending limits of the Orinda and Moraga Fire Protection Districts.

Orinda voters must approve this spending limit by voting YES on Measure B.

The Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and the Orinda Association all support this measure.

"Measures A, B and C together will insure that Orinda Fire protection dollars are used for our critical needs, including paramedics, seismic upgrading of our fire stations and

replacing our aging fire equipment."

Joyce Hawkins, councilmember
Orinda City Council

"Measures A, B and C together will give us an effective fire safety system with local people in control, people who know Orinda - our streets and our needs."

Aldo Guidotti, former councilmember
City of Orinda

"Measures A, B and C will give us local control so that we will have Orinda Paramedics at our door 5-6 minutes sooner than the current out-of-town ambulance service. Local paramedics will honor our request for transport to the hospital of our choice and to one properly equipped to handle our emergency needs."

Jeffrey Wolf, Orinda MD

Vote YES on Measures A, B and C.

Gregg Wheatland, Councilmember
City of Orinda

Laura Abrams, Councilmember
City of Orinda

Carl Weber, Chairman
Orinda Fire Protection & Emergency Service Committee

Sue Severson, Community Volunteer
Disaster Preparedness

Midge Zischke
Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
MEASURE B ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

None filed.

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

MEASURE C

"Shall Ordinance 97-1, as adopted by Resolution 97-16 of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, be approved to authorize a special tax on property on the secured tax roll in order to provide additional funds for fire protection, prevention and suppression and emergency medical services, equipment and related facilities, including water distribution facilities for fire suppression purposes, with the proceeds of such tax being restricted to use in the Orinda area?"

YES	
NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Take control of the health and fire safety issues that most affect our lives.

Bring paramedics to Orinda by voting YES on Measures A, B and C.

The Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and Orinda Association all support these measures that will -

PUT A PARAMEDIC ON EVERY FIRE ENGINE

"A paramedic at your door 5 to 6 minutes sooner than the current response time is a critical difference in a life or death situation such as heart attack, choking or severe trauma."

Gary Hallam MD, Emergency Room Physician

REPLACE AGING FIRE AND AMBULANCE VEHICLES

"When Orinda's 20 year old failing fire equipment must be replaced, money will have been set aside to do so"

Robert I. Recker Jr., President
Orinda Fire Commission

SEISMICALLY REPAIR OUR FIRE STATIONS

"Passage of this measure means Orinda can seismically reinforce our fire stations, so they will be operational when the next earthquake hits."

Lily Regelson
Neighborhood Disaster Coordinator

Measure C authorizes a paramedic and fire safety tax.

It sets a 6 cent rate cap on this levy that is related to *house size*, not lot size nor assessed valuation.

The maximum an owner of a 2500 square foot house would pay is \$81 per year, \$6.75 a month, less than the price of a movie ticket!

Our local fire commission will have authority to lower and even eliminate the tax in years when additional revenues are not needed.

The rate cap can never be raised without a 2/3 majority vote by Orindans.

Funds raised by this measure will be spent only in Orinda for Orinda's needs.

Remember, all three measures must pass to bring paramedics to Orinda and take local control of our emergency medical and fire needs.

Vote YES on Measures A, B and C

Sargent Littlehale, Mayor
City of Orinda

Linda Landau, President
Orinda Association

Richard Heggie
Former Councilmember, City of Orinda

Amy Worth
Citizen of the Year 1997

Cynthia Powell
Community Volunteer

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

NO on fire flow tax! Why ?

FACT: Orinda does not need additional taxes to carry out it's operational responsibility, paramedic program, replacing aging equipment, retrofitting fire stations, (see the proposed 5 year budget for Orinda Fire Department, at Orinda stations and library).

FACT: Orinda's assessed value for property taxes on 7,228 homes, businesses and parcels - \$2,051,363,769 - 7/96. Gateway development will add \$500,000,000 + to the tax rolls. Orinda's tax rate of 22¢ provides ample funds. The revenue from Gateway would be greater than the fire flow tax.

FACT: Fire-fighting **PARAMEDIC PROGRAM** is already implemented in Orinda.

FACT: Orinda's property tax revenues **CAN NOT** be touched by County Supervisors. They stay in Orinda.

FACT: Orinda's and Moraga's fire-fighters oppose this merger. They fear the reduction of Battalion 4 effectiveness, loss of back up and fire related services, a **REAL CONCERN**.

FACT: Orinda has a new \$325,000 fire engine. It has budgeted for two additional engines, rescue ambulance, all with existing revenues.

FACT: Orinda's Commissioners have constantly stated that they will have no part in replacing EBMUD'S old pipes. Our fire water supply is our biggest problem - save any additional tax dollars for a bond issue that would eliminate the **RED TOPPED** fire hydrants.

Hard to believe that a newly elected Moraga's District Directors of this merger would be sympathetic to Orinda's real problems namely fire water supply, replacing fire hydrants and excessive fire fuel load. Moraga does not have Orinda's fire related problems.

VOTE NO !

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy
Gilbert K. Dong, Jr. Richard J. Townsend
Committee For Safety And Paramedics

DOES ORINDA NEED A FIRE FLOW TAX?

NO , IT DOES NOT!

Orinda Fire Protection District has a tax rate of 22¢ which is sufficient for it's operational budget, replace fire engines, upgrade equipment, provide paramedic services and seismic retrofit the 3 fire stations so that in the event of earthquake equipment can exit and respond to emergencies.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District submitted to the County Board of Supervisors a proposed budget to provide fire protection and enhanced emergency medical (Paramedic) services to Orinda as an alternative to the proposed consolidation of the Orinda and Moraga fire departments.

This projected budget includes the district's capital needs, seismic retrofitting improvements (option 1) , two engines at \$325,000 each, a \$130,000 rescue ambulance and other fire equipment.

It includes \$250,000 for paramedic pay differential, medical supplies, paramedic recertification, skill maintenance expenses and other related costs. Starting with 3 paramedic-firefighters which will increase as vacancies occur to 12.

The fund balance projected at end of FY 2000-01 - \$131,520 indicates that all can be accomplished **"WITHOUT THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TAXING AUTHORITY"**.

Every home in Orinda can stand seismic retrofitting but we will not tear our house down and rebuild. It is therefore unreasonable to suggest that all three station be demolished and rebuilt when the present facilities will serve adequately.

The \$500,000,000 Gateway development will provide additional tax revenues that will greatly enhance the financial picture.

Why should we pay an unnecessary fire tax when the real need is replacing Orinda's small 60 year old corroded water pipes and hydrants owned by EBMUD that do not provide adequate fire water supply? Our tax dollars can better be used to fund a \$53,000,000 bond issue to resolve this critical problem.

VOTE NO ON FIRE FLOW TAX.

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy
Gilbert K. Dong, Jr. Richard J. Townsend
Committee For Safety And Paramedics

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

No one disputes Orinda's need for paramedics, modern equipment and seismic upgrading of fire stations. The question is, whom do you trust to get the job done; the County's Fire Bureau or the people of Orinda.

Local control of our fire services, with local taxing authority, is the only way we can ensure that:

- Our tax dollars will be used in our city, now, and in the future.
- Paramedic hiring, equipment upgrades and seismic repairs will be undertaken immediately, and in a fiscally responsible way,
- All activities will be accountable to the residents of Orinda.

"The fire merger of Orinda and Moraga is not only fiscally sound, it is also operationally sound"

**Walt Luihn
Orinda Assistant Fire Chief, Ret'd.**

For years, we appealed to the County to fund paramedics in our fire stations, saving precious emergency minutes. The County bureaucrats ignored our requests, and spent millions of Orinda fire taxes in other communities.

We've had enough of the County's hollow budget proposals, broken promises and election eve pledges.

Orindans voted for Cityhood because the County had a long track record of abusing our tax dollars and failing to be responsive to our unique needs. For that same reason, we voted two-to-one against County Fire's attempted power grab in 1994.

Yes on A, B, C will return local control of our emergency care services and taxing authority to the people of Orinda. We must no longer settle for second best when people's lives are at stake.

**Sargent Littlehale
Mayor
City of Orinda**

**Richard G. Heggie
Former Mayor
City of Orinda**

**Cynthia Powell
Community Volunteer**

**Linda Landau
President
Orinda Association**