

## Orinda BART Goes Solar

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Bart parking lot, view from platform

Photo Andy Scheck

**B**ay Area Rapid Transit (BART) is planning to install solar photovoltaic panels at the Orinda BART Station. “This will be the only BART station in the District with solar panels,” a BART representative reported to the members of Orinda’s City Council at the last Council meeting held on July 15. “In fact forty lucky BART riders will have the added benefit of the shade of a carport,” he added.

The photovoltaic panels will be placed on top of a 40-space carport to be located in the parking lot

directly across from the BART station entrance. There will be no loss in the number of parking spaces in the lot, although there may be a temporary reduction in spaces available during construction of the carport.

The solar panels will generate sufficient energy to meet the daytime electricity needs of the Orinda station. Remarkably, Orinda was chosen as the site for the BART solar panels over BART stations to the east, in part, due to its sun potential. When it gets too hot, the

solar panels are less efficient. According to BART’s assessment, the Orinda location provides an environment that is not too hot and not too cloudy.

BART will also install rooftop photovoltaic arrays at maintenance facilities in Hayward and Richmond. The Orinda BART carport with solar panels will require approximately a month to construct and the project will be completed by the end of the year.