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Orinda City Council Contests LAFCO Report Recommendation

By Andrea A. Firth

"The citizens of Orinda have spoken on at least two occasions clearly stating that they were dissatisfied with the level of service from ConFire," stated Council Member Steve Glazer at the March 17th meeting of Orinda's City Council. Glazer was responding to the draft Municipal Service Review (MSR) recently issued by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which included a suggestion that the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) should be annexed to ConFire. After refusing an earlier suggestion to merge with ConFire [in 1994] and subsequently voting to form the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) [in 1997], Glazer noted that Orinda residents had clearly shown that annexation was not an acceptable solution for the City. Council Member Victoria Smith concurred and added that Orinda's history and position on this issue needed to be communicated to LAFCO.

In response, Orinda City Council voted unanimously to write to LAFCO recommending that the suggestion of annexation to ConFire be rejected. The Council also requested that LAFCO make no final decisions based on the MSR until the Tri-Agency Funding Discussion Committee, consisting of elected officials from Orinda, Moraga, and the MOFD, had completed their fact-finding process.

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