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## Supervisors Nix Fire Station Consolidation

By *Nick Marnell*

A somber Board of Supervisors, who earlier in the day discussed more layoffs for the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, ended months of debate May 14 by voting against a fire station consolidation plan with the Moraga-Orinda Fire District. Only District 2 Supervisor Candace Andersen voted in favor of moving forward with the proposed station 46, which was to be built on Lorinda Lane near the Lafayette/Orinda border. "The money just isn't there," said Supervisor Karen Mitchoff.

Board President Federal Glover summed up the supervisors' discussion: "It's the right thing to do, at the wrong time," he said.

Despite the setback, ConFire Chief Daryl Louder stated that he is committed to providing the best possible fire and EMS service to Lafayette. "We will continue to utilize our existing resources and work with our automatic aid partners to protect the city."

MOFD Fire Chief Randall Bradley confirmed that he will ask the MOFD board of directors, at its May 15 meeting, to go ahead with the purchase of the Lorinda Lane property. "I believe it continues to be the best option for providing fire protection for that area. If we control the property we can continue to evaluate options for future fire protection partnerships," he said.

On May 13 Bradley asked the city of Lafayette to consider purchasing the Lorinda Lane property in Lafayette on behalf of the MOFD, which cannot own property outside of its district boundary. The Lafayette city council agreed to add Bradley's request to the agenda of a special city council meeting scheduled for May 16, pending the outcome of the MOFD board meeting May 15.

Reach the reporter at: [nick@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:nick@lamorindaweekly.com)

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