



# Orinda

## Public Meetings

### City Council

Tuesday, Aug. 4, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Planning Commission

Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7 p.m.  
Auditorium, Orinda Library,  
26 Orinda Way

### Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission

Wednesday, Aug. 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Sarge Littlehale Community Room,  
22 Orinda Way

Check online for agendas, meeting notes and announcements

### City of Orinda:

www.cityoforinda.org  
Phone (925) 253-4200

### Chamber of Commerce:

www.orindachamber.org

### The Orinda Association:

www.orindaassociation.org



## Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report July 5-11

<b>Alarms</b>	35
<b>911 Calls (including hang-ups)</b>	3
<b>Traffic stops</b>	45
<b>Suspicious Circumstances</b>	8
<b>Suspicious Subjects</b>	7
<b>Suspicious Vehicles</b>	8
<b>Burglary, Auto</b>	
Wilder/Hwy 24	
<b>Burglary, Residential</b>	
700 block Miner Rd	
100 block Meadowview Rd	
100 block Hall Dr	
<b>Civil Problem</b>	
10 block Darnby	
Reported to Police	
<b>Disturbance</b>	
10 block Overhill Ct	
<b>Embezzlement</b>	
Safeway	
<b>Fireworks</b>	
100 block El Toyonal	
Miner Rd/Nider Ln	
Bates Bl/Muth Dr	
<b>Harassment</b>	
100 block Cannon Dr	
<b>Litter</b>	
Overhill Rd/Moraga Wy	
<b>Loud Music</b>	
Heather Ln/Glorietta Bl	
<b>Loud Party</b>	
Daryl Dr/Overhill Rd	
Los Dedos/La Espiral	
<b>Missing Adult</b>	
100 block El Toyonal	
<b>Police/Fire/EMS</b>	
10 block Highland Ct	
<b>Public Nuisance</b>	
Whitehall Dr/Moraga Wy	
Ardith Ct/Coral Dr	
Coral Dr/Eastwood Dr	
100 block Ivy Dr	
<b>Promiscuous Shooting</b>	
Lost Valley Dr/Kenmore Ct	
<b>Reckless Driving</b>	
Moraga Wy/Hall Dr	
Miramonte High	
Hall Dr/Moraga Wy	
<b>Shoplift</b>	
CVS Pharmacy	
<b>Theft, ID</b>	
20 block Marston Rd (2)	
10 block Beaconsville Ct	
100 block Lombardy Ln	
100 block Diablo View Dr	
<b>Theft, Vehicle</b>	
10 block Harran Cr	
<b>Trespass</b>	
Orinda Country Club	
<b>Vandalism</b>	
40 block Evergreen Dr	
10 block Lost Valley Dr	
<b>Warrant Service</b>	
10 block Tarabrook Dr	



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# Planners Move J&J Ranch Development Construction, Moraga Adobe Restoration Closer to Reality

By Victor Ryerson

The Orinda Planning Commission has cleared the way for construction of 13 new homes and restoration of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe, the oldest residential structure in Contra Costa County. After scrutinizing a hefty load of paperwork, on July 14 the commission certified the city's draft Environmental Impact Report for the project, and approved the Vesting Tentative Subdivision Map and a tree removal permit for the 13-home J&J Ranch development. Further permitting will be required for specific activities such as grading, and each home proposed to be built on the site will be subject to Orinda's design review process, but the commission's action gives a green light to the project as a whole.

This is the second time the applicant has come before the commission for approval of the project. J&J Ranch withdrew its first application, which the commission had approved in October 2012, because it was unable to enter into an agreement with advocates of preservation of the Adobe at that time. J&J Ranch "needed an entity before we could

enter into an agreement" concerning the preservation effort, explained Michael Olson on behalf of the developer. The Friends of the Joaquin Moraga Adobe subsequently satisfied that requirement, and in March 2013 signed a Memorandum of Agreement with J&J Ranch providing for preservation and public use of the Adobe, as well as the opportunity for Friends to acquire the historic building if it can raise sufficient funds.

Significantly, the size of the parcel on which the Adobe is located has been increased to 2.26 acres from its original size of less than one acre. The structure will be restored in accordance with the U.S. Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties, regardless of its ultimate ownership, and the parcel will have to be rezoned to permit public use. The 2013 agreement allows for public use of the building up to 30 days per year.

The new application also adjusted the location of certain lots to cluster the housing. This is expected to reduce the impact of construction, particularly by reducing the number and

length of roads.

The current version of the project is "far, far better than it was originally as a result of working with the community," commented Commission Chair Louise Adamson. The remaining commissioners also expressed their approval, and unanimously gave the nod to each of the items required to approve the subdivision.

The project will subdivide the 20-acre site, creating 13 lots for single-family homes in addition to setting aside the lot for the Adobe, but preserving nearly 40 percent of the site as permanent open space. The size of the home sites will range from one-half acre to 3.4 acres, depending upon the steepness of the slope. Open space easements will preserve forested areas, principally along existing watercourses. Although the easements will remain private property and will not be available for public use, there will be trails and pedestrian walkways for the public. The commission found that, with inclusion of the mitigations in the plan, the project will not have a significant impact on the environment.

The tree removal permit allows J&J Ranch to remove 35 trees in order to perform grading of slide-prone areas and build roads and other improvements. Thirty-three of the trees, including 24 Coast live oaks, are protected under Orinda's tree ordinance, and J&J Ranch will replace these with 71 trees in 24-inch boxes, the equivalent of 142 15-gallon container-size trees. Eighty-seven 15-gallon trees are required under the Orinda law.

Commission members expressed particular concern about preserving views, especially those from the Adobe, and added a condition of approval limiting the height of two homes planned for construction downhill from the old building, so the roofs will not be higher than its floor level. Although some of the new homes will be visible from other nearby Orinda neighborhoods, the commission concluded that the impact on views of the hilly development from elsewhere will not be significant.

# Roads Issue Drives Council's Selection of New Member

By Victor Ryerson



Darlene Gee Photo Ohlen Alexander

After an evening of interviewing candidates and listening to public comment, the Orinda City Council selected Darlene Gee to fill the vacancy created by Steve Glazer's May 28 departure at a special meeting on July 15. Although other candidates received more endorsements from public speakers at the meeting, Gee, a civil engineer, emerged as the unanimous choice of the council because of the looming issue of Orinda's current road repair project.

The \$10 million project is "the largest infrastructure project that the city has ever undertaken," observed Mayor Dean Orr. He made it clear that he favored a candidate with the level of expertise to address this issue, and pointed to Gee as his choice for this reason.

Vice Mayor Victoria Smith echoed Orr's sentiments, adding that Orinda had "lost Steve Glazer's expertise and skill set," including his work on the road issue, and also supported Gee for her road planning ex-


perience and expertise. Gee is currently the chair of the Orinda Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission, on which she has served since 2011. She highlighted her special interest in roads and drainage improvements, and under questioning by Smith about Orinda's roads issue, emphasized that it is "important to continue to deliver."

The council made its selection from a field of seven candidates (the eighth, Linda Delehunt, withdrew her application on July 14), and complimented all of the candidates for their qualifications, history of community service, and willingness to serve. The selection was made after two hours of structured interviewing and more than


one hour of public comment.

Gee was sworn in as a council member on July 21 and will hold office through December 2016. The council adopted the unusual procedure to fill the vacancy, as permitted by law, in order to avoid the expense of a special election.


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