

LAMORINDA WEEKLY

Independent, locally owned and operated!

26,000 copies
and biweekly to
hundreds of homes &
businesses

FREE www.lamorindaweekly.com 925-377-0977

East Bay Eclipse 2019 Soccer Tryouts!
 Developing Players, Developing People
 Competitive and developmental teams for boys and girls ages 5-18
 April 27-May 4 - U9-U14 Tryouts
 May 11-18 - U15-U19 Tryouts
 For schedule, registration and questions:
 Visit www.eastbayeclipse.com or Email Director
 Shane Carney at director@eastbayeclipse.com



Aidan Mahaney

Photo Gint Federas

Campo wins state championship!

(Read story on Page C1)

Advertising



- Letters to the Editor A11
- Not to be missed B6-B7
- Obituary B2
- How to contact us B7
- Classified C2
- Love Lafayette C6

3393 Angelo is a winner! And ready for you...
 3 Bed | 2 Bath | 1872±Sq Ft | Pool, Patio, Play, Gardening | Close-in Lafayette | ±.37 Acre






Ann Ward, Broker
 Your Lamorinda Agent for 30+ years is waiting for your call!
 (925) 330-0800
annward@annward.com
www.annward.com
 DRE# 00648983



MOFD awarded major state wildfire prevention grant

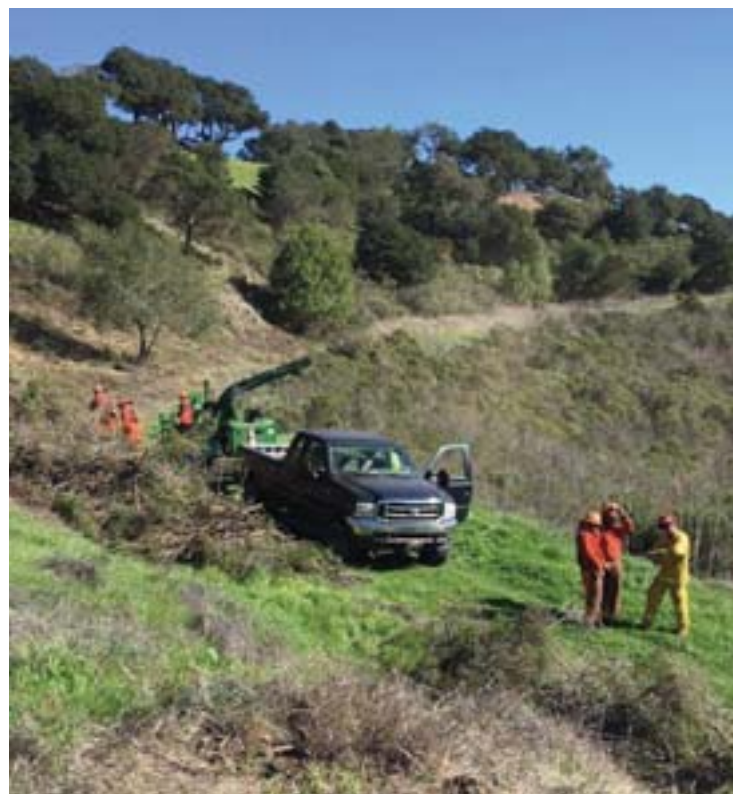


Photo MOFD

Cal Fire conservation crew at the 2018 Bear Ridge fuel reduction project in north Orinda.

By Nick Marnell

Gov. Gavin Newsom has approved a multimillion dollar project to reduce fuel loads in the high-risk wildfire areas of north Orinda and along Lafayette Ridge, stemming from a grant application submitted to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection by the Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

According to Cal Fire, California experienced the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history in 2017 and 2018, killing more than 100 people, destroying nearly 23,000 structures and burning over 1.8 million acres. Newsom made wildfire prevention a top priority of his new administration, and on Jan. 9 he issued an executive order directing Cal Fire to recommend immediate action to protect vulnerable state communities. The North Orinda Fuel Break project is one of 35 programs that the state agency identified for implementation.

"The project is approved and we are ready to go," Cal Fire Deputy Chief Scott McLean said. North Orinda has always been a top concern of MOFD for the threat of a wildfire. "It has many high-value homes, and it's not far from the 1991 Oakland hills fire," said Battalion Chief Jerry Lee, who authored the Cal

Fire grant application. "North Orinda is the highest wildfire risk in our district."

Lee submitted his grant application in November, requesting \$250,000 to implement a hazardous fuel reduction and removal project along Bear Creek Road in north Orinda. Cal Fire expanded the reach of the project to encompass an 11-mile fuel break from Inspiration Point in Tilden Park, along Bear Creek Road and Happy Valley Road through Lafayette, to the Pleasant Hill Road - Highway 24 intersection, and the agency bumped the estimated cost to \$5 million. The completed fuel break will allow more time for evacuation and fire suppression response.

Cal Fire used various data points to rank the 35 statewide projects, with the North Orinda Fuel Break coming in at No. 9, scoring at the top for the number of communities at risk and the affected population. "We were fortunate to have submitted a project that was complete and fit the scope of what the governor was looking for," Lee said.

As the project will cross jurisdictional boundaries, MOFD plans to partner with the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the East Bay Regional Park District and the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District.

... continued on Page A11

Civic News A1-A14	Life in Lamorinda B1-B8	Sports C1-C6	Our Homes D1-D16
Lafayette set to outlaw flavored tobacco products - Page A3	Papa John Kiefer welcomes 1000th workshop attendee - Page B1	Gaels make it to NCAA tournament - Page C1.	Harnessing the wood element for spring -- page D1
Fire Districts A8 New ConFire chief named - Page A8			