

ConFire financial picture stable for 2019-20

By Nick Marnell

Fire Chief Lewis Broschard ushered in the new regime at the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District by putting his stamp on the 2019-20 fiscal year recommended budget, which he presented to his board of directors at the April 9 district meeting.

ConFire projects \$147.9 million in revenue for the upcoming fiscal year, of which \$130 million will be derived from property tax, forecast to jump 5 percent over 2018-19. Expenses eat up nearly all of the budgeted revenue, with a \$16.3 million payment for the district pension obligation bonds one of the largest district costs. That expense will disappear in 2022, when the

bonds are paid off in full.

The district will end 2018-19 with a general fund balance of more than \$35 million, well above the policy of 10 percent of district expenditures. ConFire plans to create a capital expenditure fund with a \$10 million transfer out of the general fund balance in 2019-20 to help pay for deferred maintenance and future fire station construction.

The financial picture for the Alliance, the ConFire ambulance transport program operated with subcontractor American Medical Response, continues to improve, with \$47.1 million of expenses against \$52.2 million in revenue for 2019-20. The surplus will add to the \$17 million Alliance fund balance projected

for this year. "At the current rate of payer mix, collection rate and contract expenses, the system is financially sustainable," Broschard said, addressing the biggest concern of many - including the district board - when the county awarded the ambulance contract to the fire district in 2015.

Though the finances appear to be solid, Broschard told the board that both the fire district and the Alliance face a major challenge. "It's becoming a statewide staffing issue to find qualified paramedics in the private sector as well as the public space that we recruit for," Broschard said. The chief partly blamed the booming economy for the labor shortage, and also the certification

expense a recruit must incur to become a paramedic.

One of the areas where the fire district concedes it can improve is in providing accessible financial information to the public. Financial performance is discussed at public meetings during annual budget preparations and when being reviewed by fire commissioners, but the only finance links on the ConFire website take the public to the Contra Costa County budget documents, which most private citizens have no chance of deciphering, let alone finding ConFire information in the first place.

Easier access to district information is a goal for fire district public information officer Steve Hill, who noted that ConFire recently made -

and will continue to make - numerous changes to its website designed to make it more useful and informative for the public, as well as more interesting and interactive. Hill explained that the homepage now includes real-time information about the district, the ConFire Twitter feed with incident-response information, and a button leading to the district updated significant incident reporting system.

"In the coming weeks and months, we plan to add pages addressing the district's financials, fire service career and recruiting information, and more detailed operational response statistics," Hill said.

Lafayette Fire Station 16 reopening delayed until June



The new ConFire Engine 16 Company - with nowhere to call home

Photo ConFire

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District placed Engine 16 into service in early April, which is the month the district expected to reopen Fire Station 16 in Lafayette. But between the rainy weather and a construction site problem with the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the station will likely not reopen until June.

According to Assistant Fire Chief Aaron McAlister, the utility signed off on an agreement permitting placement of an electric meter inside the new Lafayette fire station. But earlier this year,

company officials inspected the station and said that the meter had to be placed outside. The chief told his board of directors April 9 that he tried to negotiate with the utility, as the fix PG&E demanded would be expensive and time consuming, but that PG&E had been unresponsive, promising a resolution but with no follow-through.

"We'd get different answers depending on whom we're dealing with and what day of the week it is," McAlister said.

Section 5.3.1 of the PG&E Green Book, a listing of electrical and gas service requirements, lists five basic requirements for the installation of an electrical meter, in-

cluding nonportable illumination on an unobstructed path to the meter and full access to the metering facilities by company personnel "whether the facilities are located indoors or outdoors."

"We're not looking for anything that we don't have in our other new stations," McAlister said to the board. Stations 85 and 84 in Pitts-

burg were completed in 2009 and 2010, and the electrical meter is inside both facilities. The Moraga-Orinda Fire District is nearing completion of Fire Station 43 in north Orinda, and its electrical meter is also inside the building.

"For a meter reader not to be able to walk inside the bay to read the meter is ridiculous," said County Supervisor Candace Andersen, speaking as a ConFire director. "I am very frustrated."

As was McAlister, who attributed three weeks of the delayed station completion to PG&E, and said that claims from the general contractor are mounting. "PG&E does not recognize the need to get a fire station up and running," McAlister said.

The utility explained the rationale for its actions. "We apologize for the confusion over where the metering equipment at Fire (Station) 16 can be installed. Upon initial review, PG&E believed we could accommodate the request of the fire (district) and place the metering equipment

inside. However upon further review, it was determined that installing the meter on the outside wall was the safest possible location," said company spokeswoman Tamar Sarkissian. "The preferred location for metering equipment is always outside. For safety reason, the equipment must be located in a PG&E-approved cabinet or closet. Meters can only be installed indoors, in an approved electric meter room with a door that leads directly outside."

Two days after McAlister went public over the issues with the utility, Wilmer Clark, PG&E service planning supervisor, sent ConFire written approval to place the electric meter inside the new Lafayette fire station. His approval included six conditions, including "24 hour access via lock box or key pad."

Until Fire Station 16 is completed, Engine Company 16 will operate out of Lafayette Station 15 on Mt. Diablo Boulevard.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors
Wednesday, April 17, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire
Board of Directors
Tuesday, May 21, 1:30 p.m.
Board Chamber Room 107,
Administration Building
651 Pine St., Martinez.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Public Safety

Emergency response:
Emergency: 24 Hours 911
Police Dispatch: 24 Hours 925-284-5010
Nixle: Text your zip code to 888777 or go to www.nixle.com

Lafayette Police Department:

3471 Mt. Diablo Blvd. 925-283-3680
Chief of Police, Ben Alldritt 925-299-3221
Police Department Tip Line 94549Tip@gmail.com
Police Department Traffic Issues 94549Traffic@gmail.com

Moraga Police Department:

329 Rheem Blvd., 925-888-7055
Chief of Police, Jon King ext. 7049

Orinda Police Department:

22 Orinda Way 925-254-6820
Chief of Police, Mark Nagel 925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report



March 24 - April 6
Alarms 61
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 21
Traffic 115
Suspicious Circumstances 7
Suspicious Subject 24
Suspicious Vehicle 31
Service to Citizen 39
Patrol Request/ Security Check 33
Vacation House Check 107
Supplemental Report 16
Welfare Check 15

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way
Police Department
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Public Nuisance
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave. (2)
1000 Block Los Arabis Ln.
3500 Block Brook St.
Mountain View Dr./Brook St.
Vandalism
1400 Block Rancho View Dr.
3400 Block Black Hawk Rd.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other
Battery
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Dependent Child
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Disturbance-Domestic
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
3700 Block Meadow Ln.
Harassment
2Nd St./Golden Gate Way
1100 Block Hillcrest Dr.
Loitering
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block S Thompson Rd.
Ordinance Violation
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Brown Ave.
900 Block Reliez Station Rd. (2)
Unwanted Guest
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
900 Block Moraga Rd.

Security Check 26
Supplemental Report 20
Vacation House Check 18
Welfare Check 8
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
2100 Block Donald Dr.
200 Block Paseo Bernal
Not Available
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Excessive Speed
Donald Dr./Moraga Rd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr. (2)
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (5)
Rheem Blvd./Park St.
Moraga Way/St. Andrews Dr.
Station 41/Moraga Way
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd. (2)
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.
Moraga Way/St Andrews Dr.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./Canyon Rd.
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.
Traffic Hazard
Donald Dr./Laird Dr.
Campolindo Dr./Moraga Rd.
Other criminal activity
Burglary
600 Block Moraga Rd.
Grand Theft
Not Available
Identity Theft
400 Block Kingsford Dr.
Petty Theft
1400 Block Moraga Way
500 Block Moraga Rd.
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Homegoods
Petty Theft From Veh
2000 Block Donald Dr.
Warrant Arrest
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-Domestic
200 Block Scofield Dr.
Disturbance-Fight
St. Marys College
Disturbing The Peace
100 Block Ascot Ct.
Loud Music
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Loud Party

200 Block Paseo Bernal
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
Vandalism
Cvs
Other
Accident Property
St. Marys Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Battery
St. Marys College
Litter
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Mentally Ill Commit
40 Block Williams Dr. (2)
Taco Bell
Ordinance Violation
10 Block Buckingham Dr.

Other criminal activity
Assault W/ Deadly Weapon
Beverages And More
Grand Theft
200 Block Glorietta Blvd.
Identity Theft
30 Block La Noria
40 Block Sleepy Hollow Ln.
Petty Theft
10 Block Valley Dr.
Shoplift
CVS
Warrant Advise
Camino Pablo/Wildcat Canyon Rd.
Warrant Arrest
60 Block Moraga Via
Shell Gas
Beverages And More
Nuisance to the Community
Loud Music
70 Block Brookwood Rd.
Public Assembly Check
Wagner Ranch Elementary
Sleepy Hollow School
10 Block Camino Sobrante
School Assembly Check
Miramonte High School
Vandalism
Theatre Square
10 Block La Noria
100 Block Orinda Way
30 Block Heather Ln.
Wilder Sports Fields
50 Block Barbara Rd.
CVS
Other
Accident Property
400 Block Moraga Way
Camino Pablo/Wb Sr 24
Camino Pablo/Bear Creek Rd.
Battery
100 Block Ravenhill Rd.
Disturbance-Domestic
50 Block Davis Rd.
Evading Officer
Wb Sr 24 At Wilder Rd.
H&S/Poss Narcotic Sale
St Stephens Dr./Tahos Rd.
Ordinance Violation
10 Block Sally Ann Rd.
Suicide Attempt
500 Block Miner Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report



March 26 - April 8
Alarms 16
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 6
Traffic 80
Suspicious Circumstances 4
Suspicious Subject 6
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 60
Patrol Request/

3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Petty Theft
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3200 Block Sweet Dr.
Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)
Threats
3300 Block Mildred Ln.
3300 Block Kincheloe Ct.

600 Block Moraga Rd.
Grand Theft
Not Available
Identity Theft
400 Block Kingsford Dr.
Petty Theft
1400 Block Moraga Way
500 Block Moraga Rd.
2100 Block Ascot Dr.
Homegoods
Petty Theft From Veh
2000 Block Donald Dr.
Warrant Arrest
Moraga Rd./Moraga Way
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-Domestic
200 Block Scofield Dr.
Disturbance-Fight
St. Marys College
Disturbing The Peace
100 Block Ascot Ct.
Loud Music
300 Block Rheem Blvd.
Loud Party



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

March 24 - April 6
Alarms 60
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 1
Traffic 124
Suspicious Circumstances 6
Suspicious Subject 16
Suspicious Vehicle 9
Service to Citizen 65
Patrol Request/ Security Check 19
Vacation House Check 32
Supplemental Report 10
Welfare Check 6
Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
Safeway
10 Block Fallen Leaf Terrace
Reckless Driving
Wilder Rd/Wb Sr 24
Moraga Via/Glorietta Blvd. (2)
Camino Pablo/Camino Sobrante
Camino Pablo/Ardilla Rd.
Moraga Way/Valley View Dr.
Moraga Way/Orchard Rd.
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.