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MOFD profile rising statewide as Cal Fire ups mitigation funding

By Nick Marnell



Firefighters prepare to execute a controlled burn as part of the North Orinda Shaded Fuel Break. Photo courtesy MOFD

website, with tabbed sections covering basic information, the timeline, work progress and plenty of photos of the undertaking.

Fire Chief Dave Winnacker had assured Cal Fire that the fuel break project will be largely completed by the Dec. 31 deadline, and he told Jake Hess, Cal Fire Santa Clara Unit chief, that if there was any extra money available from other state projects, MOFD could take it on. "Up to an additional \$2 million," Winnacker said.

Hess came through with \$250,000, which MOFD will use for tree removal in Tilden Park and at the San Pablo Reservoir drainage area, between Briones Park and the south finger of the reservoir. "He has been a phenomenal partner, who has advocated for this project as if it were his own," Winnacker said of the Cal Fire unit chief.

Lottes noted that only one other state mitigation project - the North Fork American River Fuel Break - was using as many private contractors all at one time as MOFD, and she again praised the district project management. "We might consider using MOFD as a model," Lottes said.

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