



ORINDA

See public meetings schedule on this pages and 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

Now is the time for testing the appetite in Orinda for new taxes



By Sora O'Doherty

The city of Orinda joined with the other municipalities in Contra Costa County by adopting a resolution agreeing that the Contra Costa Transportation Agency may put a measure on the March ballot to raise a one-half cent sales tax county-wide to support transportation projects. The proposed tax would continue for 35 years. The city is also testing the waters for a renewal of its local one-half cent sales tax and a possible increase to one cent.

Although the city council made it clear that the vote on the CCTA measure was not an expression of support for the ballot item, it also made clear at the Oct. 22 meeting that transportation issues have great impact on Orinda residents. Vice Mayor Darlene Gee recused herself from the vote because, while her engineering firm, HNTB, has never worked for CCTA at all and has nothing pending in regards to working with them, it is possible that they could work for them in the future. In addition, Gee noted that the firm had contributed to the Measure X campaign in 2016.

The vote was 4-0, with one recusal. Council Member Dennis Fay has extensive transportation background from his earlier career with Alameda County and Council Member Amy Worth sits as an ex officio commissioner of the CCTA.

The combined total sales tax rate for Orinda is currently 8.75%, including state, county and city sales taxes. The city of Orinda is now considering what to do about its own sales tax. The existing one-half cent sales tax adopted in November 2012 will expire in 2023. Those funds have been used to pay for the repair of public roads. Without an extension, the city will not be able to maintain the improvements. The city also acknowledges that additional funding is required to deal with the city's sewer and drain systems. Additionally, work remains to be done on the city's arterial and collector roads, although the funding for those roads comes from different revenue sources.

The city council's revenue and tax measure subcommittee held its second public meeting on Oct. 23 to work with polling company FM3

Research to try to craft a questionnaire to test the appetite of Orinda residents for extending the half cent sales tax and maybe increasing it from one-half cent to one cent to provide some measure of service for private roads and drains. The meeting was attended by subcommittee members Gee and Worth, Finance Director Paul Rankin, Director of Public Works Larry Theis, City Manager Steve Salomon, Dave Metz from FM3, and four proponents of private roads: Steve Cohn, Melissa Roeder, Charles Porges, and Cathy Finch. The group reviewed a draft questionnaire that will be circulated to a representative sample of Orinda residents. A number of changes were suggested to clarify the issues, and Metz agreed to return at a later date with a further draft.

During the presentation by Deputy Executive Director of CCTA Tim Haile to the city council on the proposed CCTA tax, one thing that was emphasized was that the matching funds that come back to the city from such taxes also enable the city to qualify for other grants; at least one such grant opportunity was missed

by the city in the past. In addition, CCTA funding allows them to leverage local funding at a 3:1 ratio. The CCTA raised \$1.4 billion from Measure C and based on that CCTA was able to obtain state, regional and federal funds of \$4.1 billion, bringing the total investment in Contra Costa's transportation system up to \$5.5 billion.

Proposed projects that could be funded by the sales tax that would specifically benefit Orinda include: \$450,000 per year to Orinda to modernize local roads and improve access to jobs and housing; reducing congestion on Highway 24 by improvements to old bores of Caldecott Tunnel and auxiliary lanes; improved transit reliability such as shared mobility hubs, shuttles to employment centers, and incentives for alternative modes; improved traffic flow on major roads such as Camino Pablo and Moraga Road; improved access to BART; bicycle and pedestrian improvements to streets and trails; accessible transportation for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities; additional funding for Lamorinda's School Bus Program to reduce congestion around schools; investments to reduce emissions and improve air quality such as electric vehicle charging stations, rideshare/bikeshare services, and zero emissions programs; and funding to attract jobs to Contra Costa County (reduce and reverse commute).

CCTA placed a similar tax measure on the ballot in 2016. The yes vote of over 63% fell short of the two-thirds majority required to pass a tax measure. The current CCTA sales tax will expire in 2034, the first 10 years focused on capital projects and second 20 years paying off capital projects, such as Caldecott Tunnel or the 680 interchange.

- ◆ HARDWOODS
- ◆ CARPETS
- ◆ RUGS
- ◆ LINOLEUM
- ◆ TILE
- ◆ LAMINATE

**FAMILY -OWNED
30 YEARS !**

3344 Mt Diablo Blvd
in Lafayette
925-284-4440
lamorinda floors.com

LAMORINDA FLOORS
Karaslaw GALLERY

When I say "good," you say "neighbor."

Mike Rosa
Agent
925-376-2244
Insurance Lic. #: OF45583
346 Rheem Blvd., Suite 106
Moraga
P097314.1

Now that's teamwork.
CALL FOR A QUOTE 24/7

State Farm

State Farm Home Office, Bloomington, IL

ST. MARK'S SEEKS YOUR INPUT ON COMMUNITY NEED AND INVITES YOU TO

Mix & Mingle

SHARE YOUR IDEAS OVER APPETIZERS AND SEE WHAT'S NEW AT ST. MARK'S CHURCH OF ORINDA AND MORAGA

**Saturday, Nov. 2nd
4-6 p.m.**

451 Moraga Way, Orinda
<https://www.stmarksorinda.org/>
(925) 254-5965
STMARKS94563@GMAIL.COM

All Are Welcome

Orinda trials employee parking permits

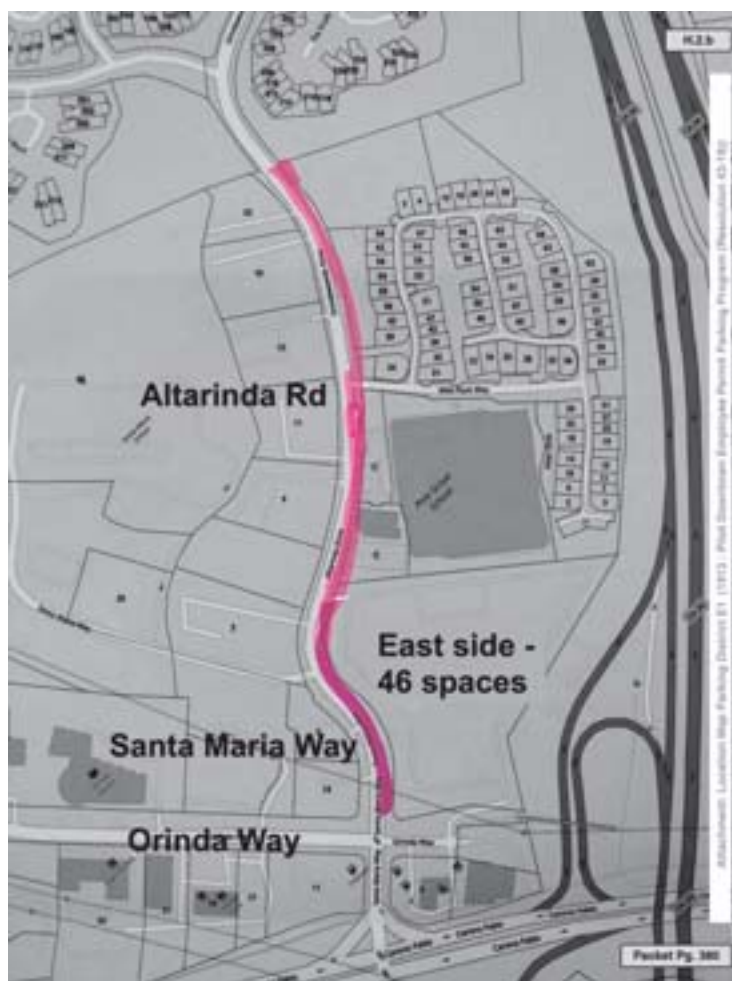


Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

With no negative comments, and only support from the public, the Orinda City Council adopted a resolution establishing a pilot program for employee permit parking on

the east side of Santa Maria Way from Orinda Way to Altarinda Road and on the east side of Altarinda. The district will be known as "Altarinda." Permits will last for six months, and will cost \$82, which works out to slightly

below \$14 per month. There will be no limit on the number of permits issued, and permit holders will not be entitled to a guaranteed space. It is anticipated that not all permit holders will require parking at the same times. There will be 46 spaces available under the pilot program. Currently, without the permit program, parking is limited to four hours and there are only 10 cars parked there on average, according to the staff report. Staff requested that the permit pilot program begin in early January, but in response to positive public comments, Council Member Nick Kosla urged that it be put in place as soon as possible, perhaps in time for the holiday season.

Rochelle Latimer served on the Parking Task Force in 2016. She told the council that parking in private lots isn't the best alternative for employees, and applauded the fact that the permit fee is below market rates, as compared to Theatre Square or #2 Bates Blvd. Juliet Dawn also praised the resolution, which would make better use of space currently underutilized by the Orinda Union School District. She pointed out the advantages of the Altarinda district: the location is not residential, but has sidewalks and lighting, and it is convenient to both the theater district and the village.

	City Council Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m. Regular Meeting Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way	Citizens' Infrastructure Oversight Commission Wednesday, Nov. 13, 6:30 p.m. Sarge Littlehale Community Room, 22 Orinda Way, Orinda, CA 94563 Orinda Union High School District Board Meetings Monday, Nov. 4, 6 p.m. Regular Board Meeting 8 Altarinda Rd., Orinda www.orindaschools.org See also AUHSD meeting page A2
	Orinda Public Meetings	Planning Commission Tuesday, Nov. 12, 7 p.m. Library Auditorium, Orinda Library, 26 Orinda Way