

County approves 15% wage increase for ConFire employees

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors unanimously approved a three-year labor agreement with Local 1230 firefighters that gives the rank and file a 15% pay increase over the term of the contract. The board also agreed at its May 26 meeting to the same percentage pay increase for district chief officers and for unrepresented safety management employees. The new agreements take effect July 1.

“Thank you for making our contract a priority, for being timely and for supporting us,” Vito Impastato, president of the United Chief Officers Association, told the board.

County Administrator

David Twa said that the first year cost of the new labor packages adds \$4.4 million in expense to the district, and that the \$26.3 million added labor expense over three years is the fully loaded cost for all positions, including taxes, benefits, overtime and the employer contribution to the employee pension plan.

“At the time (the contract) was agreed to, our projections showed it could easily be absorbed into our ConFire budget - both the base wage and all additional pension cost,” said Candace Andersen, chair of both the county Board of Supervisors and the fire district board of directors. “After discussing it with our county administration we felt we had adequate income and reserves to move forward with the raise we had agreed to.” ConFire pro-

jects its general fund reserve balance at \$32.8 million for this fiscal year.

In its recommended 2021 budget, Contra Costa County calls for property tax growth of 4.5% for next year and beyond; however, because of the economic impacts of the coronavirus pandemic county officials now say that figure may be optimistic. The city of Lafayette, with some of the most stable real estate values in the fire district, projects only a 3% property tax increase for 2021. ConFire derives 88% of its revenue from property taxes.

Andersen said that the negotiations and the offer to settle with the firefighters were at the same level the county had settled with other public safety groups and were part of a long-range plan to achieve full staffing

and reduce mandatory overtime, too much of which puts a stress on employee morale. Fire district officials have said recruitment for firefighters and paramedics has been a challenge, and county negotiators analyzed pay scales of regional fire agencies to come up with a number that would bring ConFire employees' earnings into line.

“This contract keeps the firefighters' pay consistent with the median range and will provide for stable recruitment as well as a stable workforce, as we likely head into very difficult times,” Twa said.

All employee pay increases are spread equally over the three years, with a 5% raise taking effect each July 1. Firefighters will continue to contribute anywhere

from 9% to 18% of their pay to fund their retirement account with the Contra Costa County Employees' Retirement Association.

“I appreciate all the parties coming together and committing the time and resources to reach an agreement during these challenging times,” ConFire Chief Lewis Broschard said. “Having these agreements in place for our firefighters, dispatchers, fire prevention personnel and chief officers allows us to focus on our mission which is particularly important as we continue to deal with the ongoing challenges of COVID and what is likely to be a busy fire season ahead of us.”

The Moraga-Orinda Fire District labor agreement with its firefighters runs through June 30, 2021.

Hand crews bolster ConFire prevention efforts



Photo courtesy ConFire

Crews consist of temporary, seasonal employees who work 10-hour shifts, Wednesday through Saturday each week, and will remain staffed through late October or until the end of fire season. Crew 12 comprises 12 members, supervised by a dedicated fire captain.

The hand crews are deployed in vans and pickups loaded with weed eaters and power saws, plus whatever else the crews need to clear vegetation and perform other maintenance tasks. A utility vehicle tags along, equipped with thousands of feet of hose which can be loaded onto a fire engine as a replacement during an incident. When called upon, the hand crew can retrieve used hose at the scene, clean the hose and return it back into service.

Battalion Chief Scott Valencia oversees the Fire Control Worker program. “If we can put things in place to slow a fire down, it gives us more time to put the fire out,” Valencia said. “Once the fire is out, there is a

ton of work to be done. We'll be able to release the fire units earlier by having the hand crews do the clean-up work.”

In addition to preemptive abatement activity and support for fire suppression efforts, the hand crews aid in one other key district function: recruitment. “It creates a path for them to become firefighters,” said Steve Hill, district public information officer.

A few days after the hand crews were put into service, the area experienced its first major heat wave of the season. “Their efforts had a significant impact in keeping crews available through a series of fires and events that occurred ... where we had incident after incident after incident,” Fire Chief Lewis Broschard told his board of directors.

If the district deems the Fire Control Worker program successful, it looks to expand the hand crew operations next year to include response to wildland fires in support of fire suppression efforts.

Protective gear helps safeguard first responders



Photo courtesy MOFD

Firefighter-paramedics David Azevedo and Mike Stiehr model the protective gear used when responding to patients with known COVID-19 symptoms. Through early June, not one of the MOFD suppression personnel has tested positive for the virus.

-- N. Marnell

ConFire adds Crew 12 to its Fire Control Worker program.

By Nick Marnell

Anticipating a long, hot fire season, the Contra Costa County Fire Protection District introduced its inaugural Fire Control Worker program, which

consists of hand crews that assist in weed abatement operations, fire trail maintenance, and equipment and apparatus restoration at fire scenes. The first hand crew, Crew 12, was deployed on May 20.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 17, 7 p.m.
Go to the website for meeting location, times and agendas.
Visit www.mofd.org



ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, June 16, 1:00 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, David M. Cook
925-254-6820
Orindatip@cityoforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 17 - May 30

Alarms	30
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	5
Traffic	41
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	18
Suspicious Vehicle	16
Service to Citizen	43
Patrol Req./Security Check	62
Public/School Assembly Check	34
Supplemental Report	20
Vacation House Check	8
Welfare Check	18
Ordinance Violation	9

Vehicle violations

Auto Burglary
900 Block Risa Rd.
1000 Block Brown Ave.
100 Block Lafayette Cir.
1000 Block Miller Dr.
3100 Block Rohrer Dr. (2)
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
1000 Block 2Nd St.
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Dui Misd
3400 Block Golden Gate Way

Hit And Run Misdemeanor



Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Reliez Valley Rd./Silver Dell Rd.
Avalon Ave./St. Marys Rd.

Petty Theft From Veh
1000 Block Brown Ave.
1000 Block 2Nd St.

Reckless Driving
Pleasant Hill Rd./Deer Hill Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Deer Hill Rd./Sierra Vista Way

Vehicle Theft
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
600 Block Los Palos Dr.

Petty Theft
3700 Block Highland Rd.

Residential Burglary
700 Block Moraga Rd.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (4)
3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1100 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.

3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3200 Block Andreassen Dr.
1000 Block Carol Ln.

Disturbing The Peace
Police Department
Moraga Blvd./3Rd St.
1000 Block Carol Ln.
St. Marys Rd./Topper Ln.

Loud Music
900 Block S Thompson Rd.
1800 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
500 Block Mcbride Dr.

Loud Noise
1700 Block Block Reliez Valley Rd.
3500 Block Powell Dr.
Springhill Ct./Springhill Rd.
900 Block Colina Ct.

3200 Block Marlene Dr.
3200 Block Marlene Dr.

Loud Party
1400 Block Reliez Valley Rd.
3600 Block Happy Valley Rd.
3100 Block Sandalwood Ct.

Public Nuisance
St. Marys Rd./S Lucille Ln.
Happy Valley Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
St. Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.
1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Upper Happy Valley Rd./El Nido Ranch Rd.

3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Happy Valley Rd./Deer Hill Rd.
3500 Block Terrace Way
Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr.

Acalanes Rd./Hidden Valley Rd.

Vandalism
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
200 Block Lafayette Cir.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
3800 Block Happy Valley Rd.

Other
H&S Violation
900 Block Colina Ct.

Harassment
800 Block Acalanes Rd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Bollinger/680

Loitering
Broadmoor Ct./St. Marys Rd.

Threats
300 Block Castello Rd.

Trespass
1000 Block Upper Happy Valley Rd.
3200 Block Deer Hill Rd.

Trespass W/ Vehicle
500 Block Merriewood
Unwanted Guest
600 Block Sweet Ct.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.

Violation Restraining Ord
1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 19 - June 1

Alarms 9
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 14
Traffic 60

Suspicious Circumstances 9
Suspicious Subject 3
Suspicious Vehicle 4
Service to Citizen 67

Patrol Req./Security Check 20
Supplemental Report 10
Vacation House Check 0
Welfare Check 2

Vehicle violations
Accident Property
Mt Diablo Blvd./Dewing Ave., Laf
Moraga Royale Retirement

Auto Burglary
100 Block Paseo Del Rio

Excessive Speed
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr. (2)
Moraga Rd./Alta Mesa Dr.
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.

Hit And Run Misdemeanor
Moraga Community Club
Petty Theft From Veh
Not Available
30 Block Lenelle Ct.

Reckless Driving
Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.

Tc - Property Damage
Safeway

Vehicle Theft
100 Block Paseo Del Rio

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
600 Block Augusta Dr.
300 Block Fernwood Dr.

Identity Theft
90 Block Courter Ln.

Shoplift
Dollar Tree

Nuisance to the Community
Disturbing The Peace
Not Available
Loud Music
100 Block Donald Dr.

Loud Noise
Not Available (3)
200 Block Corliss Dr.
1600 Block Camino Pablo
Homegoods
10 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)

Loud Party
900 Block Augusta Dr.
2000 Block Ascot Dr. (4)
Not Available (2)
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
80 Block Miramonte Dr.

Public Nuisance
Not Available
Vandalism
900 Block Country Club Dr.
1100 Block Alta Mesa Dr.

Other
Battery Domestic Misd
Police Department

Fireworks
Rimer Dr./Juniper Way
Donald Dr./Carroll Dr.
Not Available

Harassment
Not Available
Public Assembly Check
Rheem Valley Shopping Center
(3)

Safeway (2)
Ordinance Violation
Moraga Commons Park (2)

ORINDA POLICE

Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report

May 3 - May 16

Alarms 15
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 7

Traffic 3
Suspicious Circumstances 5

Suspicious Subject 3

Suspicious Vehicle 0
Service to Citizen 42
Patrol Req./Security Check 28
Supplemental Report 4
Welfare Check 2

Vehicle violations
Auto Burglary
60 Block Camino Del Diablo
Las Piedras/Vista Del Orinda
10 Block Arroyo Dr.
10 Block Ivy Dr.

Dui Misd
Camino Pablo/Miner Rd.

Grand Theft From Veh
100 Block Via Floreado
Petty Theft From Veh
100 Block El Toyonal

Vehicle Theft
10 Block Dover Ct.
10 Block Moraga Via

Other criminal activity
Identity Theft
100 Block Ivy Dr. (2)

Petty Theft
Cvs
Shoplift
Rite Aid
Rite Aid
Cvs

Nuisance to the Community
Civil Disturbance
10 Block St. Stephens Dr.
Disturbance-domestic
40 Block Don Gabriel Way

Loud Music
10 Block La Fond Ln.

Loud Noise
30 Block Heather Ln.
Camino Sobrante/El Caminito

Public Nuisance
St. Stephens Dr./Eb Sr 24

Other
Accident Property
10 Block Vista Del Orinda

Loitering
Canon Dr./El Toyonal

Ordinance Violation
10 Block Vista Del Orinda
Glorietta Elementary School
Wilder Sports Fields
Miramonte High School

Possession Of Stolen Prop
Rite Aid
Revoked License
Wb Sr 24 Eo Wilder Rd.

Violation Restraining Ord
60 Block Charles Hill Rd.