

To checkmate the 2021 fire season, ConFire beefs up apparatus fleet



Photo provided

Two more of these Type III wildland engines are on their way to the district.

By Nick Marnell

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District board of directors Nov. 10 unanimously approved a \$1.6 million purchase of emergency

firefighting apparatus, adding extra power to the district fleet to tackle an expected challenging 2021 fire season.

“This equipment is purposed for our high-risk wild-fire areas, like in northern Lafayette,” district spokesman

Steve Hill said.

Fire Chief Lewis Broschard explained the specific uses for each of the five new emergency response vehicles.

The district’s first ever emergency crew transport vehicle will be used to support the Fire Control Worker program, allowing for the transport of an entire 12-person crew to an incident instead of relying on multiple smaller vehicles.

The apparatus purchase includes two Type III wildland fire engines, a typical wildland engine used by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and often seen on the highways running between incidents.

Two Type V wildland engines are also coming to the district. “These are the smallest wildland fire engines available,” Broschard said. “They are more nimble, they are easier to get around and

they carry a little bit less water.”

Once these new units arrive, the district apparatus fleet will include 14 Type III wildland engines and four Type V wildland engines.

Though the district had not appropriated funds for this major capital purchase, ConFire has the money available thanks to various budgeting adjustments. The district did not fill vacant positions, delayed promotions and postponed non-critical building maintenance projects. In addition, the district

reduced planned expenditures in its non-capital equipment and supply budgets. Those savings will be used to fund the additional apparatus purchase.

“Overall, our objective is to ramp up our efforts to combat longer and more challenging fire seasons,” the chief said.

As there is lag of up to one year for delivery of these vehicles, the district expects that the new apparatus should be ready for at least the second half of next year’s fire season.

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Dec. 16, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Tuesday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



Orinda residents seem willing to trade off taller buildings for community benefits



Image provided

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Optics identified seven character areas, four in the village area and three in the Theatre district that included both the Downtown Commercial (DC) and the Downtown Office (DO) zones.

The concept of “character areas” is that different parts of Orinda’s downtown are suitable for differing treatments, and that a more pleasing overall effect could be accomplished by not having just one standard for all of the downtown.

When asked how much downtown residential development is needed to drive retail development in Orinda, Jason Moody, managing principal of EPS, said he was not optimistic that adding retail

square footage could drive the type of retail development that Orinda wants. There would not likely be sufficient residential development to change the fundamental dynamics, he said, adding that success would be affected by Orinda’s small population and nearby competition from Lafayette and Walnut Creek, both easily within reach of Orinda residents.

However, he said the Downtown Precise Plan has good bones and community attributes, and that success could come from innovative tenanting and “place-making.” Much of the discussion centered on using the offer of more height in exchange for community benefits, which included design features such as plazas, or area improvements,

such as creek restoration. Although one speaker said that creek restoration is not a priority in Orinda, several other speakers expressed support for the idea of daylighting San Pablo Creek as it runs through downtown Orinda.

In terms of mixed use developments that combine retail and residential use, horizontal mixed use seemed to garner more support than vertical mixed use, with commenters suggesting that they favored residential development behind a façade of retail developments. Several lots that stretch from, for example, Moraga Way to the creek, or Moraga Road to Camino Pablo were suggested as areas that could have retail facing the street and residential development behind. An increase in allowable building height from the current 35 feet or two and a half stories to potentially 55 feet or four or five stories was discussed.

Council Member Nick Kosla urged that the limits not be defined specifically as to stories, as stories can vary within the same height limit. Council Member Inga Miller asked if it would be possible, for example, to go up to 55 feet from the bottom of the lot currently housing BevMo, or was it suggested that the corner of that lot at Moraga Way, cur-

rently occupied by CVS go up to 55 feet. Pellegrini explained that they are not making a hard recommendation at this time, but that frontage along Brookwood would be appropriate for taller buildings. Pellegrini also said that three-to four-story buildings would not severely impact views, but that the council could consider extra height being allowed where some community benefit is provided by the developer.

The EPS consultant also pointed out that most of the lots in Orinda already have existing development that provides a revenue stream for owners. “As a rule of thumb,” he said, “a FAR (floor area ratio) below 0.5 indicates that a property is under-utilized and ripe for redevelopment.” There are many such properties in downtown Orinda, he added, and other than the senior housing built in 2014, the last new buildings in Orinda were built in 1989, over 30 years ago. The city’s current limits of 2.5 stories and 10 units per acre are probably a major hurdle to development, he concluded.

The EPS presentation also focused on the economics of

parking, which he said can make or break a project. While most commenters favored wider sidewalks that could accommodate outdoor dining, for example, Moody noted this could come at the expense of parking. He added that Orinda does not offer an in lieu option for residential development.

Paul Ugenti, the developer of the planned new development at 25A Orinda Way, The Station, commented that the only effective way to develop retail is to have housing. He said that parcels in downtown Orinda are very large and there are very few owners in town. He said he is excited about higher density and suggested developments that drive more daytime traffic, more restaurants, and more housing for those who want to downsize or for first-time owners.

Local developer Bruce Burrows said that he is not a fan of mixed use, but likes the idea of housing in downtown Orinda. He agreed that retail success is more likely to come from innovative tenanting and creative retail marketing, with room for residential behind retail.

Both presentations from the workshop can be viewed at <https://cityforinda.box.com/v/CharacterAreaWorkshopPPT>

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@cityforinda.org

Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 1 - Nov. 14

Alarms	32
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	15
Traffic	70
Suspicious Circumstances	9
Suspicious Subject	20
Suspicious Vehicle	8
Service to Citizen	48
Patrol Req./Security Check	46
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	31
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12
Ordinance Violation	1
Vehicle violations	
Auto Burglary	
800 Block Rosedale Ave.	
1000 Block Dolores Dr.	
1000 Block Via Roble	
1000 Block N Thompson Rd.	
1100 Block Sierra Vista Way (2)	
Hit And Run Felony	
3100 Block Camino Diablo	
Hit And Run Misdemeanor	
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.	
Reliez Valley Rd./Almaden Ct.	



3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
3500 Block Hamlin Rd.
Reckless Driving
Wb Sr 24 At Pleasant Hill Rd.
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Acalanes Rd.
Moraga Rd./Brook St.
Olympic Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
St Marys Rd./Moraga Rd.
Sweet Dr./Carlyle Terrace
Vehicle Theft
800 Block Santa Maria Way

Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
1300 Block Sunset Loop
Grand Theft
3100 Block Camino Colorados
Grand Theft Veh Parts
3300 Block Sweet Dr.
Identity Theft
Police Department (2)
Petty Theft
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
Police Department
Petty Theft Bicycle
100 Block Lafayette Cir.
Petty Theft From Building
100 Block Lafayette Cir.
Residential Burglary
1500 Block Rancho View Dr.
3400 Block Monroe Ave.

Shoplift
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (5)
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
1000 Block Dewing Ave.
Disturbance-fight
Round Up Lounge
Disturbing The Peace
El Curtola Blvd./Wb Sr 24
3700 Block Mosswood Dr.
El Curtola Blvd./Saranap Ave.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Loud Music
3700 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Loud Noise
3300 Block Moraga Blvd.
El Curtola Blvd./Eb Sr 24
Loud Party
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.
Public Nuisance
3400 Block Golden Gate Way
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)
Vandalism
1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd.

Other
Brandishing Weapon

Dewing Ave./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft From Vehicle
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
K9 Outside Assist Request
Eb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr., Ori
Trespass
2Nd St/Golden Gate Way
500 Block Mcbride Dr.
900 Block 2Nd St.
Deer Hill Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.
3800 Block Palo Alto Dr.
3600 Block Deer Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest
Lafayette Cemetery
Violation Custody Order
Police Department
1200 Block Warner Ct. (2)
Violation Restraining Ord
600 Block Sweet Ct.
3700 Block Highland Ct.

Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 3 - Nov. 16

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	9
Traffic	39
Suspicious Circumstances	8
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	1
Service to Citizen	36
Patrol Req./Security Check	14
Supplemental Report	9
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	0
Ordinance Violation	8
Vehicle violations	
Dui Misd	
Moraga Rd./Via Granada	
Moraga Way	
Excessive Speed	
Moraga Rd./Commons Park	
Moraga Rd./Buckingham Dr.	
Moraga Rd./Woodford Dr.	
St. Marys Rd./Stafford Dr.	
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr., Ori	
Moraga Way/Camino Ricardo	
St. Andrews Dr./Augusta Dr.	
Moraga Way/Ivy Dr. (3)	
Moraga Way/Miramonte Dr.	
Moraga Way/Moraga Valley Ln.	
(2)	
Moraga Way/Coral	
Ascot Dr./Moraga Rd.	
Moraga Rd./Corliss Dr.	



Petty Theft From Veh
Not Available
Reckless Driving
Moraga Rd./So Corte Santa Clara
Moraga Rd./Rheem Blvd.
Rimer Dr./Camino Pablo
Moraga Rd./St. Marys Rd.
Tc - Property Damage
Safeway
Traffic Hazard
Calle La Montana/Corte Aires
Vehicle Theft
20 Block La Salle Dr.
Valle Vista Staging Area Ebrp.
Other criminal activity
Fraud False Pretenses
50 Block Laird Dr.
20 Block Hetfield Pl.
Identity Theft
10 Block Carey Ct.
1000 Block Sanders Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic
600 Block Carroll Dr.
Loud Music
1900 Block Ascot Dr.
90 Block Miramonte Dr. (2)
Loud Noise
Not Available
Loud Party
2000 Block Ascot Dr.
Donald Dr./Fernwood Dr.
Public Nuisance
Fire Station 42
Other
Fireworks
1100 Block Rimer Dr.
1600 Block School St.
Harassment
Post Office
Probation Home Search
200 Block Corliss Dr.
Trespass
Donald Pl./Donald Dr.
Violation Restraining Order
50 Block Miramonte Dr.



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report Nov. 8 - Nov. 14

Alarms	18
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	4
Traffic	2
Suspicious Circumstances	0
Suspicious Subject	0
Suspicious Vehicle	5
Service to Citizen	33
Patrol Req./Security Check	45
Public/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	2
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	2
Ordinance Violation	0
Vehicle violations	
Accident Property	
400 Block Moraga Way	
10 Block Cedar Ln.	
Auto Burglary	
El Nido Ranch Rd./St. Stephens Cir.	
Petty Theft From Vehicle	
10 Block Paintbrush Ln.	
Reckless Driving	
Camino Pablo/El Toyonal	
Tc - Property Damage	
Monte Vista Rd./Camino Pablo	
San Pablo Reservoir Rec Area	
Traffic Hazard	
100 Block Camino Sobrante	
Rheem Blvd./Zander Dr.	
Other criminal activity	
Petty Theft	
CVS	
Nuisance to the Community	
Disturbance-domestic	
Country Club Plaza/Orinda Way	
Loud Music	
Tiger Tail Ct./Gardiner Ct.	
Public Nuisance	
10 Block Moraga Way	
Vandalism	
10 Block Harran Cir.	
Other	
CCovid19 Violation	
10 Block Martha Rd.	
Trespass	
Orinda Country Club	