

EBMUD updates Orinda on drought, infrastructure and vegetation management

By Sora O'Doherty

Gone are the days when Orinda raged against the East Bay Municipal Utility District's failure to communicate, as back in 2017 concerning the fiasco over the Orchard Road detour. EBMUD directors showed up in full force on Sept. 7 to update the Orinda City Council about its operations in the city, which, according to EBMUD, is the heart of the East Bay water system. The update had been scheduled previously, but was postponed when a closed session ran extremely long.

Director Marguerite Young, representing Ward 3 which includes Orinda, Moraga, El Sobrante and portions of Pinole and Richmond, introduced the presentation. EBMUD serves approximately 1.4 million customers, she said, and its mission is to manage natural resources, provide reliable water and wastewater services, and to preserve and protect the environment for the public. "Our board hugs the watershed," she said, "and Orinda is the heart of EBMUD."

One of EBMUD's current priorities is the removal of dead Monterey pines that pose a fire hazard. Scott Hill, EBMUD manager of watershed and recreation, discussed the planned removal of 1,500 dead trees from San Pablo Reservoir that borders Orinda. The

trees, mostly Monterey pines, can be found on nearly 300 acres. EBMUD has hired a contractor and is preparing to start right after nesting bird season ends on Sept. 15.

EBMUD Associate Civil Engineer Jeff Bandy updated the council and public on the progress of infrastructure projects in Orinda. These projects include (with estimated completion dates) the Briones tower seismic retrofit (2022), the Duffel solar photovoltaic renewable energy project (2022-23), and the Happy Valley Pumping Plant at Miner Road and Camino Sobrante (2022-24).

A pipeline in the El Toyonal area was recently completed.

Additional infrastructure improvements are planned at the Orinda water treatment plant to improve disinfection, protect public health by adding a multi-barrier treatment process, and reduce the formation of disinfection byproducts. The Orinda water treatment plant is the only plant that runs 24/7, 365 days a year. The infrastructure plan includes the demolition of some existing buildings on the site located on Camino Pablo. One planned improvement is a generator for Public Safety Power Shutoffs, something that was found lacking during previous PSPSS.

Dave Briggs, director of operations and water management, said that 90% of its

water comes from the central Sierras, and that fortunately there have been no wildfires in EBMUD's watershed. At 5,000 feet of elevation, there has been plenty of rain and snow, he said. EBMUD has five local reservoirs. Four reservoirs, San Pablo, Camino Pablo, Briones, and Upper San Leandro are used for the storage of water, while the Lafayette and one other are used primarily for recreation.

Briggs explained that full storage is about 640 acre feet of water, and showed a chart of how full reservoirs have been over recent years. During the very dry years in the past drought EBMUD started tapping the Sacramento River to minimize the impact. Since then, they've had several wet years, and some average water years. "It doesn't take a lot to fill our reservoirs," he reported, but last year was dry and this year is very dry. EBMUD is now down to 435 acre-feet of water storage. "It's been worse," Briggs said, "but it's very bad." A stage 1 drought was declared in April and EBMUD is pursuing supplemental supplies in about three weeks. EBMUD has asked for voluntary water conservation of about 10%. "Hopefully next winter will be wet," Briggs said, but EBMUD is in the process of acquiring additional water for the future.

Briggs suggested that homeowners irrigate effi-

ciently and avoid high noon irrigation, find and fix leaks and be mindful of indoor use. Upon request, EBMUD will send you a kit, including water efficient fixtures, for free. He also discussed the lawn rebate program which offers from \$0.75 to \$1.50 per square foot for replacing lawns with landscaping that uses less water.

Council Member Inga Miller thanked EBMUD and praised the open-door relationship that director Theis helped build. Council Member Darlene Gee complimented the EBMUD staff and thanked them for all the recreational use at the EBMUD facilities, from which she said communities have benefited so much in such difficult times. EBMUD confirmed that they saw a huge increase at the Lafayette Reservoir and throughout its watershed. There were an estimated 1.2 million visitors

last year.

During the pandemic, EBMUD stopped requiring trail permits, which has not been without its challenges enforcing social distancing and educating people. EBMUD also promised some upcoming changes that will increase access for folks. Scott Hill said EBMUD had doubled their number of annual permits in one month when the permit requirement was reinstated. He attributed this to a raised level of awareness. "Many people didn't realize what a jewel they had," he said. Lafayette is such a busy place and has remained busy during the pandemic. Young also confirmed that EBMUD didn't shut people's water off if they were having difficulty, and restored water to many customers to ensure that people have access to water.

The EBMUD presentation to the city council can be viewed at: <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/s/0twaf3yhtpl1vlekpqvaxt79uq7ieum>

Fire District Public Meetings

Moraga-Orinda Fire District

Board of Directors
Wednesday, Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
For meeting times and agendas, visit www.mofd.org

ConFire

Board of Directors
Regular Meeting: Tuesday, Oct. 12, 1 p.m.

For meeting times and agendas, visit www.cccfpd.org



First responders bid farewell to Moraga officer

... continued from Page A1

There were no sirens blaring to disturb the stillness in the air. The quiet respect of those vehicles passing through Lamorinda neighborhoods to their final destination drew a hush from the bystanders waiting to pay their silent respects and added to the reality of the occasion. Some citizens held American flags, others clutched banners that they deemed significant for the moment, construction workers took off their hardhats, and fire engines lined overpasses, while the ma-

majority of folks simply stood in the hot sun just to say goodbye.

Both Moraga's town council and Orinda's city council, as well as members of Lafayette's Emergency Preparedness Commission took time to mention Mooney at recent meetings held prior to the memorial procession, offering their condolences and commenting on Mooney's service to the Lamorinda community.

Orinda Mayor Amy Worth spoke of Mooney's tremendous career in the Sheriff's Department, the U.S. Marines, and also through the town of

Moraga. "Although Moraga is claiming him now because he most recently was with Moraga, we have such fond memories and experiences of him serving as a police officer through a contract with the Sheriff's department for many years in Orinda," she said. "He was deeply devoted to community service. He worked a lot with the youth in our community, he worked with the schools, he was just a fantastic officer who knew all of the community

and was really devoted. When he came back from one of his tours of duty in Iraq, we asked the Sheriff if he could return to Orinda because he was such a beloved officer."

Moraga Police Chief Jon King gave a brief testimonial during the town council's Aug. 25 meeting. "I've referred to him as a relentless pursuer of criminals and a fierce advocate for victims. One of the greatest compliments I can give to anybody is the fact that, if God forbid, something happened to a member of my family, Kevin is somebody I would want investigating that crime, taking care of my family member and catching the bad guy."

Equal praise was spoken by Orinda Police Chief David Cook during the Sept. 7 city council meeting. "In 2000 or 2001, when I was going through training, learning to become a patrol deputy for the sheriff's office, one of my training assignments was in Orinda, and Kevin was one of the officers I worked with. I'm sitting here with my wife tonight, who used to be an Orinda police officer and was one of Kevin's partners. He was an incredible guy, and he's going to be sorely missed."

Donations can be made to Cpl. Mooney's family through the Fund a Hero program at Kevin Mooney Memorial Fund. <https://porac.org/fundraiser/kevin-mooney-memorial-fund>

New COVID-19 mandates issued for first responders

By Vera Kochan

Contra Costa Health Services, in a press release on Aug. 13, announced a requirement that first responders must verify that they are either fully vaccinated or they must submit to a weekly test for COVID-19.

"The order, effective Sept. 17, applies to law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical personnel who work in or may respond to emergency calls at high-risk facilities such as hospitals, jails, nursing and congregate care facilities," according to the statement. "It also applies to non-emergency ambulance workers who provide medical transport for such facilities."

The order stipulates that the applicable workers who are fully vaccinated must provide proof to their employers who, in turn, are required to keep vaccination records. Those that choose to test weekly must also promptly provide the results to their employers. Due to medical privacy concerns, Cpl. Kevin Mooney's vaccination status was not made public.

Hauling & Cleanup

Call Tony at (925) 497-3741



references available

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
Aug. 22 - Sept. 4

Alarms	35
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	6
Traffic	72
Suspicious Circumstances	3
Suspicious Subject	21
Suspicious Vehicle	17
Service to Citizen	40
Patrol Req./Security Check	57
Pubic/School Assembly Check	3
Supplemental Report	39
Vacation House Check	16
Welfare Check	22
Ordinance Violation	1




Vehicle violations
Accident Property Pleasant Hill Rd./HWay 24
Auto Burglary 1000 Block Rahara Dr. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Dui Misd Pleasant Hill Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 3100 Block Somerseset Dr. 900 Block 1St St. 700 Block Los Palos Dr. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft Veh Parts 3600 Block Bickerstaff St.
Reckless Driving Burton Dr./Gold Ct. Glenside Dr./Los Palos Dr. Pleasant Hill Rd./Acalanes Ave. Eb Sr 24 Oak Hill Rd Central Lafayette
Acalanes Rd./Wb Sr 24 1700 Block Reliez Valley Rd. Silverado Dr./Bradbury Dr.
Stolen Vehicle Recovery 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Tc - Fire And Amb Enroute Hawthorn Dr./Beechwood Dr.
Tc - Property Damage Moraga Rd./Mt. Diablo Blvd. 20 Block Gable Ln. Mt. Diablo Blvd./Pleasant Hill Rd. Pleasant Hill Rd./Greenvalley Dr. 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vehicle Theft 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd. 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Other criminal activity
Counterfeit 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fraud Credit Card 1100 Block Laurel Dr.
Grand Theft 3400 Block Golden Gate Way
Grand Theft From Veh 10 Block Pidgeon Ct.
Identity Theft 900 Block Dewing Ave.

3300 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 20 Block Ruth Ct. Police Department
Panhandling 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Petty Theft 900 Block Hawthorn Dr. 900 Block Reliez Station Ln. 50 Block Lafayette Cir. 900 Block Reliez Station Rd. 10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct. (3) 10 Block Old Millstone Ln. El Curtola Blvd./Old Tunnel Rd.
Shoplift 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)
Nuisance to the Community
Disturbance-domestic 40 Block La Cuesta Rd., Ori 3500 Block Terrace Way
Drunk In Public 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. 1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.
Loud Music 1300 Block Reliez Valley Rd. Fairholm Ct./Reliez Valley Rd.
Loud Noise Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd. 10 Block Diablo Cir. Brook St./East St.
Loud Party 10 Block Fallen Leaf Ct. 10 Block Diablo Cir. 900 Block Risa Rd.
Public Nuisance Boyer Cir./Dewing Ave. 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. Hartwood Ct./Silverado Dr. 900 Block Moraga Rd. 1St St./Eb Sr 24 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Vandalism 900 Block Risa Rd.
Other
Animal Cruelty 3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Fire/Ems Response Info 1100 Block Garden Ln. 3300 Block Victoria Ave.

Intoxicated Subject 3400 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Mentally Ill Violent 30 Block Old Millstone Ln.
Trespass 1000 Block Oak Hill Rd.
Unwanted Guest 3300 Block Mildred Ln. 3200 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.
Violation Custody Order Police Department 1000 Block Dewing Ave. 1200 Block Warner Ct. (3)
Violation Restraining Ord 600 Block Doreen Way
Moraga Police Department Incident Summary Report
Aug. 24 - Sept. 6

Alarms	13
911 Calls (includes hang-ups)	8
Traffic	36
Suspicious Circumstances	11
Suspicious Subject	1
Suspicious Vehicle	3
Service to Citizen	38
Patrol Req./Security Check	9
Supplemental Report	11
Vacation House Check	0
Welfare Check	12
Pubic/School Assembly Check	3
Ordinance Violation	2

Vehicle violations
Accident Injury 20 Block Dickenson Dr.
Dui Misd Moraga Rd./Via Granada
Excessive Speed Lucas Dr. Ivy Dr./Moraga Way Moraga Way/Moraga Rd. Rheem Blvd./Park St 200 Block Corliss Dr. (2) Moraga Rd./Delores Ct. Moraga Rd. Ifo Commons



Reckless Driving 100 Block Danefield Pl. Campolindo High School Moraga Rd./Ascot Dr. Moraga Rd./Donald Dr. Rheem Blvd./Moraga Rd.
Tc - Property Damage 200 Block Corliss Dr.
Vehicle Theft Moraga Commons Park
Other criminal activity
Grand Theft 100 Block Miramonte Dr.
Grand Theft From Veh Not Available
Grand Theft Veh Parts Not Available
Identity Theft 20 Block Via Barcelona (2) 3800 Block Campolindo Dr. 2000 Block Donald Dr.
Nuisance to the Community
Drunk In Public 400 Block Woodminster Dr.
Loud Party 20 Block Juniper Way School St./Country Club Dr. 1400 Block Camino Peral 700 Block Moraga Rd.
Other
Fire/Ems Response Info 10 Block Corte Santa Clara School St./Country Club Dr.
Fish And Game 100 Block Ascot Ct.
Harassment 10 Block Cresta Blanca, Ori



Orinda Police Department Incident Summary Report will be back next time