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Food waste disposal is the focus of new waste reduction law, SB 1383.

Photo Bigstock

Lamorinda in great shape to meet new recycling law

By Sora O'Doherty

As Senate Bill 1383, the most significant waste reduction law in the past 30 years, comes into effect, Orinda, like the rest of Lamorinda, is well positioned to be in compliance. In a Feb. 1 presentation to the Orinda City Council, Senior Program Manager Judith Silver of Recycle Smart explained that Orinda is already ahead of the game, because residents have already been separating green waste from

trash and recycling. One of the most significant elements of the bill, finding ways to get edible food to people who need it instead of to the landfill, is already being practiced to a significant degree in Lamorinda.

SB 1383 is intended to reduce short-lived climate pollutants in California, and sets goals to be reached by 2025. Food is 18% of what is discarded. Silver said that she is confident that Lamorinda is largely in compliance with this law, although there

will be some changes. Up until now, multifamily buildings could opt out of food waste recycling and recycle only yard waste, but the requirement now applies to everyone. New Administrative Services Director Doug Alessio helped with a grant application that will provide one-time funding for educational outreach to explain the new provisions.

Recycle Smart will begin conducting random "lid flips," checking for non-compliant materials in bins, along their 68 routes. ... continued on Page A6

Advertising



- Obituaries A9
- Not to be missed B3
- How to contact us C3
- Classified C2
- Shop Orinda C3

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Masses of junipers removed from Campo development before fire season



Photo Sora O'Doherty

By Sora O'Doherty

The Campolindo Firewise community has been actively assisting member residents to rid their property of fuels that will have to be removed to meet the new fire code, which specifies that juniper bushes and bamboo within 10 feet of all public and private roads must be removed by the end of next year. Junipers, sometimes nicknamed "green gas cans," are known to be highly fire prone.

According to block captain Steve Hoyt, there are 402 homes in the Campolindo Firewise group, with near complete coverage of the community. The objective of their group is to improve emergency preparedness of the neighborhood, such as encouraging residents to prepare go bags, obtain emergency supplies, and improve the fire defensibility of their homes. The Campolindo group has 30 block captains, each responsible for 10-15 homes. The Firewise group is associated with FireWise USA, a program of the National Fire Protection Association, that encourages local solutions for safety by involving homeowners in taking individual responsibility for preparing their homes from wildfire risk; it is not associated with the Campolindo Homeowners Association.

About 17 homeowners took advantage of an offer arranged by the Firewise group to use Wildland Corporation to remove unwanted plants, mostly junipers, in February, ahead of the deadline imposed by the revised Moraga-Orinda Fire District Fire Code. Homeowner Raj Rikhy plans to replace the extensive juniper planting with artificial turf and dark wood chips. He won't miss the rats that came with the juniper. Gorden Graham, MOFD fuels mitigation manager, and Dennis Rein, MOFD emergency preparedness coordinator, were on hand to support the effort.

Civic News A1-A10

Speed cushion discussion returns to Orinda City Council - Page A6

Public Safety

Moraga PD Lt. Brian South moves on - Page A4

Life in Lamorinda B1-B3

Gold Coast Chamber Players plans Lafayette performance Feb. 25 - Page B2



Sports C1-C3

SMC Gaels dominate San Diego, 86-57, marking the season's 20th win - Page C1



Our Homes D1-D16

Prepping your garden to welcome February flora - Page D1

