



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

**City Council Regular Meeting:**  
 Tuesday, July 19, 7 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only  
**Planning Commission**  
 Tuesday, July 12, 7 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only  
**Supplemental Sales Tax Oversight Commission**  
 Wednesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m.  
 By Teleconference Only

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# An Orinda icon, Nation's to move across the street, remodel



Image provided

By Sora O'Doherty

After 50 years in Orinda, the well-loved hamburger restaurant, Nation's, is moving. But not very far: the new restaurant will be right across Moraga Way from the original location, taking the space at 65 Moraga Way, last occupied by Taverna Pelligri, which closed during the COVID-19 pandemic (next to Peet's Coffee at 63 Moraga Way). Nation's has worked with Peet's to design a harmonious façade for both businesses.

The design, by architect Michael Hanna, won approval from the Orinda Planning Commission on June 28. In the new plan, Peet's canopy, which currently reads "Peet's Coffee & Tea," will be removed and replaced with a brand new canopy with illuminated letters spelling out Peet's Coffee, as Peet's has recently dropped the addition of "& Tea" in its sig-

nage. The existing columns on the building's façade will be removed, and there will be a new façade treatment with vertical aluminum slats with a wood texture.

On the Nation's side of the building, there will be three new projecting architectural features. The name "Nation's" will appear on the awning in lighted letters. At the request of the planning commission, the architect agreed to reduce the overall size of the letters by about 20%, working with the Planning Department. On the front of the side of the building at one side will be a structure that resembles a tall sandwich in its three-layer construction. On the front, near the top, it will bear the Nation's logo, which will be in color and subtly illuminated. The illumination is the "meat" in the sandwich; the soft lighting will illuminate the front logo and also, down the side of the "sandwich," the let-

ters spelling out Nation's will appear vertically, and will also be gently illuminated.

One area of controversy was the height of this structure with the company logo. The architect presented two options, based on previous work with the planning commission. The features of the façade in option A were bigger overall, and the structure bearing the logo projected higher than the roofline. Option B had smaller features, and the logo structure did not project above, but was even with the roofline. The fact that the structure rose above the roofline was controversial, and, as well, neighbors whose houses are behind the restaurant objected to the fact that the back of the structure would be translucent and gently lit.

Hanna agreed that he could easily add another layer to the sandwich, covering the translucent panel with an opaque one and thereby eliminating any illumination from the back of the sign. He explained to the Planning Commission that his idea with having the company's illuminated logo above the parapet was to echo the theme of the iconic Orinda Theatre, with its towering neon-enhanced sign. While the theatre is near the north end of the Theatre dis-

trict, Nation's will be at the south end, so that the taller signs would bookmark the Theatre district, he suggested. Hanna pointed out that Orinda Theatre itself could not be approved today under current requirements. His arguments persuaded the commission, which voted unanimously to allow the lighted logo to rise five feet above the parapet. The other conditions of approval were that the back of the sign not be illuminated and the reduction in the size of the letters on the canopy.

All windows and doors on the adjoining buildings will remain the same. The exterior material will remain stucco. The facade will be touched up in areas where the stucco is eroding. The brick material on the west wall of the building will remain. The burnt orange stucco color and black window framing will remain the same. The wood patterned aluminum slats and canopies will be a "Knotwood" color. No new light fixtures will be featured on this building. The only form of lighting on the exterior of the building will be the subdued indirect LED lighting for the building's signage.

# City Council to discuss the draft Safety Element, staff seeks public input

By Sora O'Doherty

Orinda staff have invited the public to submit comments about the draft Safety Element and Vulnerability Assessment. The draft Safety Element, which will be submitted to the state along with the Housing Element, was prepared by the city's consultant, Placeworks.

In the draft, Placeworks explains that the Safety Element is a state-mandated ele-

ment of the city's General Plan that must identify potential natural and human-created hazards that could affect the city's residents, businesses, and services. It identifies the natural and human-caused hazards that affect existing and future development, describes present and expected future conditions, and sets

policies and standards for improved public safety.

In addition, the city is working on a newly required component of the Housing Element: Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH), that requires the city to examine existing and future policies, plans, programs, rules, practices and related activities to

promote a more inclusive community. The downtown planning and housing element subcommittee hosted a workshop on AFFH on June 27, and residents are encouraged to complete a fair housing survey. That survey, and others, are available from the Plan Orinda website, [www.planorinda.com/involve](http://www.planorinda.com/involve)

The draft Safety Element is available for review at: <https://cityoforinda.app.box.com/v/DraftSafetyElement/file/968200724142>

# Orinda proclamation recognizes the 80th anniversary of Japanese interment

By Sora O'Doherty

The Orinda City Council on June 21 issued a proclamation honoring and solemnly remembering the many Japanese Americans who experienced a tragic violation of fundamental civil rights 80 years ago when, by Presidential Executive Order 9066 in 1942, they were forced to leave their homes, employment, and schools and were incarcerated in concentration camps throughout the inland parts of the Western United States.

The proclamation, read by Mayor Dennis Fay, acknowledged that over 120,000 Japanese Americans were interned, and that approximately two-thirds of them were born in the United States. Those interned had not been charged with any crimes and were not afforded due process before being forcibly removed from their homes and communities, the proclamation continued.

The proclamation also refers to "the poignant per-

sonal memoir, 'Lotus,' written by Chieko Tahira," through which, "we can learn first-hand about the tragic relocation and incarceration experience of a Contra Costa family and the many other families in our county who experienced this terrible episode in our country's history."

The author's daughter, Kimi Tahira Dowell, attended the meeting on her mother's behalf. "My mother," she said, "would have been overcome with emotions to think that her book contributed to this proclamation." She went on to say that her mother had attended Mt. Diablo High School but never graduated. Forced into an arranged marriage, she always regretted not having graduated from high school, but to her credit she nonetheless got this book written.

"These are very difficult times, not only for our country but also globally, as we witness the rise of nationalism and some of the telltale signs of a dark past," Tahira said.

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### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

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PROJECT NAME: Sobrante-Moraga 115 kV Power Line Project - (City of Orinda, P.No. 5791338)  
 ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 6644-E

**Proposed Project:** To replace foundationally unstable infrastructure, ensure electrical reliability, and replace outdated facilities with newer, more resilient ones, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace conductors (wires) over approximately 0.32 mile of the existing Sobrante-Moraga 115 kilovolt (kV) Power Line in the City of Orinda, Contra Costa County. To support the new conductors PG&E will replace approximately 4 existing lattice steel pole (LSP) structures with 4 new single tubular steel pole (TSP) structures (replacement of existing power line facilities). PG&E will also remove approximately 3 existing LSP structures on the adjacent existing Moraga-Lakewood 115kV Power Line that runs parallel with and in the same utility corridor as the Sobrante-Moraga 115kV Power Line. The existing conductor on the 3 Moraga-Lakewood 115kV Power Line LSP removals will be moved to 3 of the new adjacent Sobrante-Moraga 115kV Power Line TSP structures (minor relocation). Replacement structures will be approximately 6 feet to 12 feet taller than the existing structures with one new structure decreasing in height. Taller structures are needed to comply with California Public Utilities General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements.

The project begins at an existing PG&E LSP approximately 1,200 feet north of the westerly terminus of Dolores Way and runs north and then east approximately 1,700 feet adjacent to and northerly of PG&E's Moraga Substation crossing 1 unnamed intermittent stream, terminating at an existing PG&E LSP located approximately 300 feet east of the intersection of Valley View Drive and Don Gabriel Way.

The project will span over 1 unnamed intermittent stream. No work will occur within the bed or bank of the stream or riparian areas and no removal of riparian vegetation is required. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2022 or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction will be completed in March 2023, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1, exempts a utility from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. This project qualifies for the following exemption:

- b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."
- c. "the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures."

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E's Project Information Line at (415) 973-5530.

**Public Review Process:** Individuals or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that PG&E has incorrectly applied for an exemption or that the conditions set out in Section III.B.2 of General Order 131-D exist;

- a. There is reasonable possibility that the activity may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; or
- b. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant; or
- c. There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Protests should include the following:

- 1. Your name, email address and daytime telephone number.
- 2. Reference to the CPUC Advice Letter Number and Project Name.
- 3. A clear description of the reason for the protest.
- 4. Whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes.

Protests for this project must be filed by July 27, 2022 at the following address:

Director, Energy Division ED Tariff Unit E-mail: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov	With a copy emailed to:  Pacific Gas and Electric Company PG&E Tariffs E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com
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PG&E must respond within five business days of receipt and serve its response on each protestant and the Energy Division. Within 30 days after PG&E has submitted its response, the CPUC Executive Director will send you a copy of an Executive Resolution granting or denying PG&E's request and stating the reasons for the decision.

**Assistance in Filing a Protest:** If you need assistance in filing a protest, contact the CPUC Public Advisor: email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov) or call: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free), or (415) 703-2074, or TTY (415) 703-5258.

**Public Comment:** Even if you do not want to file an official protest, you may still comment on the request. To do so, send your comments to the Energy Division at the address noted above. Please reference Advice Letter 6644-E.

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