

# Orinda gets winter storm damage update after county qualifies for FEMA assistance



Damaged homes on Cedar Lane in Orinda Photo courtesy city of Orinda

By Sora O'Doherty

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved Individual Assistance for residents of Contra Costa County for damages to private property that were incurred during the recent storms. In terms of damage to public property, the city of Orinda approved a resolution on Feb. 7 extending its declaration of emergency in order to allow it to forgo normal contracting procedures to speed up repairs to public facilities.

Scott Christie, Director of Public Works, told the Orinda City Council that the resolu-

tion is necessary to be exempt from bidding over \$60,000, and some of the damage Orinda has sustained could be over \$60,000. He noted that the landslide at Cedar Lane is an important situation. "So far the road appears to be in acceptable condition," he said. "In the worst case, the city might need to add a stabilizing retaining wall," adding, "and such a retaining wall could be quite expensive. We don't know what the future condition will be."

Also, he said that the damage on Tarry Lane, could exceed \$60,000 and might need to be addressed quickly. Without the emergency declaration, the bidding process

could take up to 4 or 5 weeks. The emergency declaration is also necessary to qualify for potential funding from other agencies. Christie added that staff "did not include facilities like Orinda Oak Parks because we don't think the situation is so critical that it can't be handled under normal procedures."

The damage currently known about Orinda public property includes a sinkhole at the bike lane fronting 190 Moraga Way (interim repairs completed), shoulder/road edge failure near 57 Tarry Ln. (lane closure in effect and repair options being evaluated), a sinkhole/48-inch storm drain pipe failure in city easement at 7 North Ln. (repair options being evaluated) and a damaged 72-inch storm drain pipe under Miner Road south of Camino Don Miguel. Orinda City Hall and Community Center suffered water intrusion and the landslide at Cedar Lane, although primarily

causing damage to two private homes, may also cause damage to the public road, although it hasn't yet.

It is estimated that to date, the cost for cleanup and repair activities for all of the public facilities is approximately \$160,000. This includes contractors, consultants and overtime for city staff. However, the total cost estimate for Orinda public properties, for complete repairs is roughly estimated to be \$ 1.5 million. The extent of funding through reimbursement programs (Office of Emergency Services or FEMA) is not known at this time. Furthermore, the timing of when complete repairs are necessary has not been determined, and would be affected by available funding sources.

Residents who have sustained property and business damage from the Dec. 31 2022 - Jan. 30 2023 series of winter storms can seek assistance directly from FEMA. Residents should apply online at

www.disasterassistance.gov or by calling 1-800- 621-3362. It should be noted that applying does not guarantee that assistance will be awarded and FEMA assistance cannot aid with losses already covered by insurance. The disaster designation is: California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4683-CA).

Residents seeking disaster assistance must use either the website or phone number to start the application process. At this time, there is no local avenue for Individual Assistance applications. Residents must go through FEMA to apply for assistance. Once residents have registered, there will be information on the next steps and available programs. The website has many languages to choose from if English is not your primary language. There is also information available on the Quick Links portion of the website.

### Apply for FEMA Assistance

[http://www6.disasterassistance.gov/?template=ARROW\\_3&tdfs=0&s\\_token=1675985291.0262440000&uuiid=1675985291.0262440000&term=Disaster%20Recovery%20Services&term=Personal%20Relief%20Loans&term=Application%20Management%20System&term=Applicant%20Tracking%20System&searchbox=0&showDomain=0&backfill=0](http://www6.disasterassistance.gov/?template=ARROW_3&tdfs=0&s_token=1675985291.0262440000&uuiid=1675985291.0262440000&term=Disaster%20Recovery%20Services&term=Personal%20Relief%20Loans&term=Application%20Management%20System&term=Applicant%20Tracking%20System&searchbox=0&showDomain=0&backfill=0)

### FEMA Q&A Flyer

[https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema\\_help-after-disaster\\_english\\_trifold.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-08/fema_help-after-disaster_english_trifold.pdf)

## Letters to the editor

### In support of electrification

Switching out fossil fuel appliances (such as a water heater, dryer, furnace, and stove) for highly-efficient electric alternatives is an excellent way to reduce one's carbon footprint, but it can be daunting. Fortunately, there are many resources to help along the way. PG&E is extremely supportive of this transition to all-electric buildings, and even hosts on-demand and live webinars open to the public at PGE.com/EnergyClasses. Register for an account, and then explore the many free courses available! Whether you want to learn how to use induction woks to stir-fry (even translated into Mandarin!), or learn the multiple ways of swapping out a gas furnace with a heat pump, PG&E has you covered. A great hands-on way to learn more about highly-efficient electric induction cooking is to experiment with it yourself! PG&E loans out portable induction cooktops for free to PG&E customers. Learn how you can borrow a cooktop and compatible pan by visiting and registering here:

<https://pge-induction.myturn.com/library/>

City Council Member Wei-Tai Kwok's shares his inspiring journey towards decarbonizing his entire own home. Read part one of his journey here:

[www.sustainablelafayette.org/single-post/why-we-are-removing-gas-from-our-](http://www.sustainablelafayette.org/single-post/why-we-are-removing-gas-from-our-home-and-going-all-electric)

### home-and-going-all-electric

I can't wait for all the Inflation Reduction Act rebates and discounts that are coming down the line! We check for updates at RewiringAmerica.org. We recently swapped out our gas water heater for a highly efficient heat pump water heater, which we love. Next, we are planning to switch out our gas cooktop with induction, which is more powerful, more easily controlled, and way easier to keep clean!

Nancy Hu DDS Lafayette

### Vote Yes on Measure Z

The reason my husband and I first moved to Orinda, 43 years ago, is the same reason new parents still move here today. The first-class schools in Orinda are the envy of the East Bay and beyond.

However, the fact that Orinda schools receive among the lowest per-student funding in the state means that our schools and students may no longer be able to keep up without local community support. I will be voting Yes on Z because I personally experienced the benefits good schools provided my own children, and I want the next generation to have the same opportunities.

I also know that supporting quality education is a wise investment that protects our quality of life and our local

### property values.

Additionally, any senior who feels the cost of Measure Z (about a dollar a day) will be a financial burden can apply for an exemption from the cost of the measure. This ensures Measure Z is not a burden to those on fixed incomes.

When our children were in school, most of the teachers lived right here. Now teachers can't afford to live here, and most commute from a distance. We need to keep our salaries competitive to attract the best teachers. Measure Z is what we need to do that.

Please join me in supporting Orinda's next generation and voting Yes on Measure Z by March 7.

Linda Landau 43-Year Orinda Resident and former OUSD Board Member

### Measure Z includes important oversight

As a member of OUSD's Parcel Tax Independent Citizens' Oversight Committee for the past 6 years, I can attest that past local school funding has been spent as promised, on local students. That is why I will be supporting Measure Z, because it includes the same important oversight requirement as previous

### measures.

The district has been extremely transparent in every audit I have been a part of. The new measure also includes an independent citizens' oversight and annual audits that will ensure Measure Z funds are spent as promised. Additionally, all funds must stay only in Orinda's elementary schools and the intermediate school! By law no funds can be taken by the state or used for administrator salaries or pensions.

Join me in voting to provide OUSD with critical funding needed to keep great teachers in our schools and vote Yes on Z by March 7.

Daniel Pier OUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee President

Opinions in Letters to the Editor are the express views of the writer and not necessarily those of the Lamorinda Weekly. All published letters will include the writer's name and city/town of residence -- we will only accept letters from those who live in, or own a business in, the communities comprising Lamorinda (please give us your phone number for verification purposes only). Letters must be factually accurate. Lamorinda Weekly reserves the right to refuse publishing a letter submission. Visit [www.lamorindaweekly.com](http://www.lamorindaweekly.com) for submission guidelines. Email: [letters@lamorindaweekly.com](mailto:letters@lamorindaweekly.com); Regular mail: Lamorinda Weekly, 1480 Moraga Road STE C #202, Moraga, CA 94556

## EQ preparedness top of mind after devastating earthquakes



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The devastating earthquakes in Turkey and Syria should serve as a stark reminder for Bay Area residents to be prepared for future temblors that could erupt here in California. According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's website, Ready.gov, in addition to practicing to drop, cover and hold on, residents should create a family emergency communication plan that has an out-of-state contact, plan where to meet if you get separated and make a supply kit

that includes enough food and water for several days, a flashlight, a fire extinguisher and a whistle.

The site also suggests securing heavy items in your home, like bookcases and TVs, and storing heavy and breakable objects on lower shelves. If you cannot find shelter, cover your head and neck, and stay bent over to protect vital organs. If you are trapped, send a text or bang on a pipe or a wall. For more suggestions, visit [Ready.gov/earthquakes](http://Ready.gov/earthquakes) - J. Wake

### 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](http://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, Ryan Sullivan 925-254-6820  
[Orindatip@cityoforinda.org](mailto:Orindatip@cityoforinda.org)

### Lafayette Police Department Incident Summary Report

**Jan. 22 - Feb. 4**  
Alarms 58  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 30  
Traffic 68  
Suspicious Circumstances 5  
Suspicious Subject 25  
Suspicious Vehicle 9  
Service to Citizen 43  
Patrol Req./Security Check 46  
Public/School Assembly Check 12  
Supplemental Report 21  
Vacation House Check 3



Welfare Check 9  
Ordinance Violation 0  
**Vehicle violations**  
Auto Burglary 1000 Block Carol Ln. (4)  
Hit And Run Misdemeanor 3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3600 Block Bickerstaff St  
1200 Block Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Reckless Driving  
Reliez Valley Rd./Pleasant Hill Rd.  
Reliez Station Rd./Olympic Blvd.  
Pleasant Hill Rd./Wb Sr 24  
Happy Valley Rd./Upper Happy Valley Rd.  
St Marys Rd./Rohrer Dr.  
School St/Moraga Rd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Moraga Rd.  
Tc - Property Damage  
Oak Hill Rd./Eb Sr 24  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Oak Hill Rd.  
Moraga Blvd./Moraga Rd. (2)  
3500 Block E View Dr.  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
Not Available (3)  
Fraud False Pretenses  
200 Block Lafayette Cir.  
4100 Block Canyon Rd.  
Grand Theft  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
500 Block Silverado Dr.  
Identity Theft  
Police Department  
4000 Block Happy Valley Rd.  
700 Block Tanglewood Dr.  
1100 Block Camino Vallecito  
3300 Block Sweet Dr.  
1500 Block Sunset Lp  
Panhandling  
Mt. Diablo Blvd./Happy Valley Rd.  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
Petty Theft  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
10 Block Lois Ln.  
Petty Theft From Veh  
3500 Block Boyer Cir.

Residential Burglary  
3100 Block Plymouth Rd.  
Shoplift  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (3)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (6)  
Vehicle Theft  
800 Block Las Trampas Rd.  
3200 Block Marlene Dr.  
Warrant Service  
1900 Block Bonifacio St. Con  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Disturbance-domestic  
3300 Block Betty Ln.  
3200 Block Old Tunnel Rd.  
3200 Block Withers Ave.  
3200 Block Mt. Diablo Ct.  
Disturbing The Peace  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
Loud Music  
3500 Block Golden Gate Way  
300 Block Shire Oaks Ct.  
Public Nuisance  
10 Block Townsend Pl  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Vandalism  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
3600 Block Bickerstaff St. (3)  
3300 Block Betty Ln.  
**Other**  
K9 Outside Assist Request  
200 Block Laurelglen Ct., Dan  
Threats  
300 Block E Lowell Ln.  
Unwanted Guest  
3600 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd. (2)  
3500 Block Mt. Diablo Blvd.  
Violation Restraining Ord  
4100 Block Hidden Valley Rd.



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**Jan. 15 - Feb. 4**  
Alarms 51  
911 Calls (includes hang-ups) 13  
Traffic 216  
Suspicious Circumstances 9  
Suspicious Subject 7  
Suspicious Vehicle 13  
Service to Citizen 81  
Patrol Req./Security Check 71  
Public/School Assembly Check 1  
Supplemental Report 44  
Vacation House Check 0  
Welfare Check 7  
Ordinance Violation 1  
**Vehicle violations**  
Accident Property  
Brookside Rd./Moraga Way  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
Moraga Way/Monte Veda Dr.  
Police Department  
Auto Burglary  
Fd Ori Station 45 Moraga Orinda Fire  
10 Block Bates Blvd.  
Dui Misd  
400 Block El Toyonal  
10 Block Wanda Ln.  
Reckless Driving  
Camino Pablo/Monte Vista Rd.  
Moraga Way/Glorietta Blvd.  
Claremont Ave./Camino Pablo  
Moraga Way/Eastwood Dr.  
Rheem Blvd./Calvin Dr.  
Camino Pablo/Eb Sr 24  
**Other criminal activity**  
Commercial Burglary  
Orinda Way  
10 Block Orinda Way  
Fraud False Pretenses  
10 Block Las Palomas  
Identity Theft  
50 Block Donna Maria Way  
Petty Theft  
30 Block Big Rock Rd.  
10 Block Fiddleneck Way

Orinda Way  
80 Block Camino Encinas  
Orinda Way  
Petty Theft From Veh  
El Camino Moraga  
Residential Burglary  
200 Block Longview Terrace  
50 Block E Altarinda Dr.  
50 Block Southwood Dr.  
200 Block Overhill Rd.  
10 Block Bel Air Dr.  
Shoplift  
Orinda Way  
Vehicle Embezzlement  
Dalewood Nbrhood  
Vehicle Theft  
Camino Sobrante/Camino Pablo  
Eb Sr 24 At St Stephens Dr.  
Warrant Arrest  
Camino Pablo/Santa Maria Way  
Warrant Service  
70 Block Brookwood Rd.  
**Nuisance to the Community**  
Loud Music  
10 Block Estates Dr.  
Loud Noise  
10 Block El Patio  
Loud Party  
100 Block Brookwood Rd.  
90 Block Brookwood Rd.  
Vandalism  
Brookside Rd.  
100 Block Camino Sobrante  
**Other**  
Dependent Adult Abuse  
Altarinda Rd.  
Failure To Obey  
Santa Maria Way/Camino Pablo  
Mentally Ill Commit  
Old Tunnel Rd./Fish Ranch Rd.  
Ivy Dr.  
Revocation Of Probation  
Camino Sobrante  
Threats  
80 Block Meadow View Rd.  
Violation Custody Order  
200 Block Overhill Rd.