

To: SSTOC
From: Steve Cohn
Subject: Public Comment
Date: May 13, 2026

This comment relates to the Ladriss wildfire evacuation analysis.

As you know, the City Council was going to discuss, in their May 6 Consent Agenda, a two-year extension of the Ladriss contract at \$250,000 a year. A half a million dollars coming from Measure R funds. To the best of my knowledge, this expenditure was never discussed by the SSTOC but that is now a moot point as the Council discussion was "pulled" from the agenda at the last minute.

At your March meeting I submitted a public comment saying the SSTOC should focus its efforts on wildfire prevention. In the comment, I included some thoughts on evacuation, including an observation on the Ladriss evacuation analysis presented to the community in webinars in February and contained on the OrindaReady.com website. My observation was that the vegetation fires included in the Ladriss analysis were not "wild" fires but "mild" vegetation fires traveling between 0.06 and 0.30 mph, a fraction of the speed the devastating "killer" fires (Tubbs, Camp, etc.) travel. A speed that would probably allow full suppression before any significant evacuation was required.

This fact was brought up by Jud at your March meeting (but was not noted in the minutes of that meeting). Staff said they would look into the possibility of including "ember cast" (the mechanism that moves fires rapidly with 50-70mph winds) in the analysis.

I am not sure what was discussed at the April meeting but the minutes of that meeting include: "Regarding LADRIS enhancements, ember casting modeling has been completed and reviewed positively by MOFD, with new scenarios expected to launch soon, providing more accurate real-time fire behavior predictions."

That was a month ago. I see nothing on the agenda of this month's meeting regarding a discussion of these "enhancements".

I looked at the OrindaReady.com website. The same 130 scenarios as were originally presented are in place; nothing additional. I looked at the scenarios and they are labeled "Version 26.05.08". I thought that maybe these were run last Friday (05/08/2026). But in reviewing the projected fire spread in the scenarios, it is about the same as originally presented. I include screen shots of the current fire-spread maps, the distances spread, and a table of fire-spread-speed. I did not take screenshots of the "original" maps so I don't know if these are just the originals.

What I do see on this month's agenda is Item G.1, 3rd Quarter Financial Report and Mid-Cycle Budget Adjustments. In the budget adjustments is \$252,000 for Ladriss, which

I assume is for the first year of the two-year contract extension the Council was going to discuss.

It is premature to extend the Ladrin contract. I am still in disbelief that your evacuation "expert" presented you with 130 scenarios of wildfire evacuation for fires that were so slow-moving that minimal evacuation would be required. While discussion of the Ladrin analysis is not on the agenda, I hope you can discuss it with respect to the proposed budget adjustment.

What did happen to the "enhancements" announced last month? Are the Version 26.05.08 scenarios them? If so, nothing has changed and the fire spread is as unbelievable as before.

The SSTOC's "charter" was updated to include evacuation analysis. Since the City still has no means of measuring whether or not wildfire risk has decreased over the past five years, evacuation may be our only option. Please focus on it.

Ladris Fire Scenarios

	feet	miles	hr	min	hr	mph	Ft/min
Tubbs		12			3.5	3.43	302
Paradise		7.5			1.5	5.00	440

February 2026

1 & 2	4,760	0.90	2	52	2.87	0.31	28
3 & 4		1.29	5	13	5.22	0.25	22
5 & 8	4,500	0.85	4	31	4.52	0.19	17
6, 9 & 11	1,400	0.27	3	7	3.12	0.09	7
7 & 10	1,900	0.36	5	33	5.55	0.06	6

Version 26.05.08

1 & 2	7,814	1.48	5	1	5.02	0.30	26
3 & 4	6,811	1.29	5	13	5.22	0.25	22
5 & 8	4,518	0.86	4	10	4.17	0.21	18
6, 9 & 11	1,817	0.34	5	54	5.90	0.06	5
7 & 10	1,455	0.28	3	28	3.47	0.08	7

LADRIS

1.03 N. Orinda-Briones - 30 min.
w/2-cars

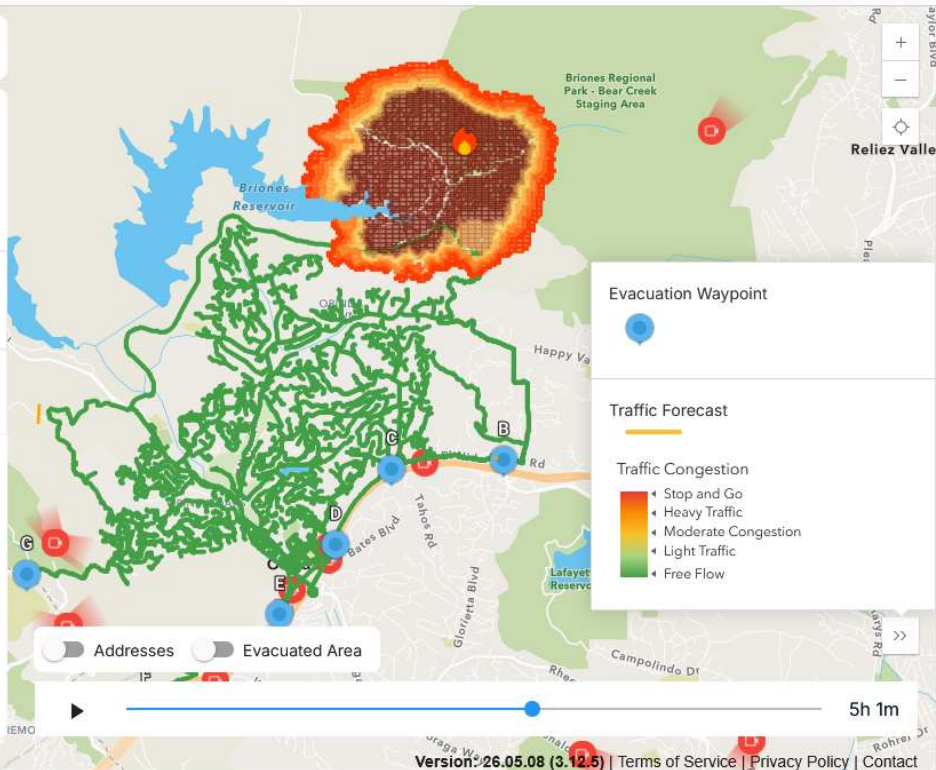
This scenario assumes that residents have up to 30 minutes to evacuate with no known roadblock, 80% of the people at their homes, taking two vehicles.



N. Orinda (baseline) 30-Min.
2-car, 80% pop



Briones/Bear Creek Fire



Google Maps interface showing a measured distance of 1.48 miles (2.38 km) along Bear Creek Rd. The map includes labels for Briones Reservoir, Orinda Downs, Orinda View, and Sleepy Hollow. A measurement popup displays the total distance and instructions to click on the map to add to the path.

Search Google Maps

Ask Maps Restaurants

Bear Creek Rd

Briones Reservoir

Orinda Downs

Orinda View

Sleepy Hollow

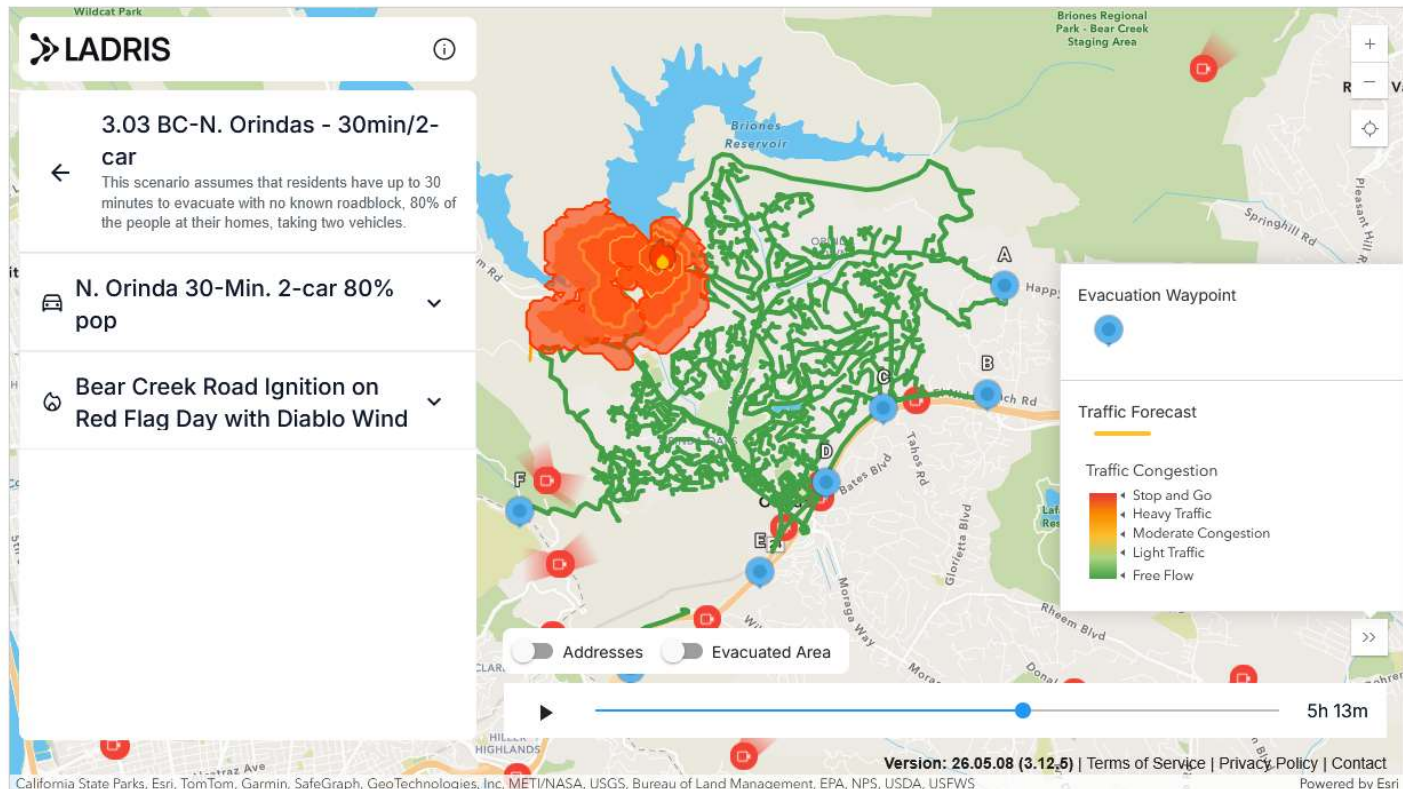
Bear Creek Staging Area

Measure distance

Click on the map to add to your path

Total distance: 1.48 mi (2.38 km)

Map data ©2026 Google United States Terms Privacy Send Product Feedback 2000 ft



Google Maps interface showing a map of the San Pablo Dam area. The map displays a route with two segments: 1.29 mi and 1.00 mi, totaling 2.29 mi. The route starts near Inspiration Point and ends near Briones Overlook Staging Area. The map includes labels for San Pablo Dam Rd, Camino Pablo, and various landmarks like Tilden Regional Park and Regional Parks Botanic Garden. A "Measure distance" pop-up window is visible, showing the total distance as 1.29 mi (2.07 km).

Search Google Maps

Ask Maps Restaurants

Measure distance

Click on the map to add to your path

Total distance: 1.29 mi (2.07 km)

Map data ©2026 Google United States Terms Privacy Send Product Feedback 2000 ft

LADRIS

5.03 Laf. Res.-S. Orinda - 30min/2-car

This scenario assumes that residents have up to 30 minutes to evacuate with no known roadblock, 80% of the people at their homes, taking two vehicles.



S. Orinda 30 Min. 2-car, 80%
pop



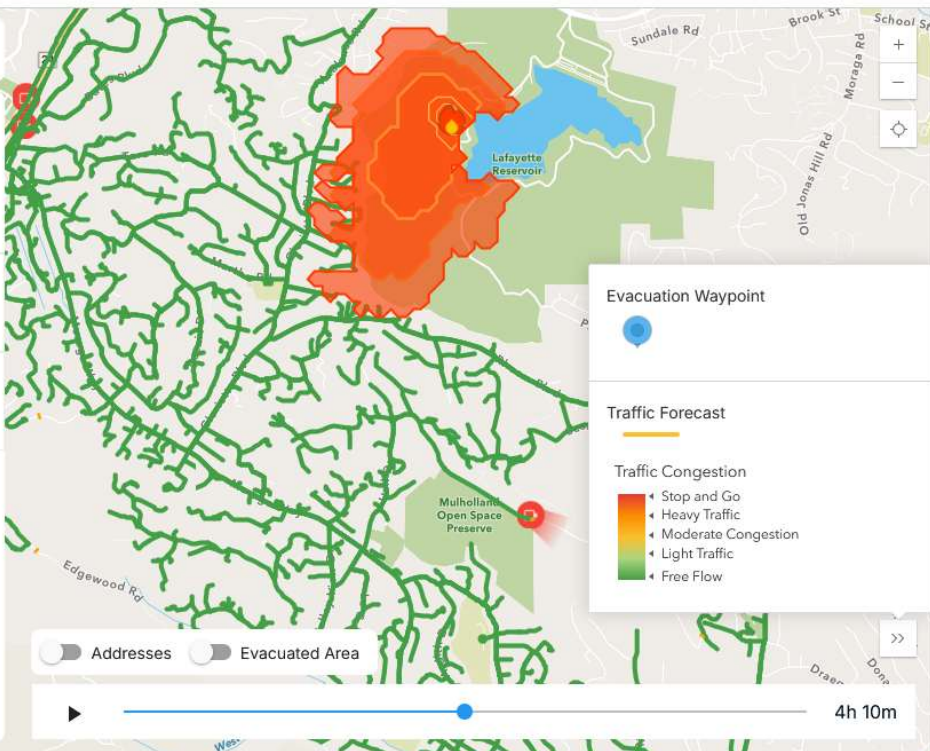
Lafayette Reservoir Ignition on
Red Flag Day with Diablo...



Addresses



Evacuated Area



Evacuation Waypoint



Traffic Forecast

Traffic Congestion

- Stop and Go
- Heavy Traffic
- Moderate Congestion
- Light Traffic
- Free Flow

Google Maps interface showing a map of the Glorietta area in San Jose, California. The map displays roads including Tara Rd, Overhill Rd, Glorietta Blvd, Rheem Blvd, and McIntosh Bench on Rim Trail. A black line segment is drawn on the map, indicating a measured distance of 4,518.27 ft (1.38 km).

Search Google Maps

Ask Maps Restaurants

Measure distance
Click on the map to add to your path
Total distance: 4,518.27 ft (1.38 km)

Map data ©2026 Google United States Terms Privacy Send Product Feedback 1000 ft

LADRLIS



7.03 Rheem-S. Orinda - 30 min.
2-car



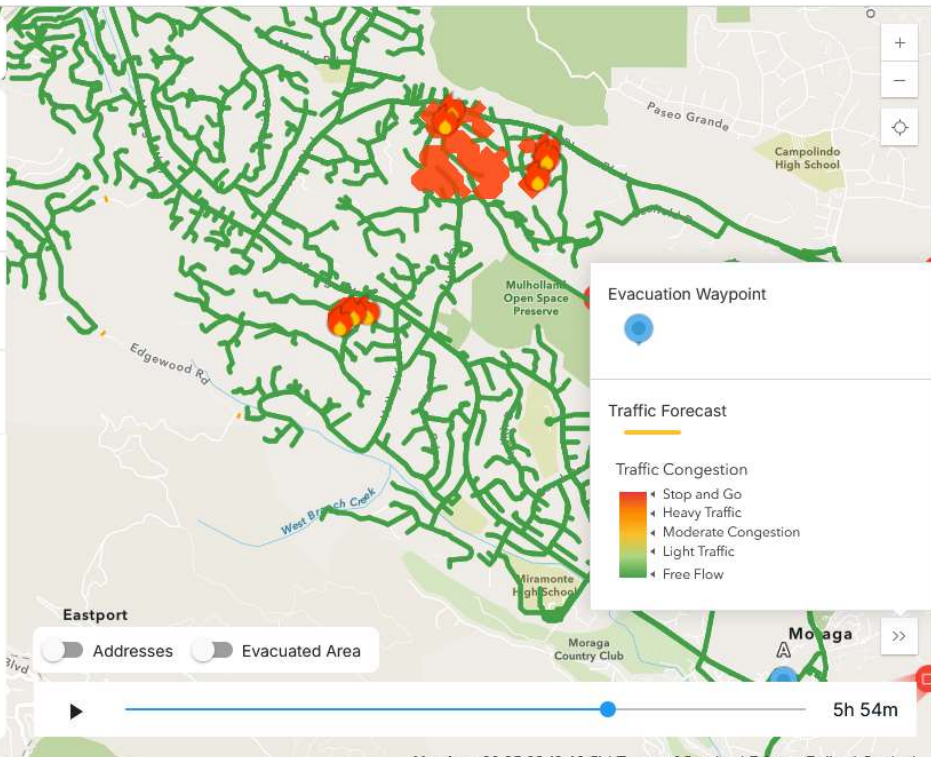
This scenario assumes that residents have up to 30 minutes to evacuate with no known roadblock, 80% of the people at their homes, taking two vehicles.

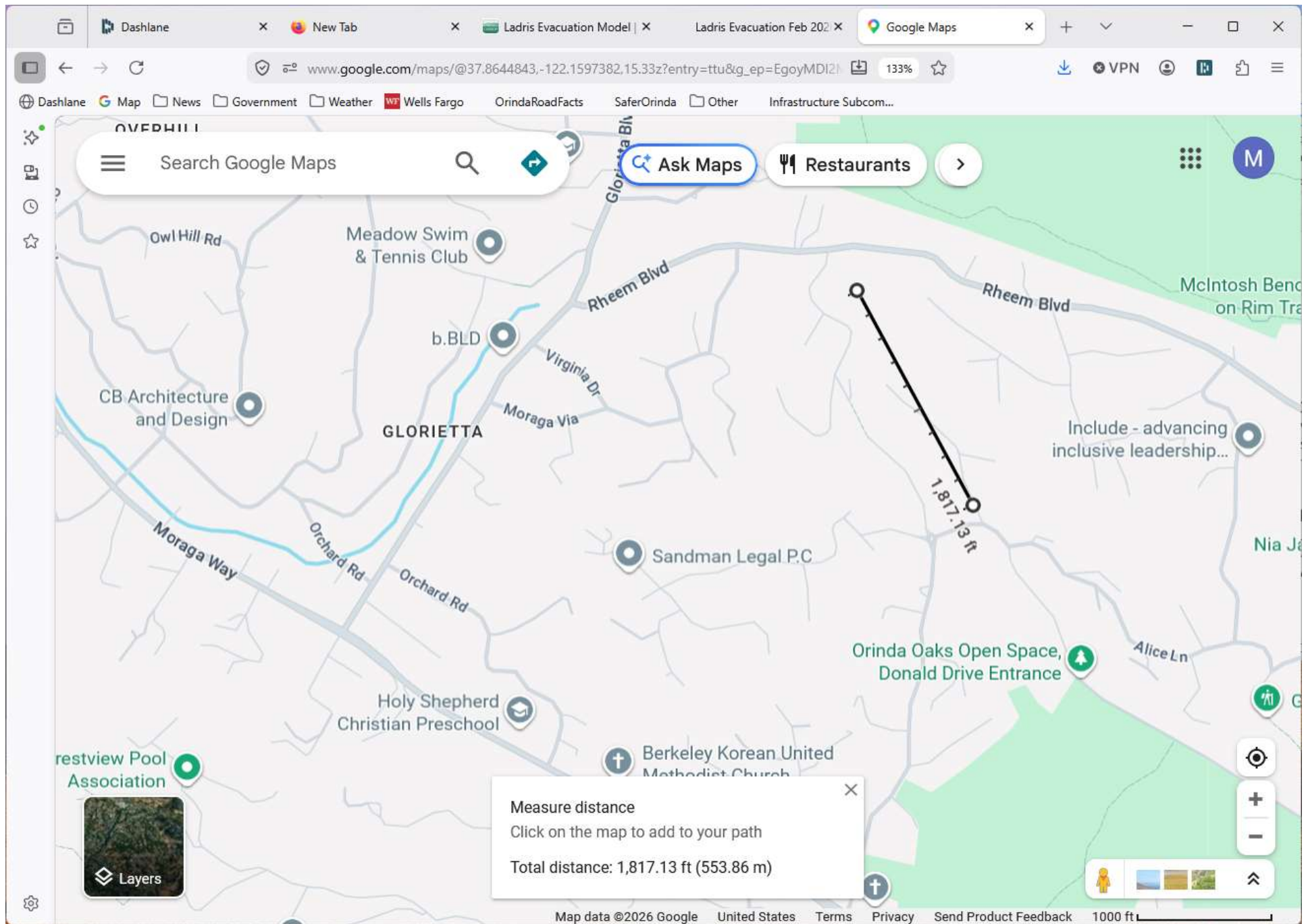


S. Orinda 30 Min. 2-car, 80%
pop



Rheem Boulevard





LADRS

6.03 O. Oaks -S. Orinda - 30 min. 2-car

This scenario assumes that residents have up to 30 minutes to evacuate with no known roadblock, 80% of the people at their homes, taking two vehicles.



S. Orinda 30 Min. 2-car, 80% pop



Orinda Oaks Open Space Ignition On Red Flag Day wit...



Addresses

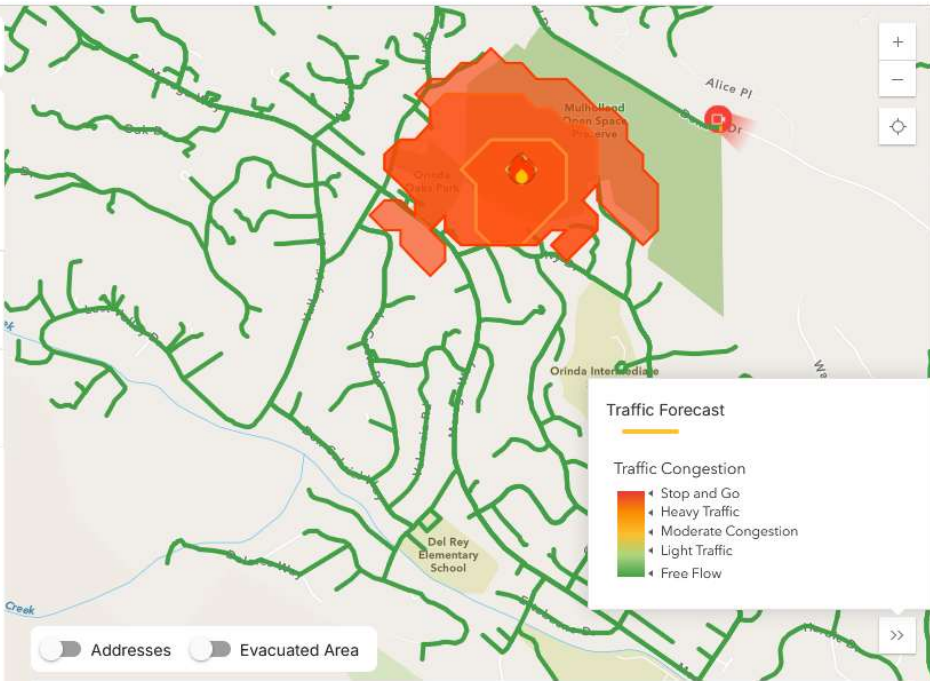


Evacuated Area



3h 28m

Eastport



The screenshot displays the Google Maps interface on a desktop browser. The map is centered on a residential area in Orinda, California. A black line segment on Moraga Way indicates a measured distance of 1,454.77 feet (443.41 meters). The map includes labels for several locations: Holy Shepherd Christian Preschool, Berkeley Korean United Methodist Church, Pretty Like Pictures, St John Orthodox Church, Orinda Oaks Open Space, and Orinda Oaks Park. The interface shows the search bar, 'Ask Maps' button, and a 'Measure distance' pop-up. The bottom of the screen displays map data copyright information for 2026 Google, United States, and links to Terms, Privacy, and Send Product Feedback.