



# **ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

## **MEASURES A, B, C**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

**"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."**

**Where the Orinda City Council told the voters that if they formed MOFD all of their tax dollars would then be used for services in Orinda**

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF THE  
MORAGA AND ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS INTO THE NEW  
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF A  
PROPOSED ORINDA SERVICE ZONE FIRE FLOW SPECIAL TAX**

Consolidation of the current Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into a new successor district, to be known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, will become effective July 1, 1997 if the voters approve the requisite measures in the June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1997 election. The intent of the Consolidation, as specified by the proponents, is to provide more efficient fire protection and emergency medical (paramedic) services throughout the area of the two current Districts, with local governance.

The new District would include separate Moraga and Orinda Service Zones, coterminous with the current Moraga and Orinda Districts. The new District would assume control of the operations, personnel and assets of the current Districts and would provide services throughout the two Zones. The Consolidation measure must be approved by a majority of those voting in *each* of the current Districts if the new District is to be formed.

Further, the Consolidation cannot occur unless two-thirds of those voting in the area of the Orinda Service Zone approve a measure authorizing a fire flow special tax for the exclusive benefit of the Orinda Service Zone, similar to the current fire flow special tax in the Moraga Fire Protection District. If the new District is formed, the current Moraga District tax would be continued for the exclusive benefit of the Moraga Service Zone.

Reflecting the risk of fire to a parcel, the fire flow special tax is calculated by multiplying a fire risk factor for each parcel (determined according to "fire flow" formulas) by a rate set each year for the Zone by the District's Governing Board, depending on financial need. Similar to the uses allowed for the Moraga Service Zone tax proceeds, the proceeds of the new Orinda Service Zone tax could be used only to fund fire protection, prevention and suppression and emergency medical services, equipment and related facilities.

The Moraga District has levied rates from zero to six cents over the past five years. The *maximum* rate that could be levied in the Orinda Service Zone would be six cents. Given the fire flow formulas and rates of six cents, the annual cost of the special tax for a typical 2500 square foot frame home in the new District would be approximately \$80.

The new District would receive the property taxes currently received by the Orinda and Moraga Fire Protection Districts, along with voter-approved fire flow special taxes. If the new District is to be able to spend the proceeds of these taxes, a majority of those voting throughout the area of the new District must approve a measure affirming the appropriations limit set for the new District by the Local Agency Formation Commission. That limit is the combined appropriations limits of the current two Districts, which is \$11,944,423 for fiscal year 1997-8, adjusted for inflation each year thereafter.

At the election on the Consolidation measure, a new five member governing board must be selected for the new District, one member being elected from each of five geographical divisions of equal population.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the proposed consolidation of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into the new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District. If you desire copies of Local Agency Formation Commission Resolution 96-27 approving the consolidation, Board of Supervisors Resolution 97-16 ordering the consolidation subject to confirmation of the voters, or Board Ordinance No. 97-1 adopting the Orinda Service Zone fire flow special tax subject to voter approval, please call the Elections Department at (510) 646-4166 and copies will be mailed to you at no cost.

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

**MEASURE A**

"Shall the order adopted on January 14, 1997 by the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County to order the consolidation of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District into a single district known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District be confirmed, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the order, including the election of District directors by five geographical divisions?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE A  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Join the Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and Orinda Association and vote YES on Measures A, B and C.

It may save your life.

By putting paramedics on every Orinda fire engine and merging fire services with Moraga, we take control of the health and safety decisions that most affect our lives.

A YES vote on these three measures will

- **Put paramedics on every Orinda fire engine**  
Currently paramedics must come all the way from Walnut Creek. Orinda-based paramedics will cut 11 minute average response time to 5 or 6 minutes.

"Every minute saved greatly increases survival rates for cardiac, choking and severe allergic reaction victims."

Gary Hallam, MD Emergency Room.

- **Insure that fire protection dollars Orindans pay will stay in Orinda**  
Merger means a locally elected unpaid fire commission will control our fire protection money, not the County Supervisors in Martinez.

"We must never again let the Supervisors spend \$2.8 million of Orinda's money elsewhere in the County, ignoring Orinda's needs."

**Sargent Littlehale, Mayor**  
City of Orinda

- Insure that **Orinda keeps 3 fire stations** and current staffing levels

- **Make local fire commissioners responsible for our local needs**  
 Many of our problems such as overdue replacement of our aging equipment, critical seismic repair to our fire houses and need for paramedic firefighters are due to County neglect. This measure takes control from the Board of Supervisors and places it in the hands of local citizens.

Measures A, B and C must all pass for this to become a reality.

Bring long-needed paramedics and the highest level of fire services for the fewest dollars to Orinda.

Vote YES on A, B and C

Allan Tabor, Mayor Pro-Tem  
 City of Orinda

Joyce Hawkins, Councilmember  
 City of Orinda

Robert I. Recker Jr., President  
 Orinda Fire Commission

Peter F. Erlin, President  
 Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Aldo P. Guidotti  
 Former Councilmember, City of Orinda

---

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF  
 MEASURE A  
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION  
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

NO fire protection or paramedic improvement will result from merger. In fact the first fire response would be shattered for Battalion 4 would be DOM (dead on merger).

Battalion 4, consists of 9 engine companies from Moraga, Lafayette, County and Orinda under the command of Orinda resident Battalion Chief Greg Holm. This team trains, responds to emergencies as one cohesive unit. Merger would reduce this strike force by 4 units, the county and Lafayette companies.

Fire-fighters are aware of the hazards and risks of their profession and are very concerned that reducing the battalion's effectiveness could jeopardize their safety, efficiency and morale.

This merger will cause losses and degradation of many services to Orinda and Moraga, such as:

- Superior training facilities that have intensive specialized programs.
- Elimination of resource back up provided by Battalion 1, 2, 7 and 8.
- The improved E.M.S. delivery system.
- Loss of the two Fire Inspectors.
- All planning matters relating to land development.
- Plans review for building construction ( a blow that could hurt the proposed Gateway development).

All field inspection activities, forms, permits, database information and records.

Fire investigation/arson unit, weed abatement contracts.

The loss of 50 plus years of the county's fire-fighting experience, pool of reserve personnel, equipment and resources would be devastating to fire and medical paramedics in areas being merged.

**VOTE NO!**

Edmund J. Coyne                      James M. Taylor      Daniel F. Murphy  
 Gilbert K. Dong, Jr.                  David P. Leimone

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

---

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A  
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION  
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

The merger of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Departments will in no way solve the fire related problems of Orinda, which are:

Inadequate fire water supply, \$53,000,000 estimated to upgrade.

252 obsolete fire hydrants needing replacing.

State Fire Marshal designation of "VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY AREA".

50 tons of fire fuel load per acre.

Professional firefighters of both district state:

**"WE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL.**

Firefighting is a labor intensive job that requires close coordination among all involved. Any substantial fire requires engines from other parts of the county to respond. Currently as part of a county-wide team we train together and plan for efficient operations. Breaking apart this team would jeopardize efficiency of operations and the morale of the personnel. We have full access to resources that are unavailable to a smaller department such as large training facilities, experts in arson investigation, code enforcement, hazardous materials incidents and special rescue situations."

Moraga does not have Orinda's problems but Moraga will be assuming Orinda's liabilities.

With merger all of Moraga Fire **PROPERTY TAXES** will be pooled with Orinda's. Moragans might have to pay once again their .30¢ fire flow tax to replace property taxes diverted to Orinda?

Moraga's fire insurance rates might increase to Orinda's fire risk level.

Orinda has started a paramedic program with 3 firefighter paramedics expanding to 12 and will purchase a \$130,000 rescue ambulance.

Neither merger or the **FIRE FLOW TAX** is needed to maintain the excellent services that Orinda

now enjoys. Nor are they needed to replace equipment or to seismic retrofit fire stations under option 1 and certainly not needed for emergency medical services.

**VOTE NO ! LET US IN ORINDA SAVE OUR TAX DOLLARS FOR A BOND ISSUE THAT WILL RESOLVE THE \$53,000,000 water pipe replacement issue.**

Edmund J. Coyne      James M. Taylor      Daniel F. Murphy  
 Gilbert K. Dong, Jr.      David P. Leimone

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE A  
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE A ELECTION  
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Don't be fooled by the smoke screen created by those who oppose local control.

Fire safety and emergency care for our seniors, school children and families should not be dependent on an insensitive and distant fire bureaucracy in Martinez.

Yes on Measure A will:

- Establish paramedic services at our three fire stations,
- Merge our fire services with Moraga, and,
- Give us local control over the quality and responsiveness of life saving care.

That is why the Orinda City Council and Orinda Fire Commission voted unanimously to support Measure A.

Water supply and hydrant upgrade issues are best solved by locally elected and accountable Fire Commissioners and City Councilmembers. Do you trust the county fire bureaucrats or your local community leaders to get the job done right at the lowest cost?

A merger will not reduce firefighter's training or mutual aid in the event of an emergency. This is a scare tactic without any basis in fact.

"Orinda's firefighters will continue to be as experienced and well trained as any fire district in the county."

Dave Evans  
 Orinda Fire Chief, Ret'd.

**The County has neglected our fire protection needs, while squandering millions of Orinda taxes on fire services in other cities.**

Beware! After years of hollow promises by the County's fire Chieftains, don't be surprised by election eve promises to set things right.

Please join the Orinda Association and Chamber of Commerce in voting Yes on A, B and C: Local

control and paramedics we can count on!

Robert I. Recker Jr.      Allan Tabor      Peter F. Erlin  
 President      Mayor Pro Tem      President  
 Orinda Fire Commission      City of Orinda      Orinda Chamber of Commerce

Joyce Hawkins      Aldo P. Guidotti  
 Councilmember      Former Mayor  
 City of Orinda      City of Orinda

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT  
 MEASURE B ELECTION  
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

**MEASURE B**

"Shall the appropriations limit of the consolidated new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Contra Costa County by combining the appropriations limits of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District, be confirmed at \$11,944,423, with annual adjustments for changes in cost of living and population?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE B  
 ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
 SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT  
 MEASURE B ELECTION  
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Vote YES on Measures A, B and C

Together they will bring paramedics to Orinda and give us control over the health and safety issues that most effect our lives.

Measure B sets the spending limit for the new merged Fire District. Measure B protects taxpayers by containing spending within existing limits. That limit is determined by combining the already existing spending limits of the Orinda and Moraga Fire Protection Districts.

Orinda voters must approve this spending limit by voting YES on Measure B.

The Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce, and the Orinda Association all support this measure.

"Measures A, B and C together will insure that Orinda Fire protection dollars are used for our critical needs, including paramedics, seismic upgrading of our fire stations and

replacing our aging fire equipment.”

Joyce Hawkins, councilmember  
Orinda City Council

“Measures A, B and C together will give us an effective fire safety system with local people in control, people who know Orinda - our streets and our needs.”

Aldo Guidotti, former councilmember  
City of Orinda

“Measures A, B and C will give us local control so that we will have Orinda Paramedics at our door 5-6 minutes sooner than the current out-of-town ambulance service. Local paramedics will honor our request for transport to the hospital of our choice and to one properly equipped to handle our emergency needs.”

Jeffrey Wolf, Orinda MD

**Vote YES on Measures A, B and C.**

**Gregg Wheatland, Councilmember**  
City of Orinda

**Laura Abrams, Councilmember**  
City of Orinda

Carl Weber, Chairman  
Orinda Fire Protection & Emergency Service Committee

**Sue Severson, Community Volunteer**  
Disaster Preparedness

Midge Zischke  
Orinda Association Volunteer of the Year

---

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE B  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT  
MEASURE B ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

None filed.

---

**ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

“Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors.”

**MEASURE C**

“Shall Ordinance 97-1, as adopted by Resolution 97-16 of the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors, be approved to authorize a special tax on property on the secured tax roll in order to provide additional funds for fire protection, prevention and suppression and emergency medical services, equipment and related facilities, including water distribution facilities for fire suppression purposes, with the proceeds of such tax being restricted to use in the Orinda area?”

YES	
NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

Take control of the health and fire safety issues that most affect our lives.

Bring paramedics to Orinda by voting YES on Measures A, B and C.

The Orinda City Council, Orinda Fire Commission, Orinda Chamber of Commerce and Orinda Association all support these measures that will -

**PUT A PARAMEDIC ON EVERY FIRE ENGINE**

“A paramedic at your door 5 to 6 minutes sooner than the current response time is a critical difference in a life or death situation such as heart attack, choking or severe trauma.”

Gary Hallam MD, Emergency Room Physician

**REPLACE AGING FIRE AND AMBULANCE VEHICLES**

“When Orinda’s 20 year old failing fire equipment must be replaced, money will have been set aside to do so”

Robert I. Recker Jr., President  
Orinda Fire Commission

**SEISMICALLY REPAIR OUR FIRE STATIONS**

“Passage of this measure means Orinda can seismically reinforce our fire stations, so they will be operational when the next earthquake hits.”

Lily Regelson  
Neighborhood Disaster Coordinator

Measure C authorizes a paramedic and fire safety tax.

It sets a 6 cent rate cap on this levy that is related to *house size*, not lot size nor assessed valuation.

The maximum an owner of a 2500 square foot house would pay is \$81 per year, \$6.75 a month, less than the price of a movie ticket!

Our local fire commission will have authority to lower and even eliminate the tax in years when additional revenues are not needed.

The rate cap can never be raised without a 2/3 majority vote by Orindans.

Funds raised by this measure will be spent only in Orinda for Orinda’s needs.

Remember, all three measures must pass to bring paramedics to Orinda and take local control of our emergency medical and fire needs.

**Vote YES on Measures A, B and C**

**Sargent Littlehale, Mayor**  
City of Orinda

Linda Landau, President  
Orinda Association

Richard Heggie  
Former Councilmember, City of Orinda

Amy Worth  
Citizen of the Year 1997

Cynthia Powell  
Community Volunteer

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE C  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

**NO on fire flow tax! Why ?**

**FACT:** Orinda does not need additional taxes to carry out it's operational responsibility, paramedic program, replacing aging equipment, retrofitting fire stations, ( see the proposed 5 year budget for Orinda Fire Department, at Orinda stations and library).

**FACT:** Orinda's assessed value for property taxes on 7,228 homes, businesses and parcels - \$2,051,363,769 - 7/96. Gateway development will add \$500,000,000 + to the tax rolls. Orinda's tax rate of 22¢ provides ample funds. The revenue from Gateway would be greater than the fire flow tax.

**FACT:** Fire-fighting **PARAMEDIC PROGRAM** is already implemented in Orinda.

**FACT:** Orinda's property tax revenues **CAN NOT** be touched by County Supervisors. They stay in Orinda.

**FACT:** Orinda's and Moraga's fire-fighters oppose this merger. They fear the reduction of Battalion 4 effectiveness, loss of back up and fire related services, a **REAL CONCERN**.

**FACT:** Orinda has a new \$325,000 fire engine. It has budgeted for two additional engines, rescue ambulance, all with existing revenues.

**FACT:** Orinda's Commissioners have constantly stated that they will have no part in replacing EBMUD'S old pipes. Our fire water supply is our biggest problem - save any additional tax dollars for a bond issue that would eliminate the **RED TOPPED** fire hydrants.

Hard to believe that a newly elected Moraga's District Directors of this merger would be sympathetic to Orinda's real problems namely fire water supply, replacing fire hydrants and excessive fire fuel load. Moraga does not have Orinda's fire related problems.

**VOTE NO !**

Edmund J. Coyne            James M. Taylor            Daniel F. Murphy  
Gilbert K. Dong, Jr.        Richard J. Townsend  
Committee For Safety And Paramedics

**DOES ORINDA NEED A FIRE FLOW TAX?**

**NO , IT DOES NOT!**

Orinda Fire Protection District has a tax rate of 22¢ which is sufficient for it's operational budget, replace fire engines, upgrade equipment, provide paramedic services and seismic retrofit the 3 fire stations so that in the event of earthquake equipment can exit and respond to emergencies.

The Contra Costa County Fire Protection District submitted to the County Board of Supervisors a proposed budget to provide fire protection and enhanced emergency medical ( Paramedic) services to Orinda as an alternative to the proposed consolidation of the Orinda and Moraga fire departments.

This projected budget includes the district's capital needs, seismic retrofitting improvements (option 1 ) , two engines at \$325,000 each, a \$130,000 rescue ambulance and other fire equipment.

It includes \$250,000 for paramedic pay differential, medical supplies, paramedic recertification, skill maintenance expenses and other related costs. Starting with 3 paramedic-firefighters which will increase as vacancies occur to 12.

The fund balance projected at end of FY 2000-01 - \$131,520 indicates that all can be accomplished **"WITHOUT THE NEED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TAXING AUTHORITY"**.

Every home in Orinda can stand seismic retrofitting but we will not tear our house down and rebuild. It is therefore unreasonable to suggest that all three station be demolished and rebuilt when the present facilities will serve adequately.

The \$500,000,000 Gateway development will provide additional tax revenues that will greatly enhance the financial picture.

Why should we pay an unnecessary fire tax when the real need is replacing Orinda's small 60 year old corroded water pipes and hydrants owned by EBMUD that do not provide adequate fire water supply? Our tax dollars can better be used to fund a \$53,000,000 bond issue to resolve this critical problem.

**VOTE NO ON FIRE FLOW TAX.**

Edmund J. Coyne            James M. Taylor            Daniel F. Murphy  
Gilbert K. Dong, Jr.        Richard J. Townsend  
Committee For Safety And Paramedics

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE C  
ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
SPECIAL TAX MEASURE C ELECTION  
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

No one disputes Orinda's need for paramedics, modern equipment and seismic upgrading of fire stations. The question is, whom do you trust to get the job done; the County's Fire Bureaucracy or the people of Orinda.

Local control of our fire services, with local taxing authority, is the only way we can ensure that:

- Our tax dollars will be used in our city, now, and in the future.
- Paramedic hiring, equipment upgrades and seismic repairs will be undertaken immediately, and in a fiscally responsible way,
- All activities will be accountable to the residents of Orinda.

**"The fire merger of Orinda and Moraga is not only fiscally sound, it is also operationally sound"**

Walt Luihn  
Orinda Assistant Fire Chief, Ret'd.

For years, we appealed to the County to fund paramedics in our fire stations, saving precious emergency minutes. The County bureaucrats ignored our requests, and spent millions of Orinda fire taxes in other communities.

We've had enough of the County's hollow budget proposals, broken promises and election eve pledges.

Orindans voted for Cityhood because the County had a long track record of abusing our tax dollars and failing to be responsive to our unique needs. For that same reason, we voted two-to-one against County Fire's attempted power grab in 1994.

**Yes on A, B, C will return local control of our emergency care services and taxing authority to the people of Orinda. We must no longer settle for second best when people's lives are at stake.**

**Sargent Littlehale**  
Mayor  
City of Orinda

Richard G. Heggie  
Former Mayor  
City of Orinda

Cynthia Powell  
Community Volunteer

Linda Landau  
President  
Orinda Association