

To: MOFD Board of Directors  
From: Steve Cohn  
Subject: Agenda Item 10.2, Operating Budget Fiscal Year 2024  
Date: June 21, 2023

I challenge the MOFD Board to dramatically increase spending on wildfire prevention.

All five of you campaigned on increased wildfire prevention (see second page). The Orinda Firesafe Council advertised for Jex and Jorgens in 2020. The ad was all about wildfire prevention. The Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety raised significant sums that helped finance Directors Roemer's and Hasler's campaigns in 2022. All five directors stressed wildfire prevention in your election advertising.

It is time to put MOFD's (our) money where your ads said it would go.

The current budget has \$1.92 million for fire prevention including the \$500,000 home hardening grant. This year only \$60,000 of grant money has been dispersed. Assuming the same utilization of the grant next year (because no one really understands how to fire harden a home - a separate subject), the projected spending would be only \$1.48 million, which is \$50,000 less than is projected for this year. This is inappropriate for a board that got elected on an increased wildfire-prevention platform.


Next year's budget shows a surplus of \$2.4 million excluding the \$3 million transfer to the capital fund for the \$5.8 million Moraga Station 41 / Administration complex. If the \$3 million was debt funded, which is appropriate for an asset which will have a 50-100 year useful life to be used by generations of MOFD service recipients, then the district would have \$2.4 million to spend on wildfire prevention.

In addition, the District needs to charge Moragans closer to what it costs MOFD to serve them. Both Moraga and Orinda formed MOFD with the understanding that Moraga's tax dollars would "stay" in Moraga and Orinda's in Orinda. MOFD's total tax revenue this year is \$32.4 million. That is an average of \$2,500 per household served. Everyone in MOFD receives about the same service. The 8 firefighters stationed in Moraga serve a population of 17,100, 2,140 residents per firefighter. The 9 firefighters stationed in Orinda serve 19,500, also 2,160 residents per fire fighter. We should all pay about the same amount. But a significant portion of Orinda's \$2,900 of property tax per household going to MOFD is being used to subsidize service to Moraga because Moragans are only funding MOFD with \$2,000 per household, \$500 less than it costs MOFD to serve them. If MOFD increased Moraga's fire flow parcel tax rate to its statutory limit of 30 cents, that would generate an additional \$2 million of revenue, increase Moraga's per household tax contribution to \$2,300 (closer to but still not equal to the \$2,500 it costs MOFD to serve them), and allow \$2 million of tax revenue from Orinda to be used for wildfire prevention in Orinda.

MOFD receives over 20% of local property taxes plus the Fire Flow Parcel Tax. This is almost twice the County average. And our tax base, per capita, has to be one of the highest in the county, even without a significant commercial property base. MOFD has the resources to provide more services than "basic" emergency medical and fire suppression response. It needs to continue to fund its retirement plan deficits, but with the payout of the Pension Obligation Bond, it can do that. It needs to focus now on the single largest threat to life and property in the district, wildfire. Not just make plans on how people can and are required to clean up their own properties, but actually orchestrate and participate in fuel reduction projects.

Put our money where your best intentions are.

**The Orinda Firewise Council says**  
**VOTE**  
**Like YOUR life depends on it!**



**MOFD BOARD**  
**Craig Jorgens**  
 Orinda  
**John Jex**  
 Moraga  
*The only MOFD experience of the former obligor program*

**YES ON R**  
 MOFD Sensors  
 Funds for Fire Prevention

**Darlene Gee**  
 Orinda City Council

The Orinda Firewise Council is a consortium of non-partisan leaders representing over 1400 homes in Orinda Firewise neighborhoods that have come together to support each other by sharing resources & to engage the City of Orinda and the Moraga Orinda Fire District (MOFD) in wildfire prevention.  
[WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG](http://WWW.ORINDAFIREWISECOUNCIL.ORG)

**Re-Elect John JEX Fire Board (MOFD)**

**My Promise to the Moraga Community:**

- 1) Focus more on Fire Prevention while still providing State-of-the-art Fire and Emergency Medical Services.
- 2) Be a Budget Watchdog to ensure transparency and responsible use of MOFD funds to maximize community benefit.
- 3) Utilize Advanced Technology to leverage MOFD's physical assets and well-trained personnel.


*John Jex*

**Community Leaders and Hundreds of Residents support John JEX for MOFD!**

(Title for identification only. Paid for by supporters.)

<p>Steven Glazer - CA State Senator                  Candace Anderson - President, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors                  Brad Barber - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President                  Chris Conrad - Chair, Ascot Highlands Firewise Committee                  Darlene Gee - Mayor, City of Orinda                  Maria Eyring - Moraga Education Foundation, Founding Boardmember                  Dennis Fay - City of Orinda Councilmember, MOFD liaison</p>	<p>Gene Gottfried - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board President                  Craig Jorgens - Moraga Orinda Fire District Board                  Chuck Larsen - Chair, Shreve Valley Firewise Neighborhood                  Melanie Light - Chair, Orinda Firewise Council and Founder, Lamorinda Firewise Neighborhoods                  Mike Metcalf - Former Moraga Town Mayor                  Brent Meyers - Smart Moraga                  Anne Obstnik - Co-Chair, The Bluffs Firewise Neighborhood</p>	<p>Dick Olsen - Former Moraga Orinda Fire District Board, Moraga Citizen of the Year, County Fire Commissioner, former president                  Chris Severson - Astorian High School District and Moraga                  Dave Trotter - President, Moraga Community Foundation and Former Moraga Town Mayor                  Steve Woshlake - Moraga Town Council                  Peggy Woshlake - Moraga Park Foundation</p>
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**VoteJEX.com** Paid for by John Jex for MOFD 2020 FPCC #56107

**Re-Elect Craig Jorgens**  
 Businessman  Engineer  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District

**Fire Safety is a Choice - Prioritize Prevention**

- Endorsed by the Orinda Firewise Council representing over 1000 North Orinda homes and growing
- Initiated MOFD Chipper program in 2018 (removed 190 tons of fuel in 2020)
- Founding member of Orinda Firewise Council (OFC)
- Promoted sensors/cameras/software enabling early fire detection and evacuation
- HOA president, leading 150 acre open space fire prevention effort
- Uncovered \$23M double counting of assets on financial books and fought to correct it
- BS in Engineering/Economics, MBA

*I believe becoming FireWise is unifying our community as neighbors work together to prevent devastating fires.*  
 - Craig

**RE-ELECT JORGENS**  
 Fire District - MOFD

[www.VoteJorgens.com](http://www.VoteJorgens.com)  
Paid for by Craig Jorgens MOFD Board 2020

**RE-ELECT STEVEN DANZIGER**  
 MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE DISTRICT DIVISION 3



- 34+ Decades in Public Service
- 20 Yrs Oakland Fire Admin
- Masters Public Administration
- Chair Orinda Parks & Rec Comm.
- CERT Volunteer
- MOFD Ambassador
- 100% Attendance Record

**Increase Fire Prevention Programs**  
 Restore Dedicated Ambulance Staff in Orinda  
 Provide Strategic Leadership & Fire Expertise

**Endorsements (partial list):**  
 Moraga Orinda Firefighters, Oakland Firefighters, Lamorinda Democratic Club, CALDEN, CCC Cal Ball Labor Council, Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kain, EBPPD Director De Roca, CCC DA Debba Becho, CCC Board of Education Parents Support for BART Director John McPartland, Director Don Parker San Ramon Valley Fire District, Tom Espinoza CA Community College Board of Governors, Tom Jaeger - Teacher/Naturalist Orinda Nature Area.

*Steve is hard working, community minded and does not let his own feelings in equity, Robert Lipp-Gawand Assistant Chief (Retired)*

**EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY**

Paid for by: International Association of Firefighters Local 55 Fire District Committee FPCC #56107

**Elect Greg Hasler**  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD)

**FIRE SAFETY IS A CHOICE - PRIORITIZE FIRE PREVENTION**

**Endorsed by:**

<p>Steve Olivas, California State Senator                  Don Perala, Former California Senator                  Steve Woshlake, Mayor of Moraga                  Karen Mendonca, Former Moraga Mayor                  Ken Chan, Former Moraga Mayor                  Dave Trotter, Former Moraga Mayor &amp; Town Council Member                  Rochelle Toohill, Former Moraga Town Council                  Chris Severson, Astorian Union High School District Board                  Gordon Nathan, Former MOFD Director                  Gene Gottfried, Former MOFD Board                  Maria Eyring, Former Moraga Education Foundation President                  Dick Olsen, Former MOFD Director</p>	<p>John Jex, MOFD Board                  Craig Jorgens, MOFD Board                  Brad Barber, Former MOFD Board President                  Dennis Fay, Mayor of City of Orinda, MOFD Liaison                  Kathleen Duffy, Moraga Ridge HOA &amp; Firewise Leader                  Larry Jacobs, VP Sandoz Ranch HOA                  Anne Obstnik, Co-Chair Bluffs Firewise Community                  Melanie Light, Founder Lamorinda Firewise Neighborhoods                  Dirk Wiese, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader                  Ian Baird, Moraga-Orinda Citizens for Fire Safety Leader</p>
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**Greg HASLER**  
 Moraga - Orinda Fire District Board

*"During the 20 years our family has lived in Moraga I have been extremely involved in our local Fire and Emergency Medical Services. Those activities have included service on the Community Emergency Medical Services Committee, the Moraga Fire Commission, and the Board of the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD). As a result of those experiences, I sincerely believe that as this November's MOFD Board Election Greg Hasler is the right choice to represent the interests of South Moraga (MOFD Division 1) - as well as the interests of all the residents and neighbors of the MOFD."*  
 Dick Olsen, Former member of MOFD Board of Moraga Fire Commission, President of County Fire Commissioners Association, retired Moraga Citizen of the Year 2013

**HaslerforMOFD.com**  
Paid for by Greg Hasler to MOFD 2020 FPCC #56107

**Mike Roemer**  
 Fire Support Volunteer  Attorney  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District



*"I'm Mike Roemer and I'd appreciate your vote to represent Central Orinda on the Fire District Board. As a retired prosecutor and community bank board member and 30 year Orinda resident, I would be honored to offer my skills to the community where my wife Julie McCormack and I raised our son Connor and daughter Erin."*  
 - Mike

"Greg, Vince and Mike have been deeply connected to our communities in Moraga and Orinda for many years. They support fire prevention efforts by Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) to bring our communities closer to wildfire sustainability and work collaboratively within our Firewise neighborhoods. I enthusiastically endorse Greg Hasler, Vince Dell'Aquila and Mike Roemer for the MOFD Board, divisions 1, 3 & 4, respectively." Melanie Light, Orinda Firewise Council, Founder and Former Chair - Orinda Citizen of the Year 2021

"I personally know Mike Roemer to be a highly qualified candidate for the Moraga-Orinda Fire District (MOFD) Board. His excellent skills and passionate community volunteerism will be a great asset to the MOFD board, plus he has a solid commitment to protect our communities and families from wildfires."  
 Sue Severson, Former Mayor, City of Orinda, Citizen of the Year 2004

(Titles added for identification only.)

- BA in Politics and Economics/ JD in Law
- Fire Support Volunteer for 12 Orinda and Moraga prescribed burns
- Data Collections Lead for 3 Practice Evacuation Exercises in Orinda and Moraga
- CERT Volunteer and HAM/GMRS Radio license holder trained for emergency communications
- Supports full staffing of an Orinda ambulance

**MIKE ROEMER**  
 Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board

[www.mikeroemer4mofd.com](http://www.mikeroemer4mofd.com)  
Paid for by Campaign Fund for Mike Roemer FPCC #56107

To: MOFD Board of Directors  
 From: Marc Evans / Steve Hoyt / Rob Schroeder  
 Subject: Agenda Item 6: Public Comment – Items Not on Agenda – Incorporation of Fire Safe Moraga-Orinda  
 Date: June 21, 2023 Board Meeting

We would like to share the status of the creation of a new Fire Safe non-profit organization.

The [Articles of Incorporation for Fire Safe Moraga-Orinda](#) (FSMO) were approved by State of California on June 5, 2023. FSMO has received a Federal Employee Identification Number.

As noted in this document, the purpose of FSMO is to help residents within the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District prepare for and respond to the effects of wildfire. The primary focus of FSMO will be to grant cost-share Defensible Space Fuel Reduction Projects to neighborhood groups within the MOFD boundaries.

We have draft [Bylaws](#) and [Conflict of Interest Policy](#). Once the FSMO Board of Directors are in place we will finalize these necessary documents.

### Board of Directors

FSMO is in the process of organizing a Board of Directors. We are actively seeking representatives from the City of Orinda, Town of Moraga, and Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

Our proposed plan is to create the Board as follows:

1. Total number = Seven (7)
  - A. Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District Representative (1)
  - B. City of Orinda Representative (1)
  - C. Town of Moraga Representative (1)
  - D. Residents within Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District (4)
2. Positions
  - A. President
  - B. Vice-President
  - C. Treasurer
  - D. Secretary
  - E. Advisors (not Board Members, # TBD)

### Funding Requests

FSMO next priority, once we have a Board of Directors in place, is to seek funding sources and prepare funding requests. We have notified the California Fire Safe Council (via Northern California Regional Coordinator Mike Wilson) that we are now approved; we are invited to the monthly California Fire Safe Council (Northern California Region) meetings to share efforts and learn about funding opportunities.

As a new non-profit, FSMO seeks guidance and support from MOFD, City of Orinda and Town of Moraga regarding funding sources and grant preparation.

Thank you,

Marc Evans – Greater Monte Vista (Orinda) Firewise Leader, Orinda Firewise Council Chairperson  
 Steve Hoyt – Campolindo (Moraga) Firewise Leader  
 Rob Schroeder – Sleepy Hollow (Orinda) Firewise Leader, Rescue 1 Foundation Board Member

**From:** [Charles Porges](#)  
**To:** [Craig Jorgens](#); [Holbrook, Marcia](#)  
**Subject:** Fire flow tax rate public comment  
**Date:** Monday, June 19, 2023 1:30:13 PM

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Public comment.

I believe that Steve Cohn has a point. Moraga is paying less than its fair share. Increasing Moraga's fire flow tax rate would help to rectify the situation and provide additional funding for more fire prevention in Orinda.

Please consider doing this.

Thank you,  
Charles Porges