

Zone Zero
Public Comments sent by Email
All comments have been entered into the Zone Zero Comment Form

As of 11/19/2024 @ 5 PM

16. James Ross

From: [Jim Ross](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Zone Zero
Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 8:43:56 AM

I am writing in opposition to the MOFD Zone 0 recommendation as it is currently being proposed.

1. I have listened to and looked at the examples the board has presented that purport to show the effectiveness of Zone 0. What I have not seen are any examples that show the effect Zone 0 would have in a firestorm (similar to Paradise), using the same typography and fuel sources as we have in Orinda and Moraga. I also have a hard time understanding how removing our very healthy rose bushes will protect our home in a major firestorm. The heat will so intense and the fuel so plentiful that our homes will not be protected. Many of us also have homes with wood siding. Will that be next on the Zone 0 agenda?
2. The MOFB board has suggested that adherence to Zone 0 will bring insurance carriers back to our area as well as the possibility of the carriers offering a discount for residents who do adhere. I can tell you that as a resident who has had coverage cancelled and who has talked to many insurance brokers and carriers directly, Zone 0 will not bring back the carriers because lack of Zone 0 is not why they left. They will be back when our insurance commission allows them to charge rates that they believe are commensurate with their perceived risks. In dealing with the aforementioned brokers and carriers I never once had them mention Zone 0. They did, however, send me Google Earth pictures of the area citing "all the fuel sources" and our fire risk number. As to discounts for compliance, if there are any they will be extremely negligible.
3. As others have cited, I believe Orindans and Moragans are very responsible when it comes to fire safety and measures to mitigate fire danger. We were asked to clear junipers and bamboo and we complied, with many going above and beyond what was asked. We clear our gutters on a regular basis and monitor our properties for dry sources of fuel. We keep our trees trimmed and away from contact with our homes. My point here is that if there is additional education needed, provide it! You will find most of us willing to accept it and participate in mitigation matters that are reasonable and non-intrusive.
4. Speaking of education, I was very distressed to hear that subject raised at your last board meeting and the response from someone either at the MFD or on the board was that "education will be provided AFTER the ordinance is passed". You cannot be serious about that. Can someone please tell me why there has not been more information distributed to the citizens of Orinda and Moraga on this subject? Can you also tell me why a Zone 0 requirement is not something that is placed on the ballot for us to vote on? If you want money for roads or schools it is on the ballot. Why not now? This ordinance will have a fairly sizeable financial impact on most residents.

I believe that fire safety is an issue that all Orindans and Moragans should be concerned

about. However, I believe that pushing all residents into a mandatory Zone 0 requirement at this point is overzealous and not properly vetted. There are other measures that should be discussed, suggested and monitored by the fire district first. If you look at the responses that have been posted to date you will see that the majority of your citizens agree.

Respectfully,

James Ross
74 La Cresta Road
Orinda