

From: [Nick Waranoff](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: public comment for Board meeting January 15, 2025
Date: Friday, January 10, 2025 4:46:20 PM

To the Board and Fire Chief: Please investigate and report on what lessons we can learn, in terms of matters within your jurisdiction, from the wildfire tragedies in Los Angeles. Several issues have been in the news, such as (1) lack of diesel backup power for water pumping when electricity was turned off due to fires; (2) loss of water pressure – causes and solutions including fire hydrant capacity. Here is an article from 1998 (a long time ago) regarding hydrants in Orinda. <https://www.sfgate.com/bayarea/article/Orinda-s-Problem-With-Fire-Hydrants-3010890.php> I assume that there have been upgrades and I am not sure if the color codes reflect today's capacities. These come to mind off the top of my head. Thank you in advance.

I and others are separately pursuing emergency evacuation issues with the Orinda City Council because evacuation is, as I understand it, within the City's jurisdiction. Hopefully, the Moraga Town Council will be doing likewise.

Many of us were dismayed to learn that although Orinda's new mayor, Latika Malkani, in 2021 identified "fire preparation and emergency preparedness as priority goals." <https://theorindanews.com/2021/10/19/the-orinda-association-meet-its-officers-and-board-members/> she did not include those in her priorities in her interview with The Orinda News January 2025 edition.

In Nov. 2022, after identifying those priorities, she was elected, and took her seat on the council in Dec. 2022.

In Sept 2022, the draft Environmental Impact Report came out, and identified the "significant" impact that adding housing downtown would have on emergency evacuation. That fall, the draft Safety Element was also issued. These are available on www.PlanOrinda.com

Members of the public, myself included, submitted written comments and objections, but the Council, including Ms. Malkani, rejected all of our comments and objections, and approved a Final EIR and Safety Element on January 31, 2023 – two years ago.

A lawsuit was subsequently filed. The City lost. The Court ordered the City to reconsider the approvals and mitigations. As I explain in my comments on the

Draft Partially Revised Environmental Analysis, the City's proposed mitigations, which have not changed in any meaningful way since the prior versions, are legally inadequate, because they defer action without any performance metric. See [/https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3035140/2024.12.10_Nick_Waranoff.pdf](https://legistarweb-production.s3.amazonaws.com/uploads/attachment/pdf/3035140/2024.12.10_Nick_Waranoff.pdf)

If you look at pp. 26-29 of my comment/objection, you will see that the city has FOR YEARS proposed to study, consider, and explore numerous mitigations. Literally kicking the can down the road. Those pages include quotations and citations. What has been accomplished by the City of Orinda in the past two years regarding mitigation? No progress is apparent.

We will continue to press the Orinda City Council to TAKE ACTION to address these issues in a meaningful way. While we do so, please investigate the issues within the purview of your agency, and develop an action plan to address any problems.

Nick Waranoff
Orinda