

Moraga Orinda Fire District
Board of Directors

April 14, 2025

Dear MOFD Directors and Staff,

I write to congratulate you on your recent legal victory in our dispute regarding the perimeter fuelbreak requirements. I am naturally disappointed, but I also want you to know that I am truly sorry the proceeding was so expensive for MOFD, which was not my intention. I am well aware of the better uses that money could have gone for. I don't feel entirely responsible for the impressive size of the final price tag, but I sincerely regret it.

I take some consolation in the fact that the judge felt the need to study the issue closely. I am also glad that the newer ordinance allows clumps of bushes to remain in the perimeter area, consistent with Cal-Fire guidelines. You may recall the earlier ordinance, which provoked my ire in the first place, allowed no bushes.

Be that as it may, I look forward to moving past this episode and to working with you to improve the safety of our city and neighborhoods. I never doubted for an instant that MOFD has our best interests at heart. I support the clearing of zone zero around structures, as well as other home hardening practices, and I continue to work diligently to reduce the fire hazard on the property I care for.

Sincerely,

Sandy Pearson



Orinda, Ca

MOFD Directors
April 15, 2025

Dear MOFD Board,

I am writing to comment on the new proposed map of Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

I would like to share this information, which came in a newsletter from Save Mt Diablo, featuring the new maps from Cal Fire for the Pittsburgh/Antioch areas:

"Some CAL FIRE officials have pointed out that the maps could give residents in areas considered moderate or no hazard a false sense of security.

The maps do not consider structures including homes and other buildings as "fuel" that can contribute to rapid fire spread, as happened in the catastrophic Los Angeles fires.

Some officials would like to see the Zone 0 regulation apply to all the hazard zones."

If I understand correctly, the new maps do not consider the hazard high-density wood frame houses pose to each other. We have recently seen pretty clearly how these neighborhoods burn, as in Altadena and Pacific Palisades.

The risk posed by a neighboring structure may be a lot higher than from properly maintained vegetation. Larger lots that space highly flammable houses farther apart could actually have some benefits in breaking up the fuel load and fire intensity.

I hope you can go over this question at the meeting tomorrow night. At this point, I would agree with the above quotation, that people finding themselves in the "Safe" Zone on the new maps might assume they are safer than they really are. I also am inclined to think they would benefit from home hardening as much as anyone.

Sincerely,

Sandy Pearson

From: [Scot Cunningham](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: comments regarding fire district FHSZ map
Date: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:05:08 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Dear Moraga Fire District,

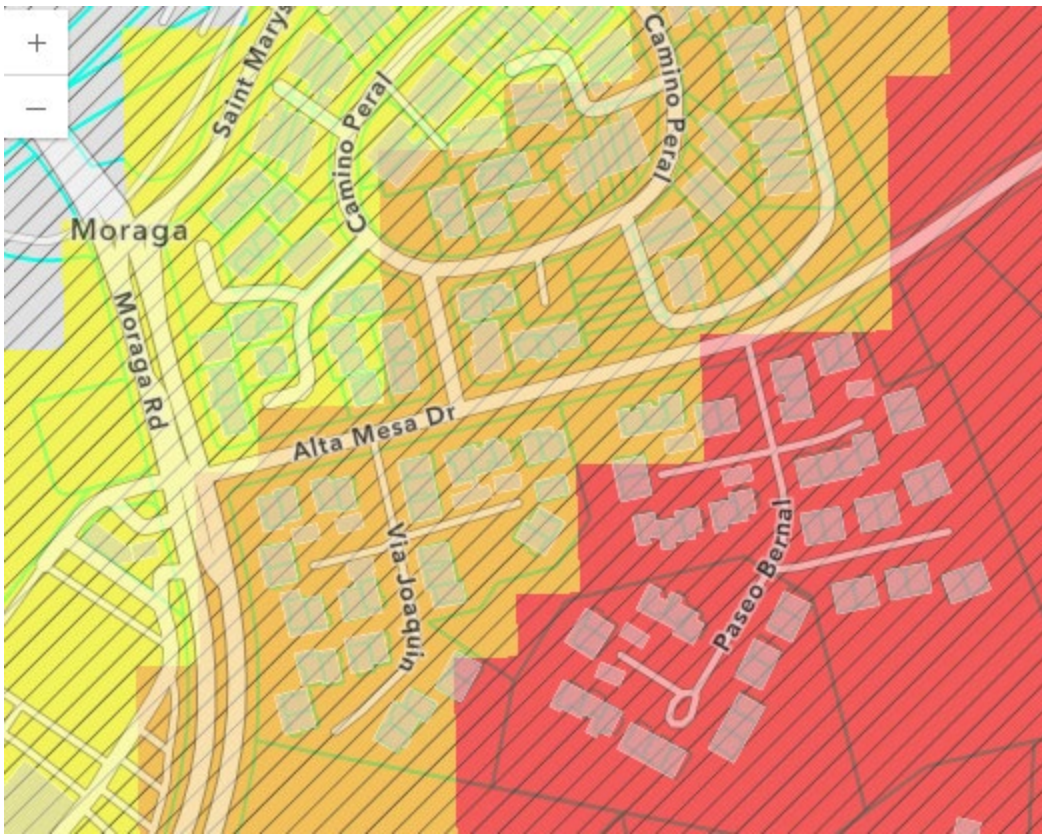
RE: new proposed FHSZ map....

I am a resident of Paseo De Moraga Townhouse on Paseo Bernal.

Your proposed map shows our portion in a severe fire danger show our complex in the severe fire danger area of the map. I ask that we have a chance to discuss this zoning and mitigations to get us out of the designated area. We as an association already spend a tremendous amount of time, energy and money to mitigate fire hazards including a very large buffer zone, cutting trees, weeds, clearing debris etc. This area is a downhill lie from the upper portions of this topography., Fire tends to blow uphill, not downhill.

Please, could we reconsider this issue as it severely impacts our ability to get insurance, which doesn't help anybody here in Moraga.. Living is already expensive and a number of folks who live here are barely getting by.

Please let's discuss this and how we can get out of it, at your earliest convenience..



Scot K Cunningham

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Moraga, CA 94556

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

From: [frank.](#) [REDACTED]
To: [Info](#)
Subject: FHSZ / Zone Zero
Date: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 11:08:30 AM

I strongly believe that the argument that all properties should comply with Zone Zero rules regardless of their fire hazard severity zone (FHSZ) designation to “avoid confusing situations where one neighbor might have to comply with Zone Zero rules while others close by might not ...”(Source: Lamorinda Weekly ; 4/19/2025) is inane. By this logic, we should do away with zoning maps and treat all properties within any given municipality equally “to avoid confusion”. It seems that at least one MOFD board member believes that residents of Moraga-Orinda are so stupid that they can’t read or understand a basic map.

What is the purpose of undertaking (and California residents paying for) a detailed study of risk by area if the results are going to be disregarded for the sake of simplicity? I’m not an attorney but I suspect that if MOFDF wantonly disregards such studies prepared by a state agency in good faith that their decision will be more vulnerable to legal challenge.

Mr. F. Rockwood, Resident of Orinda since 2008.