

From: [Ana Moon](#)
To: [Hasler, Greg](#); mmjex@gmail.com; stevedformofd@gmail.com; [Roemer, Mike](#); craig.jorgens@gmail.com; [Isaacs, Jeff](#); [Info](#)
Subject: Ambulance response times
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 5:04:40 PM

I am writing to add my voice to that of my neighbors. Please do not cut Moraga's ambulance service. With our abundance of two-lane roads, getting anywhere in this town takes a while, and when you are talking about ambulance service, getting here from Lafayette or Orinda can mean the difference between life and death. We are not a town in the middle of nowhere - we are a suburb in the heart of the Bay Area, and we deserve to have the resources we pay for. We have many elderly residents, so cutting our ambulance services makes no sense. Please let me know if you have a good reason why this should be done. I am very curious why this action is being considered.

Thank you,

Ana Moon

[REDACTED]

Moraga

From: [Craig Jorgens](#)
To: [Ana Moon](#); [Hasler, Greg](#); mmjjex@gmail.com; stevedformofd@gmail.com; [Roemer, Mike](#); [craig gmail](#); [Isaacs, Jeff](#); [Info](#)
Subject: RE: Ambulance response times
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:19:11 PM

Ana, Thank you for your letter. The budget being proposed and discussed on Wednesday night actually includes staffing both a Moraga and Orinda ambulance on full 24 hr shifts 365 days per year. The earlier staffing proposal for Moraga was based on inaccurate Call data for the Moraga ambulance. Orinda has never had a 24 dedicated ambulance only Moraga did. Moraga and Orinda will also have a 3rd back up ambulance staffed in the other Moraga fire station near the Moraga Post office. The actual need for this 3rd ambulance is very remote and happens a very limited number of times per year. The new staffing model will double the full time ambulance service in MOFD and keep Moraga's the same as it is today. Of note, many of the ambulance calls happen on Highway 24 so those calls have historically pulled the single Moraga ambulance out of position for significant amounts of time. Having a second full time ambulance in Orinda will mean the Moraga ambulance will actually spend more time in Moraga than it has historically.

I hope this helps.

Sincerely,

Craig Jorgens

Director MOFD

From: Ana Moon <anacheneymoon@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 5:04 PM
To: Ghasler@mofd.org; mmjjex@gmail.com; stevedformofd@gmail.com; mroemer@mofd.org; [craig gmail <craig.jorgens@gmail.com>](mailto:craig gmail@craig.jorgens@gmail.com); jisaacs@mofd.org; info@mofd.org
Subject: Ambulance response times

I am writing to add my voice to that of my neighbors. Please do not cut Moraga's ambulance service. With our abundance of two-lane roads, getting anywhere in this town takes a while, and when you are talking about ambulance service, getting here from Lafayette or Orinda can mean the difference between life and death. We are not a town in the middle of nowhere - we are a suburb in the heart of the Bay Area, and we deserve to have the resources we pay for. We have many elderly residents, so cutting our ambulance services makes no sense. Please let me know if you have a good reason why this should be done. I am very curious why this action is being considered.

Thank you,

Ana Moon



Moraga

From: [Katie Moazed](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Moraga Ambulance Coverage
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 7:22:23 PM

Hi there,

I am emailing in response to news that MOFD is looking into decreasing ambulance coverage for Moraga.

Timely ambulance response is critical to patient safety, particularly in instances of cardiac arrest, heart attack or stroke. I also am a mother of two kids and if we needed an ambulance, waiting is not an option.

Just a few minutes delay in response time can prove to be the difference in survival, survival with significant disability or death.

I strongly oppose any changes that would decrease local ambulance coverage, as it will ultimately lead to increased mortality and morbidity for citizens of Moraga.

Please support the health and livelihood of our community and continue the coverage we have in place.

Many thanks,
Katie

Katie Moazed | 

From: [Meghan Arthurs](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: swoehleke@moraga.ca.us; khillis@moraga.ca.us; bdolan@moraga.ca.us; lmaglio@moraga.ca.us; gthiel@moraga.ca.us
Subject: Public Comment Submission for 5/21 Board Meeting: Urgent Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts—Lives and Community Trust at Stake
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 7:40:10 PM

To: MOFD Board of Directors (info@mofd.org)

From: Meghan Arthurs, Moraga Resident

Subject: Urgent Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts—Lives and Community Trust at Stake

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am writing to express my vehement opposition to the proposed reduction of Moraga's ambulance service from 24 hours to just 10 hours per day. This decision is not only reckless but will directly endanger lives—including those of Moraga's aging population, which is larger than many of our neighboring communities.

Two years ago, my father suffered what is known as the "widow maker" heart attack—a full blockage of the main arterial valve. Physicians later stressed that his survival depended entirely on the speed of emergency care. Had he faced a delayed response due to an unavailable local ambulance, he would not be here today. He was one of the lucky ones. With this proposed reduction, others in Moraga may not be so fortunate.

Every minute matters in cardiac events, strokes, traumas, and other emergencies. Forcing Moraga residents to wait for an ambulance from Orinda (across Highway 24) or an AMR unit from elsewhere in the county is unacceptable. Moraga's geographic isolation, combined with its growing population due to new housing proposals, makes 24/7 ambulance service a necessity—not a luxury.

I grew up in Moraga and, like many in my generation, found it nearly impossible to afford a home here. Yet my husband and I chose to make significant financial sacrifices to return and raise our family in this community—because we believed in Moraga's values, its safety, and its principled governance. This proposal undermines that trust. If we cannot rely on basic emergency services, what does that say about MOFD's commitment to the people it serves?

It is shocking that such a drastic cut is being considered without clear justification, transparency, or community outreach. MOFD was created to provide *superior* emergency services, yet this move would do the opposite, abandoning Moraga when we need reliability most.

I had planned to attend in person to voice these concerns, but as a young parent with a toddler and my husband out of town, I cannot. That does not diminish the urgency of this issue. Moraga has already proven its commitment to MOFD by helping stabilize the district financially in the past. Slashing our ambulance service now is a betrayal of that partnership.

I strongly urge the Board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage. The consequences of these cuts will be measured in lives lost—and in the erosion of trust in the institutions meant to protect us.

Sincerely,
Meghan Ginley Arthurs

[REDACTED]

Moraga, CA

CC: Moraga Town Council

From: [Jack Dice](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Moraga rescue
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 7:46:13 PM

I do not want Moraga rescue hours reduced to ten hours daily. I believe that the rapid response saves lives. I used it twice and although I wouldn't have died had I waited for Orinda to respond, I am certain that time is critical for many others to have them in your home administrating life saving care and then getting those needed, to the hospital in the least time possible.

If it means an adjustment to my property taxes, so be it. Orinda pays more since they have three fire stations and we have two. Orinda has a much greater fire risk. I know Moraga has trained who can do rescue but that never came up in the other 14 hours that rescue dedicated staff were off.

Jack Dice
Moraga

From: [Amy Fara](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Proposed cuts to Moraga Ambulance Service
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:04:28 PM

To whom it may concern,

We were absolutely shocked to hear that MOFD is considering such drastic cuts to Moragas ambulance service. Living in a town like Moraga, nestled in the hills, has a lot of upsides, but being far away from a hospital is a downside. It has always been a source of comfort to at least know that we have ambulance service close and ready in case of emergency. To the that away for 14 hours a day is unthinkable! We all know that emergencies can happen at any time, and the delayed response will very negatively impact the health of those who need these services most. Please reconsider this ridiculous and dangerous proposal.

Sincerely,
Amy and Jeff Fara

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Kathleen Robertson](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: No Reductions to Moraga Ambulance Services
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:14:55 PM

Hello,

I just watched the discussion at the Moraga town council meeting regarding the fire/ambulance issue. As someone who lives very close to the Orinda/Moraga border, I was disappointed to hear about the potential reduction in hours and location of services. I am hoping you will be able to reconsider and keep a 24 hour response team at the Moraga Drive location on the southside of Orinda/Moraga.

Kathleen Robertson



From: [Laura Vollmer](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Urgent Concern: Proposal to Reduce Ambulance Coverage in Moraga
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:23:18 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed reduction of ambulance coverage in the Town of Moraga from 24 hours per day to only 10 hours per day. As a resident who cares deeply about the safety and well-being of our community, especially our growing senior population, I believe this would be a dangerous and short-sighted decision.

Moraga's population is aging, and with that comes an increased need for emergency medical services. Reducing ambulance availability by more than half places our most vulnerable residents at severe risk during overnight hours when emergencies often occur. Time is critical in medical crises such as heart attacks, strokes, or falls, which are more prevalent among older adults. Delays in emergency response could result in preventable loss of life or long-term disability.

This reduction in service would not only jeopardize individual health outcomes but could also increase long-term healthcare costs for families and the community due to complications from delayed care. Furthermore, it erodes the sense of security that residents depend on when choosing to live in a town like Moraga, known for its safety and quality of life.

We understand the need for fiscal responsibility, but cutting essential emergency services is not the answer. There must be alternative solutions that maintain 24/7 ambulance coverage without compromising public safety.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal and seek a solution that prioritizes the health and safety of all Moraga residents, especially our elderly population who rely most heavily on these vital services.

Sincerely,

Laura Vollmer



From: [Jennifer Chen](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Oppose decreased ambulance coverage
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:27:40 PM

Hello,

I'm a Moraga resident and HCP emailing in response to news that MOFD is looking into decreasing ambulance coverage for Moraga.

* Timely ambulance response is critical to patient safety, particularly in instances of cardiac arrest, heart attack or stroke.

*Just a few minutes delay in response time can prove to be the difference in survival, survival with significant disability or death.

*I strongly oppose any changes that would decrease local ambulance coverage, as it will ultimately lead to increased mortality and morbidity for citizens of Moraga.

Thank you,
Jen

From: [Springbook](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Hours reduction
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 10:45:38 PM

I am writing to express my opposition to the reduction of ambulance hours for Moraga residents from 24 hours to 10 hours a day.

Our property taxes fund MOFD and to reduce services by more than half is drastic, reckless, and amoral. This choice will certainly put both Moraga residents and Orinda residents at risk.

Imagine an ambulance making its way from a call in Sander's Ranch to Sleepy Hollow. Ridiculous and frightening.

We rely on MOFD to assist in emergencies and to save lives. To reduce the hours so dramatically is akin to walking away from this social contract. What a clearly horrible possibility.

Please do not limit the hours we have a fully staffed ambulance service. We are counting on you to do the right thing. Imagine that the ones you love live in Moraga or Orinda and let that be your guide.

Thank you,
Dustie Robeson

Dustie Robeson, *Founder*
(925) 878-5385
myspringbook.com



From: [Julia Hoang Kirk](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Reduction of hours in Moraga
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:01:29 AM

Dear MOFD Board,

I write to you as a parent, resident, and business owner in Moraga.

I believe the idea of reducing hours from 24 to 10 hours of ambulance coverage in Moraga is a GRAVE mistake. Apparently there are funds so it is not because of lack of funding.

As a healthcare provider in the town of Moraga, I can't tell you how blessed and fortunate I feel to have support while I am at work during working hours. I've never had to use the service, but thank God it's there for me.

Here's the funny thing about medical emergencies though. They don't only happen during business hours. In fact, I would bet you they frequently occur in the home. After hours. Older folks slipping, teens experimenting with drugs at night, domestic violence in the privacy of darkness. I recently had to take some continuing education on drug abuse in America. One OD every five minutes. How long is that drive from Orinda into Moraga? And I think anyone can understand heart attacks aren't choosy about what time of day they occur. I cannot fathom the idea of ambulatory care coverage having worse hours than our local Safeway—that makes zero sense to me. Even our gym is open more than 10 hours.

Logistically it makes zero sense to have an ambulance come all the way from Orinda. What is that time with zero traffic?

Every two years or so I am required as a dentist to take a review course on CPR for medical professionals. I know as well as you know, that every single minute can mean the difference between survival or mortality, and not just that, quality of life, something that isn't discussed a lot. It's one thing to survive, it's another whether or not there was permanent physical and mental damage. I am sure you guys know the same stats I've been told. It's your profession after all. So why on earth are you making this proposal? Do you not live here? I bet if your sister lived here you would not want this for her.

Please listen to the voice of reason and the voice of the Moraga residents. We absolutely do not want this unnecessary and dangerous change for our town.

Sincerely,
Dr. Julia Kirk

Julia Hoang, DDS
lamorindadentistry.com



From: [Emily Otis](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: aheavener@moraga.ca.us
Subject: Urgent Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts—Lives and Community Trust at Stake
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 7:27:56 AM

To: MOFD Board of Directors (info@mofd.org)

Subject: Urgent Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts—Lives and Community Trust at Stake

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am a Moraga resident (since 2020) along with my husband who grew up in Moraga, and we are raising my two young kids here.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed reduction of Moraga's ambulance service from 24 hours to just 10 hours per day. This decision is not only reckless but will directly endanger lives—including those of Moraga's aging population, which is larger than many of our neighboring communities.

Every minute matters in cardiac events, strokes, traumas, and other emergencies. Forcing Moraga residents to wait for an ambulance from Orinda (across Highway 24) or an AMR unit from elsewhere in the county is unacceptable. Moraga's geographic isolation, combined with its growing population due to new housing proposals, makes 24/7 ambulance service a necessity—not a luxury.

If we cannot rely on basic emergency services, what does that say about MOFD's commitment to the people it serves?

It is shocking that such a drastic cut is being considered without clear justification, transparency, or community outreach. MOFD was created to provide *superior* emergency services, yet this move would do the opposite, abandoning Moraga when we need reliability most.

Moraga has already proven its commitment to MOFD by helping stabilize the district financially in the past. Slashing our ambulance service now is a betrayal of that partnership.

I strongly urge the Board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage. The consequences of these cuts will be measured in lives lost—and in the erosion of trust in the institutions meant to protect us.

Sincerely,

Emily Otis, Moraga resident

From: [Gerri Joyce](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Comment for Board 5.21.25
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 8:31:00 AM

Comment for the MOFD Board:

I am a 33 year resident of Moraga living near St. Mary's College.

Unfortunately, I cannot attend tonights Board Meeting.

I strongly oppose any reduction in ambulance service to Moraga.

Numerous times that service has saved lives on my street.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Gerri Joyce

43 San Pablo Ct.

From: [Nikki Nathan](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Ambulance Cuts - Lives & Community Trust at Stake
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 8:42:52 AM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am writing in response to the news that MOFD is looking into decreasing ambulance coverage for Moraga.

Timely ambulance response is critical to patient safety, particularly in instances of cardiac arrest, heart attack or stroke. Just a few minutes delay in response time can prove to be the difference in survival, survival with significant disability or death.

That being said, I strongly oppose any changes that would decrease local ambulance coverage, as it will ultimately lead to increased mortality and morbidity for citizens of Moraga.

I strongly urge the board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage.

Sincerely,
Nikki Nathan

From: [karen-raff](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: karen-raff@comcast.net
Subject: Moraga Ambulances cut in service
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:02:43 AM
Importance: High

Hello, as a Moraga resident I am outraged at the cut in services.
We pay taxes to support all fire and rescue.
Please Stop this insane proposal!!! There has to be a better solution than not having
emergency ambulances in Moraga!!
What about the 3 senior care facilities here! They will not make it if there is such a delay in
response time!!!
THIS IS SERIOUS STOP!!
Karen & Russ Kiernan
Inverleith Terrace

Sent from my T-Mobile 5G Device

From: [Heidi Tend](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Concerned Moraga Citizen - Please Do Not Reduce Ambulance Service In Moraga
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:12:23 AM

I would like my email to go on public record.

Dear MOFD,

I have been a resident of Moraga for 50+ years and I am appalled by the news I am hearing about the possibility of reducing local ambulance services from 24 hours to 10 hours a day. Who, with any common sense, would even consider such a disastrous idea? This presents clear life threatening implications and consequences to anyone delayed ambulance service. Whatever the serious illness, doctors and medical experts agree and factually state the need to get help to people ASAP. A minute or two delay in getting this medical attention is life threatening and will cost lives, plain and simple.

I concur with M. McCluer - MOFD, please vote for saving lives; ambulance service is in your charter, we pay tax dollars for this and saving lives is what you do.

Thank you.

H. Tend
A VERY Concerned Moraga Citizen

From: [Patty](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: I'm opposed to reducing ambulance hours
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 11:59:27 AM

My husband and I are absolutely against MOFD reducing ambulance hours for Moraga. The majority of your calls are for ambulance services. A significant portion of the population of Moraga is over 65 years of age. Elderly people are more prone to serious falls as well as strokes and heart attacks. Plus you have NOT provided a compelling need to reduce service, such as budget shortfalls or staffing issues.

Please schedule public meetings to make your case. You are part of our community and are funded to support the community. The voters of Moraga have been very generous in funding your agency in the past. If don't serve the needs of the community, funding may not be so generous in the future.

Patricia
Patricia Baxter
Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Bergen](#)
To: [Info](#)
Cc: [Heidi Tend](#)
Subject: Re: Concerned Moraga Citizen - Please Do Not Reduce Ambulance Service In Moraga
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 12:05:48 PM

Dear MOFD, I'm a Moraga neighbor of Heidi Tend and wish to voice my concern as well. As one of Moraga's many seniors (I'm 72) this issue is of even greater importance.

Regards,
John Bergen
[REDACTED] De La Cruz Way

Sent from my iPad

On May 21, 2025, at 11:12 AM, Heidi Tend <h_tend@hotmail.com> wrote:

I would like my email to go on public record.

Dear MOFD,

I have been a resident of Moraga for 50+ years and I am appalled by the news I am hearing about the possibility of reducing local ambulance services from 24 hours to 10 hours a day. Who, with any common sense, would even consider such a disastrous idea? This presents clear life threatening implications and consequences to anyone delayed ambulance service. Whatever the serious illness, doctors and medical experts agree and factually state the need to get help to people ASAP. A minute or two delay in getting this medical attention is life threatening and will cost lives, plain and simple.

I concur with M. McCluer - MOFD, please vote for saving lives; ambulance service is in your charter, we pay tax dollars for this and saving lives is what you do.

Thank you.

H. Tend
A VERY Concerned Moraga Citizen

From: [Jason Gordon](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Comment Against Potential Reduction in Ambulance Coverage in Moraga
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 12:23:36 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Jason Putnam Gordon, and I live at [REDACTED], Moraga, CA 94556.

I have become aware of a potential reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage. Any reduction from its current 24-hour 365-day (366-day in a leap year) coverage is dangerous and in appropriate. Adverse medical events, such as heart attacks, strokes, traumatic injuries, cardiac arrests, etc., require prompt medical intervention to save lives and/or preserve/restore cognitive and/or physical function. Reducing ambulance coverage in Moraga and relying on an Orinda-based ambulance will materially, adversely impact medical-intervention times, resulting in the deaths and/or permanent injuries of those in Moraga.

As such, I am strongly opposed to any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Jason Putnam Gordon

From: [Dana Gordon](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Against proposed cuts to ambulance service in Moraga
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 12:26:45 PM

Hello,

My name is Dana Gordon. I am a Moraga resident and I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed cuts to ambulance service in Moraga.

Almost 21% of our population is over age 65.

Three-quarters of all strokes occur in people age 65. For every 10-minute delay between arrival at the ER and the start of stroke treatment, patients with severe strokes may lose eight weeks of healthy life.

1 in 5 adults over 40 will suffer heart failure in their lifetimes. Delay in treatment of heart failure for even a few minutes can result in permanent damage or death.

Cutting ambulance service will result in lives ruined or lost.

Thank you,
Dana Gordon

From: [Linda Murray](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: 24/7 MOFD Service
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:28:49 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

Please make my response part of the record on the discussions regarding the potential reduction of service hours. As you are aware, MOFD was created to provide local service levels superior to those that county fire and EMS can provide. Further, the vast majority of MOFD service calls (80%-90%) are medical vs fire.

It's important that the City of Moraga has the service to meet the needs of the community. I support the need to keep current levels of service as they are critical for a healthy response for individuals facing critical needs and issues regarding their health and safety outcomes for ambulance service.

If MOFD funding requirements are cut, we in Moraga will face critical shortages for emergency ambulance services where every second counts. If our emergency health services are forced to travel Hwy 24 from other areas of the County, it will be a disaster as it's one of the most congested freeways in Northern California commuter hours during the day as we are a bedroom community.

Please continue to support any and all funding requirements for the needs of MOFD to provide 24/7 service to all individuals in our local community. If there any additional queries, please contact me at the following:

 Moraga CA 94556-2292

Best regards,
Linda J Murray

From: [Moraga-Orinda Fire District](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Feedback for Moraga-Orinda Fire District, CA
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:48:19 PM

You have received this feedback from Adam Kremen <[REDACTED]> for the following page:

<https://www.mofd.org/Home/Components/Calendar/Event/483/112>

Please add my name to the list of people who are asking that you reconsider the proposal to cut ambulance service in Moraga from 24 to 10 hours a day. I live in the Camino Pablo area of Moraga, past Camino Pablo Elementary School, which is already a long trek for any kind of emergency medical care. I am concerned, as are many others, that the increased wait times for ambulance services, for instance for an ambulance in Orinda or for an AMR ambulance, will increase the risk of death or severe long-term complications. I am aware that an EMT will be still be available, but without earlier access to important lifesaving medical equipment. I should note that Moraga is the home of 2 senior living spaces, and therefore has a high proportion of elderly who may especially require timely emergency services. To deny us these services is unconscionable!

From: [Erik Brown](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 1:50:23 PM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed reduction of Moraga's ambulance service from 24 hours to 10 hours per day. This decision is an unacceptable cut to a critical service that protects the lives and safety of Moraga residents.

Every minute matters in cardiac events, strokes, traumas, and other emergencies. Forcing Moraga residents to wait for an ambulance from Orinda (across Highway 24) or an AMR unit from elsewhere in the county is unacceptable. Moraga's geographic isolation (and associated fire risk), combined with its growing population due to new housing proposals, makes 24/7 ambulance service a necessity, not a luxury.

I strongly urge the Board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage.

Sincerely,
Erik Brown, Moraga resident

To: MOFD Board
From: Steve Cohn
Subject: Fire Flow Parcel Tax and Long Range Finance
Date: May 21, 2025

Tonight you will, once again, set the rates for the Fire Flow Parcel Tax.

In case any of you need to be reminded, this is a flat tax, not an ad valorem tax, based on an algorithm representing the amount of water needed to suppress a structure fire. Roughly based on the square footage of the structure and whether-or-not the structure has a fire sprinkler system.

The rate is quoted in "cents". There are two separate taxes. One is for the "Moraga zone" which is the area previously served by the Moraga Fire Protection District (MFPD) which included the Town of Moraga, unincorporated Moraga, Canyon, and 745 homes in South Orinda. This tax was approved by the voters prior to the formation of MOFD to supplement property taxes allocated by Prop 13 to fund the service desired by the community. The second tax is for the "Orinda Zone" which includes all of the City of Orinda with the exclusion of the 745 homes in the "Moraga Zone". This tax was approved by the voters in the Zone at the time (June 1997) they voted to form MOFD. The creation of this tax was a condition to forming the district. According to news articles at the time, it was mainly to be used to upgrade equipment at Orinda stations that ConFire had neglected. An article in the Orinda News preceding the vote, quoting founding board member John Wyro, stated that after the equipment was upgraded, the tax to Orindans would be reduced or eliminated.

This year the rate for both the Orinda and the Moraga taxes was set at 6 "cents". The Orinda tax is generating about \$560,000, averaging \$87/property. The Moraga tax is generating about \$540,000, averaging \$81 per property.

Each tax has a rate cap. The cap in the Moraga Zone is 30 "cents" and in the Orinda Zone is 6 "cents".

If the Moraga parcel tax rate was increased to its cap:

- It would generate approximately \$2.2 million in new revenue.
- The increase per home in Moraga would be \$320 a year (88 cents per day).
- This equates to 0.02% (two hundredths of one percent) of the average value of a home in Moraga (\$1.7 million).

This year's budget shows \$33.5 million in revenue from the ad valorem property tax and \$1.1 million from the two parcel taxes. This revenue, plus some additional revenue, mainly goes to support the 17 firefighters stationed in MOFD's five stations plus operational and administrative overhead. The total, \$34.6 million, averages to slightly more than \$2 million per firefighter.

While MOFD provides emergency services to the City of Orinda and the Town of Moraga, the safety of their residents is the ultimate responsibility of the respective City/Town Councils. And each has the power to ask the residents to change service providers, as they did in 1997. While MOFD is one district, it needs to remind itself that it is serving two separate communities (three including Canyon). Their needs, the resources required to satisfy those needs, and the funding provided by each community are not the same. These realities need to be acknowledged.

The simple fact, that no one on the MOFD Board, the Orinda City Council, nor the Moraga Town Council is willing to admit, is that the property owners in Orinda are subsidizing the residents of Moraga with millions of tax dollars annually, money that is needed in Orinda to fund wildfire prevention efforts. Needed to reduce the risk which has been identified by CalFire, by MOFD itself, and by the insurance industry which currently refuses to write new fire insurance policies in Orinda because of it.

Orinda is serviced by the nine firefighters in the three Orinda stations while Moraga/Canyon is similarly served by the eight firefighters stationed in the two Moraga stations. There is mutual aid across the district, just as there is mutual aid between adjacent districts but, essentially and effectively Orinda stations serve Orinda and Moraga stations serve Moraga/Canyon, the same as before MOFD was formed.

While MOFD does not “keep track” of where its tax revenue comes from (being blind to the fact that it is serving two separate communities), I do. Of the \$33.5 million of ad valorem property tax, \$22.1 million comes from Orinda property owners and \$10.4 million comes from Moraga property owners. And of the \$1.1 million in parcel tax, \$600,000 comes from Orinda property owners and \$500,000 from Moraga property owners. In total, Orinda property owners are providing \$22.7 million in taxes to MOFD while Moraga property owners provide the other \$10.9 million.

For Orinda this funding equates to \$2.5 million per firefighter while Moraga pays \$1.4 million. For service that costs MOFD \$2.0 million to provide. This compares to the fact that Lafayette property owners are providing \$16.6 million this year to ConFire for the same service Orinda receives from MOFD (9 firefighters in 3 stations), equating to \$1.8 million. A valid comparison? Maybe. Maybe not. So, what should Orinda pay per firefighter? \$1.4 million, the same as Moraga? \$1.8 million, the same as Lafayette? \$2.0 million, MOFD’s apparent “cost”? Certainly not \$2.5 million. Orinda has other needs for those funds.

Why are Orinda’s representatives on the MOFD Board allowing this? Because they can? Because there is nothing in the MOFD bylaws saying they can’t? Because Orinda has always, for 28 years, subsidized the cost to provide Moraga the service it is receiving? Because they don’t see any way, without dissolving the district, to address the inequity? Because they don’t know how they would spend the \$4.5 million in Orinda in any case? Because they don’t know how Moraga could come up with an additional \$4.5 million?

Why are Moraga's representatives allowing it? At some point, Orinda WILL walk. 28 years ago they walked from ConFire. They can and someday they will. Then what will Moraga do? Go to ConFire which will want to charge them \$1.8 million per firefighter; \$14.4 million for all 8 firefighters? That is \$4 million more than your ad valorem property tax. Even retaining your parcel tax and maxing it out will only provide an additional \$2 million. You had better figure out how to provide an equitable solution with Orinda or you will be facing a cut in service, sooner or later. Ignoring it will not make the problem go away.

I have looked at your long-range financial projections. Assuming the 3.5% annual increase in ad valorem tax (which is conservative with tax revenues increasing at 5.6% over the past 10 years and properties currently assessed at 60% of their market value, except the old ones, which are the ones that sell mostly, currently assessed at 40% or less and increasing to 100% upon sale). A number of changes could be made that would allow Moraga to pay what it costs MOFD to service it and would allow MOFD to fund additional services to Orinda with the excess funding it provides. These changes include:

- Moraga's fire flow parcel tax increased to the maximum level Moragans voted for prior to the formation of MOFD, a rate of 30 cents.
- Staff Moraga's ambulance with paramedics rather than firefighter-paramedics.
- Hold the General Fund reserve at its current level (\$20 million), increasing it only by inflation.
- Reducing the Capital Fund reserve to \$4 million, increasing only by inflation.
- Fund new building expense (Moraga's Station 41 and Administration building) by debt, as was Orinda's Station 43.
- Continue the funding of the Supplemental Pension Fund and the OPEB Fund continue as per the existing plan.
- Finally, account for Tax Revenue and Operating Expenses by community (Orinda and Moraga) as everyone originally expected they would be, with Orinda paying for its share and Moraga paying for its share.

The reason MOFD was formed was to use Orinda tax dollars for service in Orinda and Moraga tax dollars for service in Moraga, not elsewhere in the county. The voters' pamphlets for the formation vote, both in Orinda and in Moraga, were very clear on this (www.saferorinda.info/mofd-voter-pamphlets).

Someday this issue is going to be "resolved" with or without MOFD's input. You can start resolving it today without Orinda and Moraga having to go back to the drawing board.

From: [Ryan Otis](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposition to Moraga Ambulance Cuts
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:23:18 PM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am a current Moraga resident (since 2020) and I grew up here from 1985 to 2001, and my wife and I are raising our two young kids here.

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to the proposed reduction of Moraga's ambulance service from 24 hours to just 10 hours per day. This decision is reckless and will directly endanger lives—including those of Moraga's aging population, which is larger than many of our neighboring communities.

Every minute matters in serious health events, including cardiac events, strokes, traumas, and other emergencies. Forcing Moraga residents to wait for an ambulance from Orinda (across Highway 24) or an AMR unit from elsewhere in the county is unacceptable. Moraga's geographic isolation, combined with its growing population due to new housing proposals, makes 24/7 ambulance service a necessity—not a luxury.

If we cannot rely on basic emergency services, what does that say about MOFD's commitment to the people it serves?

This is a very drastic cut and was proposed without any clear justification, transparency, or community outreach. MOFD was created to provide *superior* emergency services, yet this move would do the opposite, abandoning Moraga when we need reliability most.

Moraga has already proven its commitment to MOFD by helping stabilize the district financially in the past. Slashing our ambulance service now is a betrayal of that partnership.

I strongly urge the Board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage. The consequences of these cuts will be measured in lives lost—and in the erosion of trust in the institutions meant to protect us.

Sincerely,

Ryan Otis, Moraga resident

From: [Jeff Lipsett](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: No Hasty Decision on Reduced Ambulance Service
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:26:58 PM

I have heard that you may be cutting ambulance service to Moraga. The only thing I've heard is that it is not for fiscal reasons. Please do not do this in haste. I imagine you have your reasons for even proposing this but please articulate them and air them in full view of the community. Let the people have their voice.

As for tonight's vote please reject or postpone this.

Thank you,
Jeffrey Lipsett
[REDACTED]
Moraga, 94556

From: [Alice Fu](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Opposed to Moraga Ambulance Reductions
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:30:11 PM

Dear MOFD Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed reduction of Moraga's ambulance service from 24 hours to 10 hours per day. This decision is an unacceptable cut to a critical service that protects the lives and safety of Moraga residents.

Every minute matters in cardiac events, strokes, traumas, and other emergencies. Forcing Moraga residents to wait for an ambulance from Orinda (across Highway 24) or an AMR unit from elsewhere in the county is unacceptable. Moraga's geographic isolation (and associated fire risk), combined with its growing population due to new housing proposals, makes 24/7 ambulance service a necessity, not a luxury.

I strongly urge the Board to reject any reduction in Moraga's ambulance coverage.

Sincerely,

Alice Fu, Moraga resident

Sent from my iPhone

From: [DEAN/DONNA SCHUMACHER](#)
To: [Info](#)
Subject: Moraga Ambulance Service
Date: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 2:43:03 PM

Dear MOFD,

Please don't cut Moraga's ambulance service. Emergency response time is critical. We have had such great service for so many years, please don't make this change and put lives in danger.

Thank you,

Dean and Donna Schumacher

Moraga Residents for 42 years

RICHARD J. OLSEN
1861 Saint Andrews Drive
Moraga, CA 94556-1057

May 21, 2025

Re: May 21, 2025 MOFD Board Regular Meeting -- Budget Discussions on (1) Future Staffing of the District's Ambulances and (2) Elimination of 2 Firefighter Positions at Station 41

Gentlemen:

My Background

I have resided in Moraga for 53 years. During that time I have been constantly involved in Moraga's emergency medical services, fire protection and fire prevention activities. Those activities have included serving in the following capacities: Member of our County's Emergency Medical Services Committee; Commissioner and Commission Chair Moraga Fire District; Vice Chair of the Joint Town of Moraga/City of Orinda Committee that authored the LAFCO Application that led to the MOFD's formation; Director Moraga Orinda Fire District Board; Team Member Lamorinda CERT(since 2011); Pulse Point 1st Responder for CPR & AED (currently). My EMS experience includes serving as a Combat Medic in the U.S. Army. I am also a former Moraga Citizen-of-the-Year and an Orinda Association Citizen-of-the-Year (the latter was along with my fellow MOFD LAFCO Application Committee members for our collective work.)

Following are my personal thoughts on the above subject:

Impact of Multiple Forces on Future MOFD Budgets

I realize that there are currently a number of outside factors that will impact future MOFD budgets. Those include particularly: future CCCERA Pension assessments; future national and local economic environments and future National, State and County political actions. The currently projected capital costs for replacing Station 41 and remodeling Station 45 – which appear to me to be understated – will also have very significant impacts on future MOFD budgets.

When I was previously a Director of the MOFD, I was supportive of the conservative, (“belt-and-suspenders”) budgeting philosophy and practices of the MOFD's then Board.

At the same time, I am very mindful of -- and entirely sympathetic to -- the recent observation by U.S. Senator (and fellow Stanford alum) Cory Booker that: “Budgets are more than just numbers on a spreadsheet. They are a moral document.”

The above context must be an essential part of your evaluation of the consequences of implementing various possible future ambulance and firefighter position staffing models.

Some relevant history:

The former Moraga Fire District (MFD) -- whose boundaries included a significant portion of South Orinda -- began ambulance service in the early 1970s. Even prior to the June, 1977 start of the MFD's paramedic service, two Firefighter-EMTs were assigned full-time to the MFD's "Rescue 1" ambulance which was based at the current MOFD Station 41. Per the MFD's Rules and Regulations at that time ("Emergency Operations Procedure #4, Revised 7/1/75) the two Firefighter-EMTs performed "Rescue; Forcible Entry; Ventilation and Salvage" functions at Structure Fires. Rescue 1 and the Engine that was based at today's Station 41 functioned as a 4-person, and later as a 5-person, two-piece Engine Company that provided significant firefighting and rescue benefits to the MFD's citizens. As a Moraga Fire District Commissioner I personally observed the personnel assigned to Rescue 1 actively engaged in structural and vegetation firefighting and performing extrication and other emergency and rescue services.

The former Orinda Fire District (OFD) did not provide ambulance service. Instead, ambulance response to Orinda was provided by private ambulance companies (Pomeroy Ambulance from Walnut Creek and later by AMR, under a County contract.) No ambulances were based in Orinda or nearby. That resulted in significant delays (often 20 minutes or more) before an ambulance would arrive on scene. A 1996 Study by OFD Battalion Chief Greg Holm documented the extent of that delayed response problem. While AMR's County contract required timely responses within its service area, a "10%-of-calls" contract exception to that standard was applied to AMR's service to Orinda.

A "Master Service Plan" for the MOFD's operations (LAFCO Application Appendix B) was implemented at the MOFD's formation. It specifically designated specific units and their staffing, by station. That exact model has continued to be the basis of the MOFD's operations up to the present time. That Plan included full time staffing of both an Engine and a Paramedic Ambulance at Station 41. The dedicated ambulance at Station 41 was to be staffed by a Senior Firefighter-Paramedic and a Firefighter-Paramedic. The Service Plan also specified the current cross-staffing at Station 45 of both an engine and an ambulance by only three personnel, a Captain, a Senior Firefighter Paramedic and a Firefighter-Paramedic.

Shortly after the MOFD's formation, the MFD's former reserve ambulance and several MFD firefighter-paramedics were transferred to Station 45 in order implement paramedic ambulance service by the cross staffed ambulance within the boundaries of the former OFD.

There is a need to upgrade fire and ambulance service in the area served first-due from Station 45

Under the current cross-staffing of Medic 45, when that unit transports a patient from Orinda to a medical facility, the Central and North areas of Orinda that Station 45 serves first-due are not provided with immediate emergency medical, fire or rescue responses until Medic 45 returns to Station 45 and can then staff either Medic 45 or Engine 45. The approximate length of time involved when Station 45 therefore sits empty is an hour-and-a-half (or more at times).

What are the Options for Dealing with the “Empty Station 45” Problem?

Following is my personal analysis of the possible options for addressing that deficiency:

Option #1: Staff a full time ambulance at Station 45 with 2 Firefighter-Paramedics

This option would match the current staffing at Station 41 in Moraga. It would undeniably generate both the maximum emergency medical services and the maximum fire protection benefits. The two additional on-duty firefighters at Station 45 would effectively create a 5-person, two-piece engine company that would significantly enhance the effectiveness of the district’s structure and wildland firefighting and rescue capabilities. It would also lead to the simplest integration of a full-time ambulance and its staff into the MOFD’s current EMS and fire protection operating system. It would also be the most expensive option.

Option #2: Staff a full-time ambulance at Station 45 with a Civilian Paramedic and EMT team of Non-firefighters

Utilizing a Non-firefighter Civilian Paramedic/EMT team to staff Medic 45 full-time would directly address the empty Station 45 time void. Option #2 would also result in lower salary and benefits costs versus Option #1 because, as is currently being proposed, the new civilian employees would be only 3-years-long employees who would have no pension benefits.

Since the second member of the team is an EMT, he or she would have had significantly less training than and fewer skills than a paramedic. An EMT is limited to employing limited Basic Life Support (BLS) skills versus a Paramedic’s Advanced Life Support (ALS) abilities -- an obvious deficiency with Option #2. A Civilian Paramedic and EMT Team would not have – and could not legally have -- any active roles in firefighting or rescue activities. The Civilian Paramedic and Civilian EMT would stand by, out of the way of direct firefighting or rescue activities, until they are either needed to treat and transport rescued fire or accident victims or injured firefighters – or might possibly be called to a new, separate incident.

I think it is fair to ask: Would a paramedic who is ultimately interested in becoming a Firefighter-Paramedic be interested in becoming – for a short time – a civilian paramedic at the MOFD, with no guarantee of eventual employment in their desired future job? Even if an individual accepts the MOFD’s opportunity, my bet is that the second they have an opportunity to join another fire agency as a Firefighter-Paramedic-Trainee, they’ll be gone. The MOFD’s Civilian Paramedics could all end up being short-timers.

Option #2 would also require an additional layer of supervision, at some significant cost.

Finally, Option #2 is a recent major change in EMS and Fire staffing practice.

A few fire agencies in the Bay Area have adopted or are scheduled to adopt some form of this model. Because this is a recent innovation, there isn’t yet any history as to its likely longer-term results -- either positive or negative. Accordingly, it should be viewed as still experimental.

My personal take on Option #2 is that it could potentially be implemented now as an interim measure in order to limit its immediate financial cost, while reserving the future ability to convert to Firefighter-Paramedic staffing if and when the economic picture hopefully becomes clearer and more positive and/or new income sources are developed.

Option #3 Staff both Medic 41 and Medic 45 with Civilian Paramedic & EMT Teams

This staffing alternative at Medic 41 would result in a significant permanent reduction in the firefighting and rescue capabilities that, until recently, were provided by Medic 41's Firefighter Paramedic personnel for many decades, first by the Moraga Fire District and subsequently by the MOFD.

Automatic Aid units from ConFire stations in Lafayette (If they are in quarters) would need to provide the same services that Medic 41's firefighter-paramedics currently provide. Their on-scene arrival time will be many minutes later than Medic 41's current on-scene times.

Due to a fairly recent (3 years ago?) change in policy, currently at structure and vegetation fires the firefighter-paramedics assigned to Medic 41 are not allowed to perform any firefighting or rescue tasks. Their duty is to standby to potentially treat and transport fire victims or injured firefighters. Previously, Medic 41's crew often served as the Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC) for potential rescue of downed firefighters in compliance with the OSHA "Two In/Two Out" rule. At vegetation fires, where they previously would advance a hoseline up one flank of a fire using a progressive hoselay, that activity is no longer allowed. At vehicle rescues, they are no longer directly involved in victim extrication. The net result of those changes to Medic 41's capabilities has been a reduction in the quality and effectiveness of the services that the MOFD now provides in Medic 41's first due area. That first due area includes all of the area within the former Moraga Fire District's boundaries. Medic 41's first due area also extends even farther north covering Orinda almost all the way North to Glorietta Boulevard.

If your Board decides to fully staff an ambulance at Station 45 (presumably initially using a non-Firefighting Civilian Paramedic and EMT team) the functions formerly provided by Medic 41's crew could and should be restored. The Non-firefighting Civilian Paramedic and EMT Team on Medic 45 could then assume Medic 41's on-scene EMS standby duties.

Since April 1, 2017, the MOFD has enjoyed an improved "Class 2" designation by ISO, the insurance industry consulting service that objectively evaluates fire protection in individual communities. (ConFire has a lesser "Class 3" designation.) I am familiar with the rating system ISO employs. A decrease in the number of firefighters currently being utilized by the MOFD for firefighting could potentially result in an increase in deficiency points. That could then lower the MOFD's ISO Class and result in potential insurance cost increases for some insureds.

Given the current crisis in the Home Fire Insurance market, Insurance companies might not appreciate that the MOFD Board has decided to reduce its firefighting force down to only 6

firefighters on-duty at the Moraga stations. (Under any of the 3 Options, there would still be 10¹²⁶ firefighting personnel on duty at the three MOFD stations in Orinda.

The 10 in Orinda include the Battalion Chief (“BC4”) based at Station 45 who responds to and supervises all major incidents within the entire district. He arrives on-scene at any incident in Moraga many minutes after either Engine 41 or Engine 42 is first on-scene. Before BC4’s arrival the Moraga-based first-arriving unit’s Captain has to perform double duty. He has to both perform Incident Commander duties and, as the first-arriving Engine’s Captain, participate simultaneously in the immediately required firefighting and rescue activities.)

Staffing a 45B BLS Ambulance at Station 45 To Be Used for Emergency Ambulance Responses Would Be Totally Inappropriate and Dangerous

The proposed 45B (BLS Only) “3rd Ambulance” -- staffed by 2 EMTs -- would not work as an Emergency Ambulance Responder and Transporter.

As I previously noted, in contrast to Paramedics, EMTs have a lot less training and very limited skills. They are legally limited to only providing Basic Life Support (BLS) services. When confronted with a medical emergency that requires paramedic level (ALS) functions, at a medical emergency’s scene or during transport to a hospital they are unequipped to effectively deal with those situations.

The key situation and resultant thought I would like to leave you with in that regard is this: If a patient “goes sour” during a transport in an ambulance that is only staffed by 2 EMTs, other than administering Oxygen, performing CPR and potential using an AED (if the emergency is a cardiac one) the result could likely be fatal.

A BLS/2 EMT transporting ambulance is very little more than a Taxi – until a critical medical incident occurs. Then it might well become a hearse!

Thank you very much for your attention to the above.

Sincerely,

Dick Olsen