



**MORAGA FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

MEASURES AA and BB

TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

**IMPARTIAL ANALYSIS OF PROPOSED CONSOLIDATION OF THE
MORAGA AND ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS INTO THE NEW
MORAGA-ORINDA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, INCLUDING ANALYSIS OF A
PROPOSED ORINDA SERVICE ZONE FIRE FLOW SPECIAL TAX**

Consolidation of the current Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into a new successor district, to be known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, will become effective July 1, 1997 if the voters approve the requisite measures in the June 3rd, 1997 election. The intent of the Consolidation, as specified by the proponents, is to provide more efficient fire protection and emergency medical (paramedic) services throughout the area of the two current Districts, with local governance.

The new District would include separate Moraga and Orinda Service Zones, coterminous with the current Moraga and Orinda Districts. The new District would assume control of the operations, personnel and assets of the current Districts and would provide services throughout the two Zones. The Consolidation measure must be approved by a majority of those voting in *each* of the current Districts if the new District is to be formed.

Further, the Consolidation cannot occur unless two-thirds of those voting in the area of the Orinda Service Zone approve a measure authorizing a fire flow special tax for the exclusive benefit of the Orinda Service Zone, similar to the current fire flow special tax in the Moraga Fire Protection District. If the new District is formed, the current Moraga District tax would be continued for the exclusive benefit of the Moraga Service Zone.

Reflecting the risk of fire to a parcel, the fire flow special tax is calculated by multiplying a fire risk factor for each parcel (determined according to "fire flow" formulas) by a rate set each year for the Zone by the District's Governing Board, depending on financial need. Similar to the uses allowed for the Moraga Service Zone tax proceeds, the proceeds of the new Orinda Service Zone tax could be used only to fund fire protection, prevention and suppression and emergency medical services, equipment and related facilities.

The Moraga District has levied rates from zero to six cents over the past five years. The *maximum* rate that could be levied in the Orinda Service Zone would be six cents. Given the fire flow formulas and rates of six cents, the annual cost of the special tax for a typical 2500 square foot frame home in the new District would be approximately \$80.

The new District would receive the property taxes currently received by the Orinda and Moraga Fire Protection Districts, along with voter-approved fire flow special taxes. If the new District is to be able to spend the proceeds of these taxes, a majority of those voting throughout the area of the new District must approve a measure affirming the appropriations limit set for the new District by the Local Agency Formation Commission. That limit is the combined appropriations limits of the current two Districts, which is \$11,944,423 for fiscal year 1997-8, adjusted for inflation each year thereafter.

At the election on the Consolidation measure, a new five member governing board must be selected for the new District, one member being elected from each of five geographical divisions of equal population.

The above statement is an impartial analysis of the proposed consolidation of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts into the new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District. If you desire copies of Local Agency Formation Commission Resolution 96-27 approving the consolidation, Board of Supervisors Resolution 97-16 ordering the consolidation subject to confirmation of the voters, or Board Ordinance No. 97-1 adopting the Orinda Service Zone fire flow special tax subject to voter approval, please call the Elections Department at (510) 646-4166 and copies will be mailed to you at no cost.

**MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE AA ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

"Arguments in support or opposition of the proposed measure are the opinions of the authors."

MEASURE AA

"Shall the order adopted on January 14, 1997 by the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County to order the consolidation of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District into a single district known as the Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District be confirmed, subject to the terms and conditions specified in the order, including the election of District directors by five geographical divisions?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE AA
MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE AA ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

VOTE YES ON MEASURE AA

Merging the Moraga and Orinda Fire Districts into an independent district will assure that our communities achieve the highest levels of paramedic, ambulance and fire services - - through local control.

The county board of supervisors formed the Moraga Fire Protection District in 1968. Through local initiatives, emergency ambulance service began in 1972 and paramedic service in 1977. In 1980, voters approved a modest fire-flow tax to ensure permanent funding of our paramedic, ambulance and fire services.

Recent actions by the county have seriously eroded the limited local control we formerly had. Our fire commissioners have been stripped of many responsibilities. The county eliminated our local chief officers' positions and handed over management of our district to the Pleasant Hill-based Contra Costa County Fire District. Moraga is now compelled to pay the county \$150,000 yearly for its administrative services.

There's no doubt - - the county's ultimate goal is to force Moraga and Orinda into the huge Contra Costa Fire District. The county must be stopped!

The solution is to merge with our Orinda neighbors. If we form a truly independent, locally governed district, we can free ourselves from the county's political control. A "yes" vote on Measure AA will:

- Improve our ambulance, paramedic and fire services;
- Prevent further attempts to merge us into the Contra Costa Fire District;
- Provide local governance by a locally elected five-member board of directors and a full-time, locally based fire chief;

- Bring control of Moraga's tax money back to Moraga;
- Provide coordinated paramedic and fire training with Orinda;
- Give Moraga improved back-up paramedic-ambulance response - - from Orinda, instead of Walnut Creek.

Please join us in voting "YES" on Measure AA for local control of our vital emergency medical and fire services.

Barbara A. Simpson Thomas C. Hughes Richard D. Allee
 Marcia W. Allee Richard J. Olsen

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF
 MEASURE AA
 MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE AA ELECTION
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

VOTE NO on MERGER – AA

Why merge? We have exceptional fire and paramedic services now.

Local control? It's a catchy bumper sticker! It doesn't tell you anything.

What will we lose? What will we gain?

We *will* lose:

- Rapid fire response from a large, well-trained, fully equipped organization.
- Backup fire-paramedic services from a new unit in Lafayette.
- Reasonably priced, quality fire support services, including: fire inspectors, arson investigators, building plan review, engineering services, equipment maintenance - now at cost.
- Reasonably-priced quality administrative support services, including personnel, purchasing and finance.
- Top-level technical review of our facilities and equipment requirements.
- Control of our \$3,000,000/year property taxes.

Moraga *will* assume:

- Liability, directly/indirectly, for financing Orinda's expensive problems, including: Retrofitting 3 fire stations - up to \$4,000,000. Added costs related to rebuilding Orinda's

\$53,000,000 inadequate water supply system. Reducing the 50 tons/acre fuel load in the hills - staff and legal costs unknown.

- Risk of increased fire insurance rates.
- Supporting their 4 paramedics with our 12.
- Duplication of expense for a chief and other services.

"The County" is a convenient boogey-man. Look where we're going—not at some specter we're running from.

Are you satisfied with our present high quality fire and paramedic services? Do you want to risk diminished services at higher costs?

VOTE "NO" MERGER! VOTE NO ON AA!

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy
 David P. Leimone Gilbert Dong, Jr.

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE AA
 MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
 SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE AA ELECTION
 TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

The merger of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Departments will in no way solve the fire related problems of Orinda, which are:

Inadequate fire water supply, \$53,000,000 estimated to upgrade.

252 obsolete fire hydrants needing replacing.

State Fire Marshal designation of "VERY HIGH FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY AREA".

50 tons of fire fuel load per acre.

Professional firefighters of both district state:

"WE OPPOSE THIS PROPOSAL.

Firefighting is a labor intensive job that requires close coordination among all involved. Any substantial fire requires engines from other parts of the county to respond. Currently as part of a county-wide team we train together and plan for efficient operations. Breaking apart this team would jeopardize efficiency of operations and the morale of the personnel. We have full access to resources that are unavailable to a smaller department such as large training facilities, experts in arson investigation, code enforcement, hazardous materials incidents and special rescue situations."

Moraga does not have Orinda's problems but Moraga will be assuming Orinda's liabilities.

With merger all of Moraga Fire **PROPERTY TAXES** will be pooled with Orinda's. Moragans might have to pay once again their .30¢ fire flow tax to replace property taxes diverted to Orinda?

Moraga's fire insurance rates might increase to Orinda's fire risk level.

Orinda has started a paramedic program with 3 firefighter paramedics expanding to 12 and will purchase a \$130,000 rescue ambulance.

Neither merger or the FIRE FLOW TAX is needed to maintain the excellent services that Orinda now enjoys. Nor are they needed to replace equipment or to seismic retrofit fire stations under option 1 and certainly not needed for emergency medical services.

VOTE NO ! LET US IN ORINDA SAVE OUR TAX DOLLARS FOR A BOND ISSUE THAT WILL RESOLVE THE \$53,000,000 water pipe replacement issue.

Edmund J. Coyne James M. Taylor Daniel F. Murphy

David P. Leimone Gilbert Dong, Jr.

Committee For Fire Safety And Paramedics

**REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE AA
MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MERGER MEASURE AA ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

The arguments against Measure AA are not factual. The merger of the Moraga and Orinda Fire Protection Districts is sensible and will greatly improve fire, paramedic and ambulance services to both communities. As detailed in the approved Local Agency Formation Commission proposal, the merger would:

- Ensure that the 1981 county-wide Mutual Aide Response Agreements will remain in force
- Ensure that training with other fire protection districts will continue
- Make certain that the high level of fire protection in Moraga will continue
- Utilize the current local Fire Marshal to oversee all fire protection and arson investigative functions
- Ensure that 100 percent of all current and future revenues and assets will remain in Moraga
- Prohibit pooling of Moraga and Orinda fire-flow tax revenues
- Ensure that property tax revenues for fire protection, paramedic and ambulance services cannot be raised without voter authorization

There is no evidence whatsoever that Moraga or Orinda fire insurance rates will increase with the fire district merger. The current homeowners fire insurance rates for Moraga and Orinda are comparable, equal to or better than any fire insurance rates in the county.

It has been made clear that annexation to the huge, financially strapped Contra Costa County Fire Protection District (CCCFPD) in Pleasant Hill is not in the best interests of Moraga and Orinda residents. The CCCFPD does not operate either its own ambulance or paramedic service. In fact, the CCCFPD is not certified or authorized to provide paramedic or ambulance service. The Moraga Fire Protection District has been certified since 1977.

Richard Allee
Marcia Allee
Thomas C. Hughes

**MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
MEASURE BB ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

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MEASURE BB

"Shall the appropriations limit of the consolidated new Moraga-Orinda Fire Protection District, as established by the Local Agency Formation Commission of Contra Costa County by combining the appropriations limits of the Orinda Fire Protection District and the Moraga Fire Protection District, be confirmed at \$11,944,423, with annual adjustments for changes in cost of living and population?"	YES	
	NO	

**ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF MEASURE BB
MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
MEASURE BB ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

VOTE YES ON MEASURE BB

This measure will help us protect our vital paramedic, ambulance and fire services by providing us with direct local control over them.

Measure BB is a housekeeping measure, required by state law, that sets the spending limit for the proposed new Moraga-Orinda Fire District. That spending limit is determined by simply combining the already existing spending limits previously set separately for the Moraga and Orinda Fire Districts. The measure does not raise taxes. It simply allows the new district to use locally the money that is already being collected in Moraga and Orinda.

Moraga Fire District voters must approve this spending limit. Only then we can regain local control of our fire and emergency medical services from the County, through the formation of a new,

independent, locally governed Moraga-Orinda Fire District.

VOTE YES ON MEASURE BB

Barbara A. Simpson

Thomas C. Hughes

Richard D. Allee

Marcia W. Allee

Richard J. Olsen

**ARGUMENT AGAINST MEASURE BB
MORAGA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS LIMIT
MEASURE BB ELECTION
TUESDAY, JUNE 3, 1997**

None filed.