

# Letters to the editor

## Step up to fight climate change

I am writing to talk about the severity of climate change and the great effect it has taken on our lives already. While we are fortunate enough to not have fires here in Lamorinda, smoke is an issue that can't be ignored. I have been looking into the effects of smoke and the fires lately, and I came upon some very disturbing and interesting information. In an NPR podcast called "The Science of Wildfire smoke," NOAA research chemist Jessica Gilman states that smoke is made up of gasses and small particles called PM 2.5s. These small particles come from biomass such as burned up trees, tires, and brush. They are 2.5 micrometers or smaller (hence the name) and are therefore 50 times smaller than a grain of salt. These particles can travel easily through wind and, when inhaled, hit the back of the throat or deep into the lungs. Although small, these can cause serious lung problems. Smoke is most dangerous at night when the boundary layer- the atmospheric layer closest to the ground, condenses, pushing smoke down with it. This is even worse because fires produce the most smoke at night as they die down due to cooler temperatures and higher humidity levels. According to Gilman, as the smoke travels in the wind 80% of the US will see effects of the smoke. For the smoke to be removed from the atmosphere it must be rained out. Soot, caused by fires, emits radiation from the sun after it goes down- contributing to global warming. Pollutants cause more fires which cause more pollutants, creating a cycle of harm that has lead to, and will lead to more hurricanes, rising temperatures, rising sea levels, ex-

inction, and, you guessed it, fires. Let's drive less, recycle more, and most importantly, I implore you to elect leaders that care about this crisis, because it is not the far-away issue that we like to think it is. Our lives have already been affected by it, and it will only be worse for future generations unless we step up right now.  
Molly Strohmeier  
Lafayette

### Anduri for City Council

I am writing to urge all Lafayette voters to cast a vote for Carl Anduri for the Lafayette City Council. Carl has the background, experience, and temperament we need.

I had the pleasure not only of serving ten years with Carl on the City Council from 2002 to 2012 but also serving four years with Carl on the Planning Commission. Carl listened and was always prepared, thoughtful, collegial and civil.

In addition to the Planning Commission and City Council, Carl gave his time to numerous committees, including the Hillside, Open Space, Environmental, Senior Housing, Park Theater and Roads task forces.

Despite choosing not to run for re-election in 2012 due to the demands of his legal career, he has continued to follow City issues and, as he is now retired, is eager to serve us on the Council again. We are fortunate to have a person of his caliber running. Vote for Carl Anduri for City Council!  
Carol Federighi  
Past Mayor, Lafayette

### Onoda for Moraga Town Council

As long-time advocates for open space preservation, we urge Moragans to support Teresa Onoda for Town

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Council. No other resident has worked harder—and in so many capacities—to preserve Moraga's ridgelines, hillsides, wildlife and scenic beauty. As a Councilmember (2014-2018) Onoda supported tough new hillside/ridgeline regulations, helped defeat a massive housing project in Bollinger Canyon and opposed the Moraga Way City Ventures project that now blocks public views of a protected ridgeline.

As a Planning Commissioner in 2013, Onoda helped create Commons West Park, sparing that land from a developer's plan to bury it under eight feet of excess construction fill. Before that, she spent years helping organize the successful campaign to stop the Palos Colorados golf course, which ultimately saved 200 acres from the bulldozer and generated millions in developer fees for the Town.

Beyond her exceptional open-space record, Onoda has championed Moraga's youth programs, adopted gun-safety regulations, increased collaboration with Saint Mary's College and been the driving force behind Moraga's recent public art installations. We ask Moragans to embrace this opportunity to have Onoda back on the Council. She'll again dedicate herself to making Moraga the best it can be.

Dick Immel, Chair of the 1986 Moraga Open Space Ordinance (MOSO) Initiative Committee  
Suzanne Jones, Founder, Preserve Lamorinda Open Space

### WHO IS PETT?????

I have no vested interest in Ms. Onoda's candidacy for Moraga's Town Council.

That said, I believe we all have a vested interest in political honesty and transparency, especially here in

our local Moraga politics.

The sudden appearance of the "Oh No Not Onoda" roadside signs prompted me to find out more about the sponsoring organization and to better understand why they oppose her candidacy (beyond their "Move Forward, Not Back").

My research revealed nothing about this organization. To the best of my knowledge, "PETT-People for the Ethical Treatment of Taxpayers" simply does not exist, beyond the wording on their signs.

If there are valid reasons to question and/or challenge any candidate's suitability for office, the opposing organization has the obligation to provide voters with information to help them make better, educated decisions. To borrow from the vernacular, these signs are nothing more than a shot from the grassy knoll.

Having lived in Moraga for nearly 50 years, all I can say is that we're better than this and I find PETT's actions to be unseemly and dishonest.

Paul Cohune  
Moraga

### NO to R now, YES to a Redo

I do not normally oppose what appear to be progressive taxation, but in this case

I have to. Measure R is a poorly structured 20 year tax increase that is in serious need of revision. As the East Bay Times, and the San Francisco Chronicle point out, measure R is very poorly designed and they recommend a NO vote. So do I.

Voting NO on R does not stop the city or Orinda from resubmitting a well-designed measure in 2022 with effective input from the entire Orinda community. The city has a sufficient revenue stream with the tax already in place that expires in 2023 providing sufficient funds for the current road and drainage plans. For the immediate and important needs of fire mitigation, part of the \$11,000,000 reserve grown over the past four years can be used today – now!

A Redo of R is Orinda's best plan for addressing the needs of fire mitigation along with a unified program for all of Orinda's infrastructure needs in drainage and roads. R needs a plan. I am certain that the citizens of Orinda can work with the city council and staff to develop a specific and sensible one. Then we can all be on board to a YES on the revised R.

Bill Abriel  
Orinda resident 20 years

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Natesmith4mofd.com

# NATHAN SMITH

## THE EXPERIENCE WE NEED TO PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY

Nathan Smith has served for 9 years as a firefighter/paramedic with the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District. He has a degree in economics and worked 13 years in business in Silicon Valley. Nathan has served on the front lines of the devastating Carr Fire and the Covid crisis. We need leaders like Nathan Smith who understand the threats from wildfires and medical emergencies. He will protect our communities and prudently manage District funds.

### Nate Smith is Endorsed by

**STEVEN DANZIGER**

current MOFD Board of Director President

**KATHLEEN CONROY FAMULENER**

former MOFD Board of Director

**MARK AYERS**

Chevron Refinery Chief Officer (retired)

**STEPHEN HEALY**

MOFD Fire Chief 2013-17 (retired)

**KATHY LEONARD**

MOFD Fire Marshal (retired)

**VICTORIA SMITH**

Former Orinda Mayor

Please join your Firefighters in supporting

# NATHAN SMITH

for Moraga-Orinda Fire District Board of Directors, District 2

BECAUSE EXPERIENCE COUNTS

Paid for by International Association of Fire Fighters Local 1230 Political Activity Committee FPPC 744488