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Suggestion to consolidate MOFD with ConFire

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I have the utmost respect for firefighters, but honest to God, they're employed to serve the residents of the three communities who are actually beneficiaries to their service. Why we would even entertain this idea of consolidation is beyond me."

Metcalf's personal recommendation to the council was to submit an opposition letter immediately, "because if you don't, this thing is going to fester and they're going to go through a political process which is going to try to gain support for them."

In a May 13 email, Contra Costa County Supervisor Candace Andersen stated, "The issue of annexation of MOFD to ConFire has never been dis-

cussed or even considered by ConFire staff or the ConFire Board, and there is no valid reason for us to do so. MOFD is a well funded, and well run Fire Protection District. They are meeting their response times, they provide outstanding fire response and emergency medical services, and they have a very robust plan to address emergency preparedness and woodland fires. I would not support annexing a fire district when the local leaders and community are vehemently opposed."

At the May 19 MOFD Board Meeting Baitx said that his intentions were misinterpreted and he had requested that the agenda item regarding the consolidation be removed, but Jorgens replied that he wanted it left on in order to allow for what he expected to be an overwhelming amount of public comment.

MOFD received 240 written comments prior to the meeting. After Orinda Mayor Amy Worth read the city council's letter in opposition and Moraga Vice Mayor Steve Woehleke reiterated Moraga's stand on the situation, over 15 individuals made public comments against the consolidation study.

The MOFD Board of Directors instructed staff not to spend anymore time, money or effort on this issue. As Jex put it, "It's a dead issue, and I hope it dies today."





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Each car stopped at the stage in front of Chapel Lawn where the grad exited the vehicle and had the opportunity to hear his or her name called while posing for photos with a diploma cover (all recipients will receive their actual diplomas by mail between June and August). The parade route continued counter-clockwise along De La Salle Drive before returning back to the Guard Gate and exiting the campus grounds, altogether taking about 30 minutes per vehicle. The campus-wide "CARmencement" celebration will be available for viewing via livestream on SMC's Commencement webpage.

Along the route, cheers and good wishes could be heard following the procession of graduates who were clearly grateful for the experience to acknowledge their achievements after more than a year of unprecedented educational trials.

Dean of the School of Science Roy Wensley, PhD. said, "It's exciting that these students are able to come back." By the looks on their faces and the earto-ear grins, it was apparent that they wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Sad news from Saint Mary's

In an email to the Saint Mary's College community, President James Donahue shared the sad news of the passing of longtime former president Brother Mel Anderson, FSC, on May 22. A tribute article about Brother Mel will be included in the June 9 issue of Lamorinda Weekly.





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