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I have known Steve Cohn for more than 35 years. He has been my neighbor, a thoughtful advocate for improving our community's environment, and someone I have relied on to help make sense of complex financial transactions involving our tax dollars.

Most importantly, I have seen firsthand Steve's deep commitment to Orinda and his unwavering determination to make our community better. He brings intelligence, experience, common sense, and—above all—integrity to everything he does.

In 2023, I taught a graduate course at UC Berkeley focused on wildfires in the wildland-urban interface. Knowing Steve's passion for making Orinda safer from wildfire, I invited him to participate in the course.

During the semester, I brought in 15 experts from North America and Europe to lecture on virtually every aspect of wildland fire—from fire behavior and mitigation to planning and community resilience. Steve did far more than simply attend. He immersed himself in the subject, engaged thoughtfully with the experts, asked probing questions, and developed a remarkable depth of knowledge.

What impressed me most was Steve's ability to connect the research and expertise presented in the course to the very real challenges facing Orinda. He frequently raised Orinda-specific issues, including the potential use of MOFD reserves for wildfire mitigation strategies supported by extensive research and practical planning.

That experience reinforced what I had already known about Steve: he does not simply talk about making Orinda better. He listens. He asks difficult questions. He seeks out the facts, learns from experts, and works to find practical solutions that can genuinely benefit our community.

After knowing Steve for more than three decades, I have no hesitation in saying that he is a dedicated citizen and a person of the highest integrity. Orinda would be well served by his leadership.

I am proud to support Steve Cohn. On November 3rd, please cast your vote for Steve Cohn for MOFD Director, Division 3.