SALIX NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Mike Muelrath
Applied Civil Engineering, Inc.
2160 Jefferson Street, Suite 230
Napa, California 94559

August 27, 2024

Re: Schramsberg #P23-00360-ECPA, Review Letter #2 Biological Opinion

1. Per 18.108.020(C)(2), please include in the bio report the biologist's opinion about whether the proposed vegetation clearing would/not result in greater impacts to biological resources than what would occur if the combined parcels were treated as individual units.

   For the most part, the proposed vineyard blocks (vegetation clearing areas) have been strategically placed to connect to existing vineyards, thus reducing the edge effect. If the parcels were treated as individual units, it is highly likely that proposed vegetation clearing blocks would be separate and thereby break up contiguous preservation areas, creating additional edge that can be detrimental to wildlife (see discussion below Item 2). Additionally, access roads and related infrastructure to these blocks will further break up the contiguous preservation areas. This would result in greater, detrimental impacts to biological resources.

2. Regarding oak woodland / vegetation canopy cover preservation on a separate parcel within the holding: Conceptually, it makes sense that a larger contiguous preservation area might be more beneficial than several scattered preservation areas to meet the preservation requirements on each parcel. Please have the biologist include their opinion about whether the proposed preservation area would result in greater biological and water quality protection.

   Larger, contiguous preservation areas are generally perceived as more beneficial to wildlife rather than smaller patches of preservation areas, which can result in an increased edge effect. Additional edge (cleared area to preserved area) can allow for spread of outside influences from the cleared area, into the forested area. Examples include invasive plant intrusion, higher wind; solarization and increased predation. Biological resources that are not adapted to the edge are more vulnerable to these intrusions. The areas proposed for preservation are the same or better quality as compared to the project areas.

Yours sincerely,



Heather Morrison

Principal, Salix Natural Resource Management, Inc.
California Certified Consulting Botanist

Environmental Resource Management
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7-15-2025

Mike Muelrath
Applied Engineering

Mike, you asked me to provide some additional support for the following question posted by Napa County for the Schramsberg ECP

Email from Pam Arifian

1. *"Post-fire/Existing habitats and trees:*
   a. *Sheet 2 states that 163 trees would be removed from Blocks 1-4, and the Bio Addendum states that Blocks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 were logged after the fire and have few/no trees remaining – how many total trees and acreage of tree canopy would be removed from existing condition?*
   b. *What are the acreages of existing/post-fire habitat types (for GHG)"*

Response:
All of the proposed vineyard blocks were heavily burned in the 2020 Glass Fire. An emergency notice of timber operations was filled with Cal Fire and all merchantable trees were removed. The 163 trees (estimated in 2022) that remained after this harvest were left with the anticipation that they might survive. My judgement as to what will or will not survive has undergone a significant transition as a result of the recent Glass and Tubs Fires. An overwhelming number of trees that I thought might survive have continued to die. I would estimate that the tree canopy occupied by these few remaining scattered trees is 1 acre. Note that all of the proposed vineyard blocks have been considered timberland as defined by the California Forest Practice Act.

See the habitat types as discussed in the Bio report page 25. The chart provide acreages for all vegetation types within the project areas and within the property. Current aerial photography shows a greening of vegetation over all of the burned property. Almost all of the pre fire species found on the property are able to resprout after the fire. The only species not able to sprout after the fire is Douglas Fir. This species revegetates itself by seed. I would expect the post fire habitat types to basically remain the same since most species found pre fire are resprouting. The Douglas Fir will, over the next century, reseed the area

Please contact me if you have further questions

Thank you,

SRB

Scott R. Butler

