

COUNTY OF NAPA  
PLANNING, BUILDING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT  
1195 THIRD STEET SUITE 210  
NAPA, CA 94559  
(707) 253-4417

Initial Study Checklist  
(form updated January 2019)

1. **Project Title:** Paloma Vineyard Use Permit Major Modification #P19-00386-MOD
2. **Property Owner:** Sheldon Richards, Paloma Vineyard, 4013 Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena CA 94574
3. **County Contact Person, Phone Number and email:** Sean Trippi, Supervising Planner; phone: (707) 299-1353 or email: sean.trippi@countyofnapa.org.
4. **Project Location and Assessor's Parcel Number (APN):**  
The project is located on a 17.11-acre site within the Agricultural Watershed (AW) zoning district. The site is accessed via an existing private driveway on Spring Mtn. Road, approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the city of St. Helena, with the western and southern boundaries of the site abutting Sonoma County. Project address: 4013 Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena, CA 94574. APN: 022-150-008.
5. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Scott Greenwood-Meinert, Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass, LLP., (415) 772-5741, sgreenwood-meinert@coblentzlaw.com
6. **General Plan description:** Agriculture, Watershed & Open Space (AWOS)
7. **Zoning:** Agricultural Watershed (AW)
8. **Background/Project History:**

July 7, 1999 - The Planning Commission approved the original Paloma Vineyard (aka Richards Vineyard or Richards Winery) Use Permit #98368-UP. This approval entitled a new, 10,000 gallon per year winery to be constructed in two phases consisting of a 1,600 sf cut and cover barrel storage building (Phase 1) and a 1,693 sf winery building with a 1,720 sf crush pad (Phase 2). The approval also included tours and tastings for two visitors per day by prior appointment only and a marketing plan with one event per year with a maximum of 50 people and two lunches per year with a maximum of 25 people. Outdoor facilities could be used for marketing activities which were to end by 11:00 PM, but not for tours and tastings. Hours of operation were limited to 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, six days a week, excluding marketing activities. In addition to the owners, the winery was approved for one part-time employee. The application indicated that there were eight on-site parking spaces.

April 7, 2000 - The Zoning Administrator approved Use Permit Modification #99285-MOD for the winery to relocate the cut and cover barrel storage building above ground attached to the 1,693 sf building and a 320 sf building addition, resulting in a 3,613 sf winery building. The request also included reducing the crush pad from 1,720 sf to 1,330 sf and providing a cover over the crush pad.

May 5, 2000 - The Zoning Administrator approved Use Permit Modification #99285-MOD which was a request for a rescission of Use Permit Modification #99285-MOD. The approval resulted in a revision of the design and phasing of the winery with no change to the floor area identified above, except this action did not include the reduced crush pad.

June 24, 2019 – The Director issued a status determination (P19-00120) detailing that, as established under Use Permit #98368 and its subsequent modifications, Paloma Vineyards is a 3,613 sf, 10,000 gallon per year winery limited to a maximum of two (2) visitors per day, a marketing program allowing one (1) marketing event per year with a maximum of 50 guests and two (2) marketing events per year with a maximum of 25 guests, (2) one part time employee in addition to the owners and hours of operation from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (note: The Status Determination letter indicated the hours of operation were from 7:30 a.m. to 4:20 p.m. which was a typographical error, the correct hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. per the original use permit approval letter (#98368-UP) dated July 12, 1999, condition of approval #2)

Existing Entitlement Summary

- 1) Annual wine production of 10,000 gallons
- 2) A one-story 3,613 sf winery building with a 1,720 sf crush pad
- 3) A maximum of two (2) visitors per day for tours and tastings by appointment only
- 4) A marketing program allowing one (1) marketing event per year with a maximum of 50 guests and two (2) marketing events per year with a maximum of 25 guests with catered food. All market activity shall end by 11:00 p.m.
- 5) One part time employee in addition to the owners
- 6) Hours of operation from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (six days per week - days of the week were not identified - per the original use permit application #98368-UP)
- 7) Eight (8) on-site parking spaces (per the original use permit application #98368-UP - a parking area was identified by the production building on the site plan)

9. **Description of Project:** This application was submitted to participate in the County's Code Compliance Program as described in Resolution No. 2018-164 adopted by the Napa County Board of Supervisors on December 4, 2018. The request is approval of a major modification of the previous project approvals for an existing 10,000 gallons per year winery to allow the following:

**A. COMPONENTS NECESSARY TO REMEDY EXISTING VIOLATIONS:**

- 1) Recognition of by-appointment tours and tastings for a maximum of 24 visitors per day and no more than a maximum of 65 visitors per week, and
- 2) Recognition of by-appointment tours and tastings hours of 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**B. EXPANSION BEYOND EXISTING ENTITLEMENTS:**

- 1) Construction of a new 1,065 sq. ft. hospitality building;
- 2) Conversion of existing residential accessory structure (space within the existing main residence) to winery storage;
- 3) Production operations Monday through Saturday from the hours of 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM;
- 4) By-appointment Tours and Tastings for a maximum of 22 visitors per day Sunday through Friday and a maximum of 44 visitors per day on Saturdays;
- 5) Use of a patio shared by the proposed hospitality building and an existing single-family residence for outdoor tastings and wine consumption pursuant to Business and Professions Code Sections 23358, 23390 and 23396.5.; and,
- 6) Three (3) new parking spaces near the proposed hospitality building

The applicant has also submitted plans that show widening the existing access drive to 22-feet to meet the Napa County Road and Street Standards.

10. **Describe the environmental setting and surrounding land uses.**

The project is located on a 17.11-acre parcel, approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the City of St. Helena, with the western and southern boundaries of the parcel abutting Sonoma County. Elevations on the property range from 2,020 feet above mean sea level (msl) to 2,205 feet above (msl.) The parcel is dominated by approximately 10-acres of vineyards with some edge communities of Douglas-fir and mixed oak woodland. The project parcel includes the existing winery, winery accessory structures and infrastructure such as tanks, a pump house, wastewater facilities, access routes, etc., a single-family residential structure, an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), and an accessory residential structure. The winery was established under Use Permit #98368 on July 12, 1999, by the Napa County Planning Commission.

Properties in the vicinity of the project site range in size from just under an acre to just over 47 acres. Surrounding uses include single-family homes, vineyards, and a number of producing wineries (Vineyard 7 & 8, Domaine Charbay, Guilliams, Schweiger Vineyards, Robert Keenan Winery, Philip Vineyard, Barnett Vineyards, Smith Madrone, Sherwin Family, Lokoya, and 3646 SMR Vineyard). Undeveloped areas are generally heavily wooded.

11. **Other agencies whose approval is required** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement).

The project would also require various ministerial approvals by the County, including but not limited to building permits, grading permits, waste disposal permits, in addition to meeting CalFire standards. Permits may also be required by the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Firearms.

**Responsible (R) and Trustee (T) Agencies**

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

12. **Tribal Cultural Resources.** Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resource, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.

On January 22, 2026, County Staff sent invitations to consult on the proposed project to Native American tribes who had a cultural interest in the area and who as of that date had requested to be invited to consult on projects, in accordance with the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1.

**Note:** Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21080.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND BASIS OF CONCLUSIONS:**

The conclusions and recommendations contained herein are professional opinions derived in accordance with current standards of professional practice. They are based on a review of the Napa County Environmental Resource Maps, the other sources of information listed in the file, and the comments received, conversations with knowledgeable individuals; the preparer's personal knowledge of the area; and, where necessary, a visit to the site. For further information, see the environmental background information contained in the permanent file on this project.

Other sources of information used in the preparation of this Initial Study include site-specific studies conducted by the applicant and filed by the applicant in conjunction with Application No. P19-00386-MOD as listed below, and the environmental background information contained in the permanent file on this project. These documents and information sources are incorporated herein by reference and available for review at the Napa County Department of Planning, Building and Environmental Services located at 1195 Third Street, Suite 210, Napa, CA 94559:

- Water Availability Analysis, dated: November 25, 2024
- Winery Wastewater Feasibility Report, dated: November 25, 2024
- Transportation Impact Study, dated January 28, 2026
- Napa County Geographic Information System (GIS) sensitivity maps/layers.
- Project description and plans for Permit No. P19-00386

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.



February 12, 2026

Signature

Date

Name: Sean Trippi, Supervising Planner  
Napa County Planning, Building and Environmental Services Department

I. AESTHETICS. Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a-c. Visual resources are those physical features that make up the environment, including landforms, geological features, water, trees and other plants, and elements of the human cultural landscape. A scenic vista, then, would be a publicly accessible vantage point such as a road, park, trail, or scenic overlook from which distant or landscape-scale views of a beautiful or otherwise important assembly of visual resources can be taken in. As generally described in the **Environmental Setting and Surrounding Land Uses** section, above, this area is defined by a mix of vineyard, winery, and residential uses. The project would not result in a substantial damage to scenic resources, including trees and rock outcroppings, or substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. The project site is currently developed with a winery, vineyards, a main dwelling and an accessory dwelling unit, water storage tanks, pump house, access roads, storage buildings and associated infrastructure. External changes to the site are limited to a new 1,065 sf hospitality building replacing an existing deck adjoining the main dwelling, widening the existing access drive and new parking on existing disturbed areas. The proposed improvements would not be in an area which would damage any known scenic vista, or damage scenic resources, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings.
- d. The project primarily proposes operational changes including increasing the number of by appointment tours and tastings visitors and hours of operation. The proposal also includes a new winery hospitality building and parking which could include new exterior lighting. Pursuant to standard Napa County conditions of approval for wineries, any new outdoor lighting would be required to be shielded and directed downwards, with only low-level lighting allowed in parking areas. As subject to the standard conditions of approval below, the project would not have a significant impact resulting from new sources of lighting. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

6.3 LIGHTING – PLAN SUBMITTAL

- a. *Two (2) copies of a detailed lighting plan showing the location and specifications for all lighting fixtures to be installed on the property shall be submitted for Planning Division review and approval. All lighting shall comply with the CBC.*
- b. *All exterior lighting, including landscape lighting, shall be shielded and directed downward, shall be located as low to the ground as possible, shall be the minimum necessary for security, safety, or operations; on timers; and shall incorporate the use of motion detection sensors to the greatest extent practical. All lighting shall be shielded or placed such that it does not shine directly on adjacent properties or impact vehicles on adjacent streets. No floodlighting or sodium lighting of the building is permitted, including architectural highlighting and spotting. Low-level lighting shall be utilized in parking areas as opposed to elevated high-intensity light standards.*

4.16 GENERAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE – LIGHTING, LANDSCAPING, PAINTING, OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT STORAGE, AND TRASH ENCLOSURE AREAS

- a. *All lighting shall be permanently maintained in accordance with the lighting and building plans approved by the County. Lighting utilized during harvest activities is exempt from this requirement.*

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

II.	AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES. <sup>1</sup> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Important (Farmland) as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g), timberland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 4526, or timberland zoned Timberland Production as defined in Government Code Section 51104(g)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use in a manner that will significantly affect timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, or other public benefits?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a/b/e. According to the Napa County Important Farmland Map of 2020 prepared by the California Department of Conservation District, Division of Land Resource Protection, the project site is mapped as Unique Farmland, pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency.

General Plan Agriculture Preservation and Land Use policies AG/LU-2 and AG/LU-13 recognize wineries, and any use consistent with the Winery Definition Ordinance and clearly accessory to a winery, as agriculture. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural uses. There are no other changes included in this proposal that would result in the conversion of Farmland. As a result, the proposed project would not result in the conversion of special status farmland to a non-agricultural use. No impacts would occur.

c/d. According to the Napa County GIS Sensitivity Maps (based on the following layer – Vegetation) the project site contains agricultural land (vineyards), urban and built-up land and a band of Coniferous Forest running alongside Spring Mountain Road and around the existing buildings. The proposed hospitality building would replace an existing deck adjoining the main dwelling and improvements to the access drive are not proposed within these wooded areas. These improvements are not within areas that would cause a conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production, nor would it result in the loss or, or conversion of, forest land to a non-forest use in a manner that will significantly affect timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, or other public benefits. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

<sup>1</sup> "Forest land" is defined by the State as "land that can support 10-percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits." (Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)) The Napa County General Plan anticipates and does not preclude conversion of some "forest land" to agricultural use, and the program-level EIR for the 2008 General Plan Update analyzed the impacts of up to 12,500 acres of vineyard development between 2005 and 2030, with the assumption that some of this development would occur on "forest land." In that analysis specifically, and in the County's view generally, the conversion of forest land to agricultural use would constitute a potentially significant impact only if there were resulting significant impacts to sensitive species, biodiversity, wildlife movement, sensitive biotic communities listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, water quality, or other environmental resources addressed in this checklist.

III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

On June 2, 2010, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's (now known as the Bay Area Air District (BAAD)) Board of Directors unanimously adopted thresholds of significance to assist in the review of projects under the California Environmental Quality Act. These Thresholds are designed to establish the level at which BAAD believed air pollution emissions would cause significant environmental impacts under CEQA and were posted on BAAD's website and included in BAAQMD's updated CEQA Guidelines (updated May 2012). The Thresholds are advisory and may be followed by local agencies at their own discretion.

The Thresholds were challenged in court. Following litigation in the trial court, the court of appeal, and the California Supreme Court, all of the Thresholds were upheld. However, in an opinion issued on December 17, 2015, the California Supreme Court held that CEQA does not generally require an analysis of the impacts of locating development in areas subject to environmental hazards unless the project would exacerbate existing environmental hazards. The Supreme Court also found that CEQA requires the analysis of exposing people to environmental hazards in specific circumstances, including the location of development near airports, schools near sources of toxic contamination, and certain exemptions for infill and workforce housing. The Supreme Court also held that public agencies remain free to conduct this analysis regardless of whether it is required by CEQA.

In view of the Supreme Court's opinion, local agencies may rely on Thresholds designed to reflect the impact of locating development near areas of toxic air contamination where such an analysis is required by CEQA or where the agency has determined that such an analysis would assist in making a decision about the project. However, the Thresholds are not mandatory, and agencies should apply them only after determining that they reflect an appropriate measure of a project's impacts. These Guidelines may inform environmental review for development projects in the Bay Area, but do not commit local governments or BAAD to any specific course of regulatory action.

BAAD published a new version of the Guidelines dated May 2017, which includes revisions made to address the Supreme Court's opinion (Cal. Bldg. Indus. Ass'n vs. Bay Area Air Quality Mgmt. Dist., 62 Ca 4th 369). The May 2017 Guidelines update does not address outdated references, links, analytical methodologies, or other technical information that may be in the Guidelines or Thresholds Justification Report. The Air District is currently working to revise any outdated information in the Guidelines as part of its update to the CEQA Guidelines and thresholds of significance.

a/b. The mountains bordering Napa Valley block much of the prevailing northwesterly winds throughout the year. Sunshine is plentiful in Napa County, and summertime can be very warm in the valley, particularly in the northern end. Winters are usually mild, with cool temperatures overnight and mild-to-moderate temperatures during the day. Wintertime temperatures tend to be slightly cooler in the northern end of the valley. Winds are generally calm throughout the county. Annual precipitation averages range from about 24 inches in low elevations to more than 40 inches in the mountains.

Ozone and fine particle pollution, or PM<sub>2.5</sub>, are the major regional air pollutants of concern in the San Francisco Bay Area. Ozone is primarily a problem in the summer, and fine particle pollution in the winter. In Napa County, ozone rarely exceeds health standards, but PM<sub>2.5</sub> occasionally does reach unhealthy concentrations. There are multiple reasons for PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances in Napa County. First, much of the county is wind-sheltered, which tends to trap PM<sub>2.5</sub> within the Napa Valley. Second, much of the area is well north of the moderating temperatures of San Pablo Bay and, as a result, Napa County experiences some of the coldest nights in the Bay Area. This leads to greater fireplace use and, in turn, higher PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels. Finally, in the winter easterly winds often move fine-particle-laden air from the Central Valley to the Carquinez Strait and then into western Solano and southern Napa County (BAAD, In Your Community: Napa County, April 2016)

The impacts associated with implementation of the project were evaluated consistent with guidance provided by BAAQMD. Ambient air quality standards have been established by state and federal environmental agencies for specific air pollutants most pervasive in urban environments. These pollutants are referred to as criteria air pollutants because the standards established for them were developed to meet specific health and welfare criteria set forth in the enabling legislation. The criteria air pollutants emitted by development, traffic and other activities anticipated under the proposed development include ozone, ozone precursors oxides of nitrogen and reactive organic gases (NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), and suspended particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Other criteria pollutants, such as lead and sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), would not be substantially emitted by the proposed development or traffic, and air quality standards for them are being met throughout the Bay Area.

BAAD has not officially recommended the use of its thresholds in CEQA analyses and CEQA ultimately allows lead agencies the discretion to determine whether a particular environmental impact would be considered significant, as evidenced by scientific or other factual data. BAAD also states that lead agencies need to determine appropriate air quality thresholds to use for each project they review based on substantial evidence that they include in the administrative record of the CEQA document. One resource BAAD provides as a reference for determining appropriate thresholds is the *California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines* developed by its staff in 2010 and updated through May 2017. These guidelines outline substantial evidence supporting a variety of thresholds of significance.

As mentioned above, in 2010, the BAAD adopted and later incorporated into its 2011 CEQA Guidelines project screening criteria (Table 3-1 – Operational-Related Criteria Air Pollutant and Precursors Screening Level Sizes) and thresholds of significance for air pollutants, which have now been updated by BAAD through May 2017. The size of the entire project is approximately 4,678 sf of enclosed floor area, including the existing winery production building (3,613 sf) and proposed hospitality building (1,065 sf). Compared to the BAAD's screening criterion of 47,000 square feet (high quality restaurant) and 541,000 square feet (general light industry) for NO<sub>x</sub> (oxides of nitrogen), the project would contribute an insignificant amount of air pollution and would not result in a conflict or obstruction of an air quality plan. Please note: a high-quality restaurant is considered comparable to a winery tasting room for purposes of evaluating air pollutant emissions, but grossly overstates emissions associated with other portions of a winery, such as office, barrel storage and production, which generate fewer vehicle trips. Therefore, a general light industry comparison has also been used for other such uses. The project falls below the screening criteria as noted above and consequently will not significantly affect air quality individually or contribute considerably to any cumulative air quality impacts.

- c. In the short term, potential air quality impacts are most likely to result from construction activities required for project construction. Earthmoving and construction emissions would have a temporary effect; consisting mainly of dust during construction activities, exhaust emissions from construction related equipment and vehicles, and relatively minor emissions from paints and other coatings. If grading were to result in off or on-haul of soils, these potential construction impacts would be temporary in nature and subject to standard conditions of approval from the Engineering Division as part of the grading permit or building permit review process.

The Air District recommends incorporating feasible control measures as a means of addressing construction impacts. If the proposed project adheres to these relevant best management practices identified by the Air District and the County's standard conditions of project approval, construction-related impacts are considered less than significant:

## 7.1 SITE IMPROVEMENTS

### c. AIR QUALITY

*During all construction activities the permittee shall comply with the most current version of BAAQMD Basic Construction Best Management Practices including but not limited to the following, as applicable:*

1. *Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. The BAAQMD's phone number shall also be visible.*
2. *Water all exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, grading areas, and unpaved access roads) two times per day.*
3. *Cover all haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site.*
4. *Remove all visible mud or dirt traced onto adjacent public roads by using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.*
5. *All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph.*
6. *All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible. Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.*
7. *Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting off equipment when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five (5) minutes (as required by State Regulations). Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points.*
8. *All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. Any portable engines greater than 50 horsepower or associated equipment operated within the BAAQMD's jurisdiction*

shall have either a California Air Resources Board (ARB) registration Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) or a BAAQMD permit. For general information regarding the certified visible emissions evaluator or the registration program, visit the ARB FAQ [http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/perp/perfact\\_04-16-15.pdf](http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/perp/perfact_04-16-15.pdf) or the PERP website <http://www.arb.ca.gov/portable/portable.htm>.

Furthermore, while earthmoving and construction on the site would generate dust particulates in the short-term, the impact would be less than significant with dust control measures as specified in Napa County's standard condition of approval relating to dust:

7.1 SITE IMPROVEMENTS

b. DUST CONTROL

Water and/or dust palliatives shall be applied in sufficient quantities during grading and other ground disturbing activities on-site to minimize the amount of dust produced. Outdoor construction activities shall not occur when average wind speeds exceed 20 mph.

- d. While the Air District defines public exposure to offensive odors as a potentially significant impact, wineries are not known operational producers of pollutants capable of causing substantial negative impacts to sensitive receptors. The physical improvements and operational changes would not significantly increase odors associated with the winery. Construction-phase pollutants would be reduced to a less than significant level by the above-noted standard condition of approval. The project would not create pollutant concentrations or objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, Coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a/b. The parcel is dominated by approximately 10-acres of vineyards with some edge communities of Douglas-fir and mixed oak woodland between the vineyards and Spring Mountain Road. The nearest blue-line stream (Mill creek) is approximately 1,860 feet north of the project site. The project site includes a winery, winery accessory structures and infrastructure such as tanks, a pump house, wastewater facilities, access routes, etc., a single-family residential structure, an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), and an accessory residential structure. Additional improvements proposed on the property include construction of a new 1,065 sq. ft. hospitality building in place of a deck attached to the single-family residence, conversion of an existing residential accessory structure to winery equipment storage, three (3) new parking spaces near the proposed hospitality building, and widening the existing access drive which will require the removal of 12 trees (six pines, three oaks, two olive trees and one unidentified tree) and approximately 93 vines. All proposed improvements are in previously developed and/or disturbed areas. Any Oak trees removed because of the project shall be replaced at a 2:1 ratio and shown on the grading plans for the Planning Division's review and approval. Trees to be retained shall be protected during construction by fencing securely installed at the outer most dripline of the tree or trees. Such fencing shall be maintained throughout the duration of the work undertaken in connection with the winery development/construction. In no case shall construction material, debris or vehicles be stored in the fenced tree protection area.

In review of Napa County Geographic Information System (GIS) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) layers, the subject property is within an area of the County that is known to have the potential for Napa false indigo (*Amorpha californica* var. *napensis*) near the eastern portion of the access drive, and Napa checkerbloom (*Sidalcea hickmanii* ssp. *napensis*) within the western portion of the site that is planted in vines (no work is proposed in this area), and Northern Spotted Owl (NSO).

Protecting the continued presence of special-status species, including special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and their habitats is encouraged by Napa County General Plan Goal CON-3<sup>2</sup>. Pursuant to Napa County General Plan Policy CON-13, the County requires discretionary agricultural projects to consider and address impacts to wildlife habitat and avoid impacts to habitat supporting special status species to the extent feasible, and where impacts to special-status species and their habitat cannot be avoided, projects shall include effective mitigation measures to provide protection for habitat supporting special-status species through buffering or other means. Specifically, General Plan Policy CON-13(d) and (e) provide protections for habitat through buffering or other means, and by requiring replacement of habitat of like quantity and quality on- or off-site to mitigate impacts on special status species.

Because the project has the potential for occurrences of Napa false indigo and Napa checkerbloom, the project may result in direct or inadvertent removal of special status plants. Removal of special status plants is considered a potentially significant cumulative impact therefore, **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** has been incorporated into the project to require botanical surveys for special-status plants at the project development areas prior to any grading and/or vegetation removal. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will reduce potentially significant cumulative impacts on special-status plants to a less than significant level.

As noted above, the proposed project includes the removal of 12 trees as a result of the widening the existing access drive. The general attributes of NSO habitat include dense, multi-layered canopy of several tree species of varying size and ages with open spaces among the lower branches to allow flight under the canopy. NSO habitat also tends to include abundant logs, snags/cavity trees with broken tops or platform-like substrates. The trees to be removed are directly adjacent to the existing access drive and vineyards and provide low quality and highly disturbed habitat due to regular vehicle traffic and vineyard activities. In the abundance of caution and in order to mitigate any potentially significant impacts to owls, **Mitigation Measure BIO-2** requires NSO Owl surveys prior to any on site vegetation removal.

While the proposed tree removal is located next to the existing access drive, with low quality and highly disturbed habitat due to regular vehicle traffic and vineyard activities, migratory birds and raptors have the potential to nest within the woodlands adjacent to the project area. Tree removal to accommodate improvements to the project access drive and intermittent increases in noise levels due to project construction may cause nest abandonment and death of young or loss of reproductive potential at active nests located near project activities, resulting in potentially significant indirect and cumulative impacts to special-status bird species. In the abundance of caution, **Mitigation Measure BIO-3** will require preconstruction surveys for nesting birds to reduce this impact to less than significant level. Due to proposed tree removal, and in the abundance of caution, in order to mitigate any potentially significant impacts to bat species, **Mitigation Measure BIO-4** requires a bat habitat assessment and surveys prior to any on site vegetation removal. No other sensitive species have been identified. Based on the limited location of site improvements and minor modifications to winery operations, it is unlikely that the proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on any candidate, sensitive or special status species, or that it would have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive natural communities. Due to the aforementioned factors, the proposed project would have a less than significant impact on any candidate, sensitive or special status species, or would have a substantial adverse effect on sensitive natural communities.

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<sup>2</sup> Goal Con-3: Protect the continued presence of special-status species, including special-status plants, special-status wildlife, and their habitats, and comply with all applicable state, federal, or local laws or regulations.

- c. According to the Napa County GIS Sensitivity Maps (based on the following layers – Wetlands and vernal pools and National Wetlands Inventory) there are no wetlands on the site. The project will not have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, Coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.
- d. All proposed improvements would occur on, or adjacent to, previously disturbed areas of the property. Therefore, project activities would not interfere with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with their corridors or nursery sites. No impacts would occur.
- e. The project does not require tree removal and would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. No impacts would occur.
- f. The site is not subject to any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures:

**Mitigation Measure BIO-1:** The owner/permittee shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts to special-status plant species:

Prior to the initiation of earth disturbing activities, a qualified biologist (defined as having demonstrable qualifications and experience with the particular species for which they are surveying) shall conduct botanical surveys for special-status plants at the project site. The survey shall be completed during the appropriate blooming period for the species likely to occur on site. These surveys shall be in compliance with CDFW's *Protocol's for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (2018)*. If the survey finds that there are no special-status plants within the proposed project site that would be impacted by the project, then there would be no further mitigation necessary and the project may proceed, provided all other applicable permits and authorizations are obtained for the project.

Any special-status plants/populations removed, including inadvertent removals, shall be replaced on-site at a ratio of 2:1 at locations with similar habitat. For such removal a replacement plan shall be prepared by a qualified biologist, botanist or ecologist for review and approval by the Planning Division and CDFW prior to commencement of any earth disturbing including but not limited to grading and construction activities. At a minimum, the replacement plan shall include i) a site plan showing the locations where replacement plants will be planted, ii) a plant pallet composed of the special-status plants specie(s) being removed including sizes and/or application rates, iii) planting notes and details including any recommended plant protection measures, iv) invasive species removal and management specifications, v) an implementation and monitoring schedule, and vi) performance standards with a minimum success rate of 80% to ensure the success of re-vegetation efforts. Any replaced special-status plants shall be monitored for a period of at least three years to success criteria are met.

**Method of Monitoring:** Prior to issuance of any grading permit or building permit(s) and through completion of initial site disturbance, the County shall review the results of all pre-construction surveys and any proposed removal of special-status plants/populations, including inadvertent removals. For such removal, a replacement plan shall be prepared by a qualified botanist or ecologist for review and approval by the PBES Director and CDFW prior to commencement of grading and construction activities. All measures shall be noted on the final project plans.

**Mitigation measure BIO-2:** The owner/permittee shall implement the following measures to minimize potential impacts to Northern Spotted Owls (NSO):

A qualified biologist (defined as having demonstrable qualifications and experience with the particular species for which they are surveying) shall provide an assessment of potential NSO nesting habitat within the Project site and a 0.25-mile radius and obtain CDFW's written acceptance of the assessment.

Alternatively, if the assessment is not completed, or if it concludes that NSO nesting habitat is present, then no Project activities within 0.25 miles of potential NSO nesting habitat shall occur between March 15 and July 31 unless a qualified biologist approved in writing by CDFW conducts NSO surveys following the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) *Protocol for Surveying Proposed Management Activities That May Impact Northern Spotted Owls*, dated (revised) January 9, 2012, available at <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=83977&inline>. Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with Section 9 of the survey protocol, Surveys for Disturbance-Only Projects. If breeding NSO are detected during surveys, CDFW shall be immediately notified and a 0.25-mile no-disturbance buffer zone shall be implemented around the nest until the end of the breeding season, or a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active in consultation with CDFW, unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. The Project shall obtain CDFW's written acceptance of the qualified biologist and survey report prior to Project construction occurring between March 15 and July 31 each year.

Alternate buffer zones may be proposed to CDFW after conducting an auditory and visual disturbance analysis following the USFWS guidance, *Estimating the Effects of Auditory and Visual Disturbance to Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets in Northwestern California*, dated October 1, 2020. Alternative buffers must be approved in writing by CDFW.

If take of northern spotted owl cannot be avoided, the Project shall consult with CDFW pursuant to CESA and obtain an ITP, and also consult with USFWS pursuant to the federal ESA.

**Method of Monitoring:** The above measure applies to ground disturbing activities and associated building and grading permits with survey recommendations to be implemented in conjunction with all construction activities. Prior to the commencement of vegetation removal and earthmoving activities, the Owner/Permittee shall provide copies of required surveys and CDFW approval(s) and/or related CDFW correspondence to the Planning Division.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-3:** The owner/permittee shall implement the following measures to minimize impacts associated with the potential loss and disturbance of special-status and nesting birds and raptors consistent with and pursuant to California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5:

For earth-disturbing activities occurring between February 1 and August 31 (which coincides with the grading season of April 1 through October 15 – NCC Section 18.108.070.L, and bird breeding and nesting seasons), a qualified biologist (defined as knowledgeable and experienced in the biology and natural history of local avian resources with the potential to occur at the project site) shall conduct a preconstruction surveys for nesting birds within all suitable habitat on the project site, and where there is potential for impacts adjacent to the project areas (typically within 500 feet of project activities). The preconstruction survey shall be conducted no earlier than seven (7) days prior to when vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities are to commence. Should ground disturbance commence later than seven (7) days from the survey date, surveys shall be repeated. A copy of the survey shall be provided to the Napa County Conservation Division and the CDFW prior to commencement of work.

After commencement of work if there is a period of no work activity of seven (7) days or longer during the bird breeding season, surveys shall be repeated to ensure birds have not established nests during inactivity.

In the event that nesting birds are found, the owner/permittee shall identify appropriate avoidance methods and exclusion buffers in consultation with the County Conservation Division and the USFWS and/or CDFW prior to initiation of project activities. Exclusion buffers may vary in size, depending on habitat characteristics, project activities/disturbance levels, and species as determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the County's Conservation Division and/or the USFWS or CDFW.

Exclusion buffers shall be fenced with temporary construction fencing (or the like), the installation of which shall be verified by Napa County prior to the commencement of any earthmoving and/or development activities. Exclusion buffers shall remain in effect until the young have fledged or nest(s) are otherwise determined inactive by a qualified biologist.

Alternative methods aimed at flushing out nesting birds prior to preconstruction surveys, whether physical (i.e., removing or disturbing nests by physically disturbing trees with construction equipment), audible (i.e., utilizing sirens or bird cannons), or chemical (i.e., spraying nesting birds or their habitats) would be considered an impact to nesting birds and is prohibited. Any act associated with flushing birds from project areas shall undergo consultation with the USFWS/CDFW prior to any activity that could disturb nesting birds.

**Method of Monitoring:** The above measure applies to associated building and grading permits with survey recommendations to be implemented in conjunction with all construction activities. The above measure applies to ground disturbing activities and associated building and grading permits. Prior to the commencement of vegetation removal and earthmoving activities pursuant to #P22-00384, the Owner/Permittee shall provide copies required surveys and CDFW approval(s) and/or related CDFW correspondence to the Planning Division.

**Mitigation Measure BIO-4:** Bat Tree Habitat Assessment and Surveys.

Prior to any tree trimming or removal, a qualified biologist shall conduct a habitat assessment for bats, unless otherwise approved in writing by CDFW. The habitat assessment shall be conducted a minimum of 30 to 90 days prior to tree trimming or removal and shall include a visual inspection of potential roosting features of trees to be removed (e.g., cavities, crevices in wood and bark, exfoliating bark for colonial species, suitable canopy for foliage roosting species). If suitable habitat trees are found, they shall be flagged or otherwise clearly marked, CDFW shall be notified immediately, and tree trimming or removal shall not proceed without approval in writing from CDFW.

If the presence of bats is presumed or documented, trees may be removed only: a) using the two-step removal process detailed below during seasonal periods of bat activity, from approximately March 1 through April 15 and September 1 through October 15, or b) after a qualified biologist, under prior written approval of the proposed survey methods by CDFW, conducts night emergence surveys or completes visual examination of roost features that establish absence of roosting bats.

Two-step tree removal shall be conducted over two consecutive days, as follows: 1) the first day (in the afternoon), under the direct supervision and instruction by a qualified biologist with experience conducting two-step tree removal, limbs and branches shall be removed by a tree cutter using chainsaws only. Limbs with cavities, crevices or deep bark fissures shall be avoided, and 2) the second day the entire tree shall be removed.

**Method of Monitoring:** The above measure applies to associated building and grading permits with survey recommendations to be implemented in conjunction with all construction activities. The above measure applies to ground disturbing activities and associated building and grading permits. Prior to the commencement of vegetation removal and earthmoving activities, the Owner/Permittee shall provide copies of required surveys and CDFW approval(s) and/or related CDFW correspondence to the Planning Division.

V.	CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a/b. According to the Napa County Environmental Resources Maps (based on the following layers – Historical sites points & lines, Archaeology surveys, sites, sensitive areas, and flags) no significant or potentially significant prehistoric artifacts, archaeological deposits, or features have been identified within the project area. However, if any previous undiscovered resources are found during grading of the project, construction of the project is required to cease, and a qualified archaeologist will be retained to investigate the site in accordance with the following standard condition of approval that will be imposed on the project. Impacts are anticipated to be less than significant.

7.2 ARCHEOLOGICAL FINDING

*In the event that archeological artifacts or human remains are discovered during construction, work shall cease in a 50-foot radius surrounding the area of discovery. The permittee shall contact the PBES Department for further guidance, which will likely include the requirement for the permittee to hire a qualified professional to analyze the artifacts encountered and to determine if additional measures are required.*

*If human remains are encountered during project development, all work in the vicinity must be halted, and the Napa County Coroner informed, so that the Coroner can determine if an investigation of the cause of death is required, and if the remains are of Native American origin. If the remains are of Native American origin, the permittee shall comply with the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 5097.98.*

c. No human remains have been previously encountered on the property; no information has been encountered that would indicate that this project would encounter human remains. If human remains are encountered during project development, construction of the project is required to cease, and the requirements of Condition of Approval 7.2, listed above, would apply. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VI.	ENERGY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. During construction of the proposed project, the use of construction equipment, truck trips for hauling materials, and construction workers' commutes to and from the project site would consume fuel. Construction activities and corresponding fuel energy consumption would be temporary and localized. In addition, there are no unusual project characteristics that would cause the use of construction equipment or haul vehicles that would be less energy efficient compared with other similar agricultural construction sites within Napa County.
- The proposed project would comply with Title 24 energy use requirements, and once construction is complete, equipment and energy use would be slightly higher than existing levels and the proposed project would not include any unusual maintenance activities that would cause a significant difference in energy efficiency compared to the surrounding developed land uses. Thus, the proposed project would not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy use. This impact would be less than significant
- b. The proposed project would not conflict with the provisions of a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency because there are no plans applicable to the subject site. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VII.	GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
	i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

- |   |                          |                          |                                     |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| d) Be located on expansive soil creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? Expansive soil is defined as soil having an expansive index greater than 20, as determined in accordance with ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials) D 4829. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Discussion:

- a.
- i.) There are no known faults that run beneath the project site on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. As such, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact with regards to rupturing of a known fault. Impacts would be less than significant.
  - ii.) All areas of the Bay Area are subject to strong seismic ground shaking. Construction of the project would be required to comply with the latest standards and codes, including the California Building Code that would reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level in relation to seismic ground shaking.
  - iii.) According to Napa County GIS Sensitivity Maps (based on the following layer – Liquefaction) the property is designated in an area with a Very Low susceptibility for liquefaction. No subsurface conditions have been identified on the project site that indicated a susceptibility to seismic-related ground failure or liquefaction. There were no known issues with the construction of the existing building and caves. Compliance with the latest edition of the California Building Code for seismic stability would result in less than significant impacts.
  - iv.) According to the Napa County GIS Sensitivity Maps (Landslides line, polygon, and geology layers) a portion of the access drive near its intersection with Spring Mountain Road is underlain by a landslide deposit. As discussed above, construction of the project will need to comply with standard County building grading permit policies which will require a geotechnical (soils investigation) report and appropriate structural design considerations as a part of the building and grading permit applications for all project structures and access drive improvements. Geotechnical reports are prepared by a California licensed geotechnical engineer and address soil stability, guiding recommendations for foundation design and earthwork operations. By incorporating conditions of approval to ensure compliance with these requirements, potential impacts are reduced to less than significant.
- b. The proposed improvements would occur within the previously disturbed and/or developed portions of the site. All on site improvements will be constructed according to plans prepared by a registered civil engineer, which will be reviewed and approved by the County Engineering Division prior to the commencement of any on site land preparation or construction. Grading and drainage improvements will be constructed according to the current Napa County Road and Street Standards (RSS), Chapter 16.28 of the Napa County Code, and Appendix J of the California Building Code. Prior to issuance of a building or grading permit the owner will submit the necessary documents for Erosion Control as determined by the area of disturbance of the proposed development in accordance with the Napa Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Guidance. Engineering Division Conditions of Approval have been included to ensure compliance with the requirements. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c/d. According to the Napa County GIS Sensitivity Maps (based on the following layers - Geology, Surficial deposits, and Soil Type), the property is composed of boomer-Forward-Felta complex (5 to 30% slopes and 30 to 50% slopes), Goulding cobbly clay loam (15 to 30% slopes), and Henneke gravelly loam (4 to 46% slopes). The property is underlain by bedrock with a very low tendency to liquefy. All proposed construction will be required to comply with all the latest building standards and codes at the time of construction. The project is not proposed on an unstable geologic unit or soil that would become unstable or would create direct or indirect risks to life or property. Compliance with the latest editions of the California Building Code for seismic stability would reduce any potential impacts to the maximum extent possible, resulting in less than significant impacts.
- e. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. The Napa County Division of Environmental RHealth has reviewed this application and recommends approval based on the submitted *Winery Wastewater Feasibility Report* prepared by RSA+, dated November 24, 2024. Soils on the property have been determined to be adequate to support the on-site treatment and dispersal of wastewater generated by the project including the winery’s domestic wastewater resulting from the proposed number of visitors.
- f. No paleontological resources or unique geological features have been identified on the property in the project area or were encountered on the property when the existing building and cave were constructed, and the vines were planted. The project as proposed would require minimal earth disturbing activities and construction is unlikely to uncover paleontological or unique geological features. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VIII.	GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Generate a net increase in greenhouse gas emissions in excess of applicable thresholds adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District or the California Air Resources Board which may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Conflict with a county-adopted climate action plan or another applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion: On April 20, 2022, the BAAD adopted updated thresholds of significance for climate impacts (CEQA Thresholds for Evaluating the Significance of Climate Impacts, BAAD April 2022)<sup>3</sup>. The updated thresholds to evaluate GHG and climate impacts from land use projects are qualitative and geared toward building and transportation projects. Per the BAAD, all other projects should be analyzed against either an adopted local Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy (i.e., Climate Action Plan (CAP)) or other threshold determined on a case-by-case basis by the Lead Agency. If a project is consistent with the State’s long-term climate goals of being carbon neutral by 2045, then a project would have a less-than-significant impact as endorsed by the California Supreme Court in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Department of Fish & Wildlife* (2015) 62 Cal. 4th 204). There is no proposed construction-related climate impact threshold at this time. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from construction represent a very small portion of a project’s lifetime GHG emissions. The proposed thresholds for land use projects are designed to address operational GHG emissions which represent the vast majority of project GHG emissions.

Napa County has been working to develop a Climate Action Plan (CAP) for several years. In 2012, a Draft CAP (March 2012) was recommended using the emissions checklist in the Draft CAP, on a trial basis, to determine potential greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with project development and operation. At the December 11, 2012, Napa County Board of Supervisors (BOS) hearing, the BOS considered adoption of the proposed CAP. In addition to reducing Napa County’s GHG emissions, the proposed plan was intended to address compliance with CEQA for projects reviewed by the County and to lay the foundation for development of a local offset program. While the BOS acknowledged the plan’s objectives, the BOS requested that the CAP be revised to better address transportation-related greenhouse gas, to acknowledge and credit past accomplishments and voluntary efforts, and to allow more time for establishment of a cost-effective local offset program. The BOS also requested that best management practices be applied and considered when reviewing projects until a revised CAP is adopted to ensure that projects address the County’s policy goal related to reducing GHG emissions. In addition, the BOS recommended utilizing the emissions checklist and associated carbon stock and sequestration factors in the Draft CAP to assess and disclose potential GHG emissions associated with project development and operation pursuant to CEQA.

In July 2015, the County re-commenced preparation of the CAP to: i) account for present day conditions and modeling assumptions (such as but not limited to methods, emission factors, and data sources), ii) address the concerns with the previous CAP effort as outlined above, iii) meet applicable State requirements, and iv) result in a functional and legally defensible CAP. On April 13, 2016, the County, as the part of the first phase of development and preparation of the CAP, released Final Technical Memorandum #1: 2014 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Forecast, April 13, 2016. This initial phase included: i) updating the unincorporated County’s community-wide GHG emissions inventory to 2014, and ii) preparing new GHG emissions forecasts for the 2020, 2030, and 2050 horizons. On July 24, 2018, the County prepared a Notice of Preparation of a Draft Focused EIR for the Climate Action Plan. The review period was from July 24, 2018, through August 22, 2018. The Draft Focused EIR for the CAP was published May 9, 2019. Additional information on the County CAP can be obtained at the Napa County Department of Planning, Building and Environmental Services or online at <https://www.countyofnapa.org/589/Planning-Building-Environmental-Services>. The County’s draft CAP was placed on hold, when the Climate Action Committee (CAC) began meeting on regional GHG reduction strategies in 2019. The County is currently preparing an updated CAP to provide a clear framework to determine what land use actions will be necessary to meet the State’s adopted GHG reduction goals, including a quantitative and measurable strategy for achieving net zero emissions by 2045.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.baaqmd.gov/plans-and-climate/california-environmental-quality-act-ceqa/updated-ceqa-guidelines> , April 2022

For the purposes of this assessment the carbon stock and sequestration factors identified within the 2012 Draft CAP are utilized to calculate and disclose potential GHG emissions associated with agricultural “construction” and development and with “ongoing” agricultural maintenance and operation, as further described below. The 2012 Draft CAP carbon stock and sequestration factors are utilized in this assessment because they provide the most generous estimate of potential emissions. As such, the County considers that the anticipated potential emissions resulting from the proposed project that are disclosed in this Initial Study reasonably reflect proposed conditions and therefore are considered appropriate and adequate for project impact assessment.

Regarding operational emissions, as part of the statewide implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 743, the Governor’s Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) settled upon automobile vehicle miles of travel (VMT) as the preferred metric for assessing passenger vehicle-related impacts under CEQA and issued revised CEQA Guidelines in December 2018, along with a Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA to assist practitioners in implementing the CEQA Guidelines revisions. The CEQA Guidelines and the LCI Technical Advisory concluded that, absent substantial evidence otherwise, the addition of 110 or fewer daily trips could be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact. The County maintains a set of Transportation Impact Study Guidelines (TIS Guidelines) that define situations and project characteristics that trigger the need to prepare a TIS. The purpose of a TIS is to identify whether the project is likely to cause adverse physical or operational changes on a County roadway, bridge, bikeway or other transportation facility, to determine whether the project should be required to implement or contribute to improvement measures to address those changes, and to ensure that the project is developed consistent with the County’s transportation plans and policies. Per the County’s current TIS Guidelines, a project is required to prepare a TIS if it generates 110 or more net new daily vehicle trips. The TIS Guidelines also include VMT analysis requirements for projects based on trip generation, which includes a screening approach that provides a structure to determine what level of VMT analysis may be required for a given project. For a new project that would generate less than 110 net new daily vehicle and truck trips, not only is the project not required to prepare a TIS, it is also presumed to have a less-than-significant impact for VMT. However, applicants are encouraged to describe the measures they are taking and/or plan to take that would reduce the project’s trip generation and/or VMT. Projects that generate more than 110 net new passenger vehicle trips must conduct a VMT analysis and identify feasible strategies to reduce the project’s vehicular travel; if the feasible strategies would not reduce the project’s VMT by at least 15%, the conclusion would be that the project would cause a significant environmental impact.

a/b. Overall increases in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in Napa County were assessed in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) prepared for the Napa County General Plan Update and certified in June 2008. GHG emissions were found to be significant and unavoidable in that document, despite the adoption of mitigation measures incorporating specific policies and action items into the General Plan.

Consistent with the General Plan action items, Napa County participated in the development of a community wide GHG emissions inventory and “emission reduction framework” for all local jurisdictions in the County in 2008-2009. This planning effort was completed by the Napa County Transportation and Planning Agency in December 2009 and served as the basis for development of a refined inventory and emission reduction plan for unincorporated Napa County. During our ongoing planning effort, the County requires project applicants to consider methods to reduce GHG emissions consistent with Napa County General Plan Policy CON-65(e). For the purposes of this analysis potential GHG emissions associated with winery ‘construction’ and ‘development’ and with ‘ongoing’ winery operations have been discussed.

The County requires project applicants to consider methods to reduce GHG emissions consistent with Napa County General Plan Policy CON-65(e). Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183, this assessment focuses on impacts that are “peculiar to the project,” rather than the cumulative impacts previously assessed, because this Initial Study assesses a project that is consistent with an adopted General Plan for which an EIR was prepared. GHGs are the atmospheric gases whose absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect, including carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, ozone, and the fluorocarbons, which contribute to climate change. CO<sub>2</sub> is the principal GHG emitted by human activities, and its concentration in the atmosphere is most affected by human activity. It also serves as the reference gas to which to compare other GHGs. For the purposes of this analysis potential GHG emissions associated with winery ‘construction’ and ‘development’ and with ‘ongoing’ winery operations have been discussed.

GHG emissions from construction represent a very small portion of a project’s lifetime GHG emissions. The BAAD recommended thresholds do not include a construction-related climate impact threshold at this time. One time “Construction Emissions” associated with the project include: emissions associated with the energy used to develop and prepare the project area, construction, and construction equipment, and worker vehicle trips (hereinafter referred to as Equipment Emissions). The physical improvements associated with this project include the construction of approximately 1,065 sq. ft. hospitality building and widening the access drive. As discussed in Section III. Air Quality, construction emissions would have a temporary effect and BAAD recommends incorporating feasible control measures as a means of addressing construction impacts. If the proposed project adheres to relevant best management practices identified by the BAAD and the County’s standard conditions of project approval, construction-related impacts are considered less than significant. See Section III. Air Quality for additional information.

The BAAD proposed thresholds for land use projects are designed to address “Operational” GHG emissions which represent the vast

majority of project GHG emissions. Operational emissions associated with a winery generally include: i) any reduction in the amount of carbon sequestered by existing vegetation that is removed as part of the project compared to a “no project” scenario (hereinafter referred to as Operational Sequestration Emissions); and ii) ongoing emissions from the energy used to maintain and operate the winery, including vehicle trips associated with employee and visitor trips (hereinafter referred to as Operational Emissions)

As noted above, Napa County has not adopted a qualified GHG reduction strategy or an air quality plan, therefore projects will be evaluated per the BAAQMD recommended minimum design elements.

Specifically for buildings, the project must not:

- Include natural gas appliances or natural gas plumbing (in both residential and nonresidential development); and
- Result in any wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary electrical usage as determined by the analysis required under CEQA section 21100(b)(3) and CEQA Guidelines section 15126.2(b).

The project will be required, through conditions of project approval, to prohibit the use of natural gas appliances or plumbing. Additionally, at the time of construction the project will be required to comply with the California Building Code, which is currently being updated to include regulations to assist in the reduction of air quality impacts associated with construction, such as prohibiting natural gas appliance and plumbing. The new construction will be required to install energy efficient fixtures complying with CA Building Code Title 24 standards. See section VI. Energy for additional information on energy usage.

Specifically for transportation, the project must:

- Achieve compliance with electric vehicle requirements in the most recently adopted version of CALGreen Tier 2, and
- Achieve a reduction in project-generated vehicle miles traveled (VMT) below the regional average consistent with the current version of the California Climate Change Scoping Plan (currently 15 percent) or meet a locally adopted Senate Bill 743 VMT target reflecting the following recommendations:
  - o Residential projects: 15 percent below the existing VMT per capita;
  - o Office projects: 15 percent below the existing VMT per employee; or
  - o Retail projects: no net increase in existing VMT.

As discussed above and in section XVII. Transportation, the County maintains TIS Guidelines that include VMT analysis requirements for projects based on trip generation. Based on the project trip generation worksheets, the winery is expected to generate 29 weekday trips and 33 trips on the weekend, a net increase of 21 weekday and 25 weekend trips. A full operational study was not prepared; however, a Transportation Impact Study was prepared that included site access and safety. For a project that would generate less than 110 net new daily vehicle and truck trips, not only is the project not required to prepare a TIS, it is also presumed to have a less-than-significant impact for VMT. See Section XVII. Transportation for additional detail.

The applicant proposes implementing some GHG reduction strategies. These include providing shuttle service for large marketing events, solar hot water heating, energy conserving lighting, the installation of water efficient fixtures, water efficient landscaping, implementing a sustainable purchasing and shipping program, and limiting the amount of grading and tree removal. The applicant also intends to use recycled materials, educate staff and visitors about sustainable practices, and retain biomass via pruning and thinning by chipping the material for reuse rather than burning. A condition of approval will be included to require implementation of the checked Voluntary Best Management Practices Measures submitted with the project application. The increase in emissions expected as a result of the project would be relatively modest, and the project is in compliance with the County’s efforts to reduce emissions as described above. By adhering to these relevant design standards identified by BAAD, the requirements of the California Building Code, and Conditions of Approval, the project would be consistent with the State’s long-term climate goals of being carbon neutral by 2045. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IX.	HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wild-land fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. The proposed project would not involve the transport of hazardous materials other than those small amounts utilized in typical winery operations. A Business Plan will be filed with the Environmental Health Division should the amount of hazardous materials reach reportable levels. However, if the proposed use or a future use involves the use, storage or transportation of greater than 55 gallons or 500 pounds of hazardous materials, a use permit and subsequent environmental assessment would be required in accordance with the Napa County Zoning Ordinance prior to the establishment of the use. During construction of the project some hazardous materials, such as building coatings/ adhesives/ etc., will be utilized. However, given the quantities of hazardous materials and the limited duration, they will result in a less than significant impact. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. Hazardous materials such as diesel and maintenance fluids would potentially be used onsite during construction. Should they be stored onsite, these materials would be stored in secure locations to reduce the potential for upset or accident conditions. The proposed project consists of an existing winery that would not be expected to use any substantial quantities of hazardous materials. The operational changes are not anticipated to significantly increase the quantities. Therefore, it would not be reasonably foreseeable for the proposed project to create upset or accident conditions that involve the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Impacts would be less than significant.
- c. There are no schools located within one-quarter mile from the existing winery buildings. The nearest school is within the City of St. Helena, approximately four and a half miles as the crow flies southeast of the winery. No impacts would occur.
- d. Based on a search of the California Department of Toxic Substances Control database, the project site does not contain any known EPA National Priority List sites, State response sites, voluntary cleanup sites, or any school cleanup sites. No impact would occur as the project site is not on any known list of hazardous materials sites.
- e. No impact would occur as the project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport.
- f. The Napa County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines procedures, including establishing leadership roles and responsibilities of various agency staff, that guide local preparedness, response, recovery, and resource management efforts associated with occurrence of a natural disaster, significant emergency, or other threat to public safety. The project would not result in closure or permanent obstruction of adjacent public rights-of-way. No component of the implementation of the EOP would otherwise be impaired by the

proposed modifications to the use permit. The driveway relocation will meet County standards. The proposed winery would not obstruct an emergency response or evacuation plan. Impacts would be less than significant.

- g. According to the Napa County Environmental resource maps (based on the following GIS layer – Fire Hazard Severity Zones) the winery buildings and associated improvements are within an area designated as a very high fire risk. The proposed project would increase visitation for by appointment tours and tastings which will increase the total number of visitors and guests that would visit the project site on a daily and annual basis. The proposed physical improvements are within the existing developed area of the site and would not result in a physical modification to the site that would alter factors that would likely exacerbate wildfire risks. Although the project results in a larger amount of people on site, the proposed physical improvements and operational changes do not increase the potential for significant loss, injury or death due to wild-land fires. See section XX. Wildfire for additional detail. Impacts of the project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

X.	HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces which would:				
	i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

The County requires all discretionary permit applications (such as use permits and ECPAs) to complete necessary water analyses in order to document that sufficient water supplies are available for the proposed project and to implement water saving measures to prepare for periods of limited water supply and to conserve limited groundwater resources.

On June 7, 2022, the Napa County Board of Supervisors provided interim procedures to implement provisions of the Napa County Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) for issuance of new, altered or replacement well permits and discretionary projects that would increase groundwater use. The direction limits a parcel's groundwater allocation to 0.3- acre feet per acre per year, or no net increase in groundwater use if that threshold is exceeded already for parcels located in the GSA Subbasin. For parcels not located in the GSA Subbasin (i.e., generally located in the hillsides), a parcel-specific Water Availability Analysis would suffice to assess potential impacts on groundwater supplies. The project well is located outside GSA Subbasin/Hillside.

To assess potential impacts resulting from project well(s) interference with neighboring wells within 500 feet and/or springs within 1,500 feet, the County's WAA guidance<sup>4</sup> requires applicants to perform a Tier 2 analysis where the proposed project would result in an increase in groundwater extraction from project well(s) compared to existing levels.

To assess the potential impacts of groundwater pumping on hydrologically connected navigable waterways and those non-navigable tributaries connected to navigable waters, the County's WAA guidance requires applicants to perform a Tier 3 or equivalent analysis for new or replacement wells, or discretionary projects that would rely on groundwater from existing or proposed wells that are located within 1,500 feet of designated "Significant Streams."<sup>5</sup>

Public Trust: The public trust doctrine requires the state and its legal subdivisions to "consider," give "due regard," and "take the public trust into account" when considering actions that may adversely affect a navigable waterway. (Environmental Law Foundation v. State Water Resources Control Bd.; San Francisco Baykeeper, Inc. v. State Lands Com.) There is no "procedural matrix" governing how an agency should consider public trust uses. (Citizens for East Shore Parks v. State Lands Com.) Rather, the level of analysis "begins and ends with whether the challenged activity harms a navigable waterway and thereby violates the public trust." (Environmental Law Foundation, 26 Cal.App.5th at p. 403.). As demonstrated in the Environmental Law Foundation vs State Water Resources Control Board Third District Appellate Court Case, that arose in the context of a lawsuit over Siskiyou County's obligation in administering groundwater well permits and management program with respect to Scott River, a navigable waterway (considered a public trust resource), the court affirmed that the public trust doctrine is relevant to extractions of groundwater that adversely impact a navigable waterway and that Counties are obligated to consider the doctrine, irrespective of the enactment of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA).

On January 10, 2024, Napa County released the Interim Napa County Well Permit Standards and WAA Requirements - January 2024, providing guidance to comply with the Public Trust.

- a. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. According to the *Winery Wastewater Feasibility Report* prepared by RSA+, dated November 25, 2024, the project site and existing systems have adequate disposal capacity to serve the project. The project proposes ongoing use of existing systems to serve the residences on site. The existing primary residential system will be repaired and will remain to serve the residence and the increased visitation. This report demonstrates that the existing primary residential wastewater system has sufficient capacity to handle the peak visitation for a weekend day, but in order to utilize this existing system, events will require the use of portable sanitation facilities. The existing winery system will remain to serve the winery for production and employees domestic flows at this time, but the on-site process wastewater system will either be upgraded to meet the new Winery General Order, or a Hold and Haul system will be implemented. This report demonstrates both Hold & Haul and on-site treatment of process wastewater are feasible. If an onsite system is proposed, a package treatment system will be selected that will meet all applicable State and County requirements, and treated process wastewater would then be used for vineyard irrigation. The Division of Environmental Health reviewed this report and concurred with its findings. No information has been encountered that would indicate a substantial impact to water quality. Any earth disturbing activities will be subject to the County's Stormwater Ordinance which complies with State requirements, would include measures to prevent erosion, sediment, and waste materials from entering waterways both during and after any construction activities. By following the above-mentioned measures the project would not have the potential to significantly impact water quality and discharge standards. Potential impacts would be less than significant.
- b. A *Water Availability Analysis (WAA)*, including a site-specific groundwater recharge rate calculation, was prepared by RSA+, dated November 25, 2024. As directed by the County's Water Availability Analysis Guidance Document of May 2015 (WAA) and the Interim Standards, the report includes Tier 1 calculations for the existing and proposed water uses, a groundwater recharge analysis, groundwater savings practices, and a Tier 3 Significant Streams Map.

According to the WAA, the winery owner proposes to reduce the number of dripline emitters for vineyard irrigation from two emitters per vine to one emitter per vine. At the time of application submittal 3,500 of 7,500 vines had been converted. Upon completion of converting all vines to one emitter the proposed water use for irrigation will be reduced by 0.35 acre-feet per year (af/yr.)

<sup>4</sup> The County's Water Availability Guidelines (adopted May 2015)

<sup>5</sup> Refer to Figure 1: Significant Streams for Tier 3, located at [www.countyofnapa.org/3074/Groundwater-Sustainability](http://www.countyofnapa.org/3074/Groundwater-Sustainability). The "Significant\_Streams" and "Significant\_Streams\_1500ft\_buffer" GIS layers are published as publicly-available open data through the County's ArcGIS Online Account.

The winery owner also intends to incorporate water conservation measures to reduce water use throughout the winery that will include shutoff valves for hoses and reducing the volume of hot water for more conservative barrel cleaning practices and sweeping and handwashing floors instead of using hoses. These measures would result in four gallons of process wastewater per gallon of wine. A flow meter will be placed on the existing wastewater system to confirm the reduced flow level is achieved. These measures as well as the irrigation measures above, will be added as project conditions of approval.

Tier 1: The Tier 1 analysis considered existing uses onsite to include the existing winery, single-family residence, accessory dwelling unit, and vineyard irrigation. There are two existing wells on-site, however, only one well is in use. The existing groundwater usage is estimated at 2.958 af/yr. Based on the WAA prepared for the project, the proposed project would decrease groundwater use by 0.412 af/yr resulting in an overall water usage of 2.546 af/yr due to water savings practices and water conservation measures discussed above.

Usage Type	Existing Usage (af/yr)	Standard Usage (af/yr)	Proposed Usage (af/yr)
Vineyard			
Irrigation	1.114	0.760	0.760
Winery			
Process Water	0.258	0.258	0.147
Domestic Water	0.086	0.139	0.139
Residences	1.50	1.50	1.50
<b>Total Use (Acre-feet per Year)</b>	<b>2.958</b>	<b>2.657</b>	<b>2.546</b>
<b>Groundwater Recharge (Acre-feet per year)</b>	<b>12.99</b>	<b>12.99</b>	<b>12.99</b>

Tier 2: The latest Interim Napa County Well Permit Standards and WAA Requirements require an interference analysis for any proposed increase in groundwater use occurring from project wells within 500 feet of any offsite well or 1,500 feet from any off-site spring. A Tier 2 analysis is not required for discretionary projects that use an existing well provided there is no increase in groundwater use. As discussed above, the project proposes utilizing an existing well and the project results in a decrease of water use.

Tier 3: A Tier 3 review is the County's adopted method for complying with its duties under the public trust doctrine. According to the WAA the well serving the property is over 2,300 feet from Mill creek, the nearest significant stream, therefore further analysis is not required.

The winery, as part of its entitlement, would include the County's standard condition of approval, below, requiring well monitoring as well as the potential to modify/alter permitted uses on site should groundwater resources become insufficient to supply the use. The proposed project would result in a slight decrease in the demand of ground water supplies and therefore would not interfere with groundwater recharge or lowering the local groundwater level.

#### 4.9 GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT - WELLS

*This condition is implemented by the PBES Department:*

*The permittee shall be required (at the permittee's expense) to record well monitoring data (specifically, static water level no less than quarterly, and the volume of water no less than monthly). Such data will be provided to the County, if the PBES Director determines that substantial evidence<sup>6</sup> indicates that water usage at the winery is affecting, or would potentially affect, groundwater supplies or nearby wells. If data indicates the need for additional monitoring, and if the applicant is unable to secure monitoring access to neighboring wells, onsite monitoring wells may need to be established to gauge potential impacts on the groundwater resource utilized for the project. Water usage shall be minimized by use of best available control technology and best water management conservation practices.*

*In order to support the County's groundwater monitoring program, well monitoring data as discussed above will be provided to the County if the Director of Public Works determines that such data could be useful in supporting the County's groundwater monitoring program. The project well will be made available for inclusion in the groundwater monitoring network if the Director of Public Works determines that the well could be useful in supporting the program.*

*In the event that changed circumstances or significant new information provide substantial evidence<sup>1</sup> that the groundwater system referenced in the Use Permit would significantly affect the groundwater basin, the PBES Director shall be authorized*

<sup>6</sup> Substantial evidence is defined by case law as evidence that is of ponderable legal significance, reasonable in nature, credible and of solid value. The following constitute substantial evidence: facts, reasonable assumptions predicated on facts; and expert opinions supported by facts. Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, or clearly inaccurate or erroneous information do not constitute substantial evidence.

to recommend additional reasonable conditions on the permittee, or revocation of this permit, as necessary to meet the requirements of the County Code and to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

- c. The project would not substantially alter the drainage pattern on site or cause a significant increase in erosion or siltation on or off the project site. Improvement plans prepared prior to the issuance of a grading or building permit would ensure that the proposed project does not increase runoff flow rate or volume as a result of project implementation. General Plan Policy CON-50 requires discretionary projects, including this project, to meet performance standards designed to ensure peak runoff in 2-, 10-, 50-, and 100-year events following development is not greater than predevelopment conditions. The proposed project would implement standard stormwater quality treatment controls to treat runoff prior to discharge from the project site. The incorporation of these features into the project would ensure that the proposed project would not create substantial sources of polluted runoff. In addition, the proposed project does not have any unusual characteristics that create sources of pollution that would degrade water quality. Impacts would be less than significant.
- d. The parcel is located within the Zone X flood boundary (500 year), considered an area of minimal flood hazard. The parcel is not located in an area that is subject to inundation by tsunamis, seiches, or mudflows. No impacts would occur.
- e. In January 2022 the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) submitted a Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) to the Department of Water Resources (DWR). As discussed above, the property is outside the GSA and would result in a net reduction in groundwater use from 2.958 af/yr to 2.546 af/yr. Water quality would be maintained through standard stormwater quality treatment control measures and compliance with Engineering Division Conditions of Approval. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XI.	LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. The proposed project would not change the existing agricultural land uses of the property, which are consistent with the single-family houses and vineyards developed on properties proximate to the site. The proposed project would not introduce a non-agricultural use, nor any new, non-winery related development to the property. The proposed project would integrate with the property's surroundings and would not physically divide an established community. The project would have no impact.
- b. The subject parcel is located in the AW (Agricultural Watershed) zoning district, which allows wineries and uses accessory to wineries subject to use permit approval. The County has adopted the Winery Definition Ordinance (WDO) to protect agriculture and open space and to regulate winery development and expansion in a manner that avoids potential negative environmental effects. Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Policy AG/LU-1 of the 2008 General Plan states that the County shall, "preserve existing agricultural land uses and plan for agriculture and related activities as the primary land uses in Napa County." The property's General Plan land use designation is Agriculture, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS), which allows "agriculture, processing of agricultural products, and single-family dwellings." More specifically, General Plan Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Policy AG/LU-2 recognizes wineries and other agricultural processing facilities, and any use clearly accessory to those facilities, as agriculture. The project would allow for the continuation of agriculture as a dominant land use within the county and is fully consistent with the Napa County General Plan. The proposed use of the property for the "fermenting and processing of grape juice into wine" (NCC §18.08.640) supports the economic viability of agriculture within the county consistent with General Plan Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Policy AG/LU-4 ("The County will reserve agricultural lands for agricultural use including lands used for grazing and watershed/ open space...") and General Plan Economic Development Policy E-1 (The County's economic development will focus on ensuring the continued viability of agriculture...). There are no applicable habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans applicable to the property. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a/b. Historically, the two most valuable mineral commodities in Napa County in economic terms have been mercury and mineral water. More recently, building stone and aggregate have become economically valuable. Mines and Mineral Deposits mapping included in the Napa County Baseline Data Report (Mines and Mineral Deposits, BDR Figure 2-2) indicates that there are no known mineral resources nor any locally important mineral resource recovery sites located on the project site. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a/b. The project would result in a temporary increase in noise levels during grading construction activities of the proposed improvements. Construction activities would be limited to daylight hours using properly muffled vehicles. Noise generated during this time is not anticipated to be significant. As such, the project would not result in potentially significant temporary construction noise or vibration impacts. The nearest residence to the project is located on the parcel across Spring Mountain Road to the northeast, approximately 830 feet from the proposed hospitality building and approximately 675 feet from the existing winery building. Due to the distance and natural vegetation in the area there is a low potential for impacts related to construction noise to result in substantial temporary or long-term construction noise impacts. Further, construction activities would occur during the period of 7a.m. – 7 p.m. on weekdays, during normal hours of human activity. All construction activities would be conducted in compliance with the Napa County Noise Ordinance (Napa County Code Chapter 8.16). In addition to the County Noise Ordinance, the project applicant will be required to comply with project

Conditions of Approval (outlined below) related to construction noise, which will limit activities further by requiring construction vehicles to be muffled and backup alarms adjusted to the lowest allowable levels. Impacts would be less than significant

**“7.3 CONSTRUCTION NOISE**

*Construction noise shall be minimized to the greatest extent practical and feasible under State and local safety laws, consistent with construction noise levels permitted by the General Plan Community Character Element and the County Noise Ordinance. Construction equipment muffling and hours of operation shall be in compliance with the County Code. Equipment shall be shut down when not in use. Construction equipment shall normally be staged, loaded, and unloaded on the project site, if at all practicable. If project terrain or access road conditions require construction equipment to be staged, loaded, or unloaded off the project site (such as on a neighboring road or at the base of a hill), such activities shall only occur daily between the hours of 8 am to 5 pm.”*

Additional regulations contained within County Code Chapter 8.16 establish exterior noise criteria for various land uses in the County. As described in the Project Setting, above, land uses in the area are rural residential properties, wineries, and vineyards; of these land uses, residential land uses are considered the most sensitive to noise. Based on the standards in County Code section 8.16.070, noise levels, measured at the exterior of a residential structure or residential use on a portion of a larger property, may not exceed 50 decibels for more than half of any hour in the window of daytime hours (7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.), the timeframe within which the winery currently has have visitation and marketing events. Noise impacts of the proposed project would be considered bothersome and potentially significant if sound generated by it had the effect of exceeding the standards in County Code more than 50 percent of the time (i.e., more than 50 decibels for more than 30 minutes in an hour for a residential use).

Noise from winery operations is generally limited and intermittent, meaning the sound level can vary during the day and over the course of the year, depending on the activities at the winery. The primary noise-generating activities are equipment associated with wineries including refrigeration equipment, bottling equipment, barrel washing, de-stemmers and press activities occurring during the harvest crush season, delivery trucks, and other vehicles. The Napa County General Plan EIR indicates the average, or equivalent, sound level (Leq) for winery activities is 51dBA in the morning and 41dBA in the afternoon. Audibility of a new noise source and/or increase in noise levels within recognized acceptable limits are not usually considered to be significant noise impacts, but these concerns should be addressed and considered in the planning and environmental review processes.

As indicated above, the nearest off-site residence to the proposed winery is approximately 830 feet to the northeast. Under the proposed project, the largest outdoor event that would occur on the parcel would have an attendance of no more than 100 guests, and all events would end by 9:00 p.m., including clean-up. Winery operations would occur between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (production, excluding harvest) and 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (tours and tasting).

There are no proposed changes to wine production, marketing events, or the number of employees. The proposal includes a request to expand production hours of operations Monday through Saturday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The request also includes recognition of by-appointment tours and tastings for a maximum of 24 visitors per day and no more than a maximum of 65 visitors per week between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. and then modifying by-appointment Tours and Tastings to a maximum of 22 visitors per day Sunday through Friday and a maximum of 44 visitors per day on Saturdays. Use of a patio shared by the proposed hospitality building and an existing single-family residence for outdoor tastings and wine consumption is also included in the request. Due to the distance from the nearest non-project related residence (approximately 830 feet) and natural vegetation in the area the potential for the creation of significant noise from visitation is significantly reduced. Continuing enforcement of Napa County's Noise Ordinance by the Division of Environmental Health and the Napa County Sheriff, including the prohibition against amplified music, should further ensure that winery activities do not create a significant noise impact. Project Conditions of Approval require events and non-amplified music to finish by 10:00 p.m., with quiet cleanup finished by 11:00 p.m. in accordance with the Exterior Noise Limits Table under Section 8.16.070 of the County Code. Amplified music or sound systems would not be permitted for outdoor events as identified in Standard Condition of Approval 4.10 below. Temporary events would be subject to County Code Chapter 5.36 which regulates proposed temporary events. The proposed project would not result in long-term significant permanent noise impacts.

**“4.10 b. AMPLIFIED MUSIC**

*There shall be no amplified sound system or amplified music utilized outside of approved, enclosed, winery buildings.”*

- c. The project site is not located within the boundaries of an airport land use compatibility plan nor the vicinity of a private airstrip. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIV.	POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a. Cumulative impacts related to population and housing balance were identified in the 2008 General Plan EIR. As set forth in Government Code §65580, the County of Napa must facilitate the improvement and development of housing to make adequate provision for the housing needs of all economic segments of the community. Similarly, CEQA recognizes the importance of balancing the prevention of environmental damage with the provision of a “decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian.” (See Public Resources Code §21000(g).) The 2008 General Plan sets forth the County’s long-range plan for meeting regional housing needs, during the present and future housing cycles, while balancing environmental, economic, and fiscal factors and community goals. The policies and programs identified in the General Plan Housing Element function, in combination with the County’s housing impact mitigation fee, to ensure adequate cumulative volume and diversity of housing.

The Association of Bay Area Governments’ Plan Bay Area 2050 Growth Pattern figures indicate that the total households for Napa County are projected to increase some 10% by the year 2050, increasing from 50,000 to 56,000. Unincorporated Napa County, along with the cities of American Canyon, Napa, St. Helena, Calistoga and the town of Yountville all have existing compliant 6th Cycle Housing Elements certified by the State Department of Housing and Community Development. For the 6th Cycle, which runs from 2023 – 2031, Napa county jurisdictions have identified and have rezoned or are in the process of rezoning land to accommodate 3,844 dwelling units, more than half of the households projected by ABAG to develop in Napa county by 2050. Five (5) employees are requested as part of the project; two of the five employees would be owner operators who live onsite. The three additional employees who do not live onsite could lead to negligible population growth in Napa County. Relative to the County’s projected low to moderate growth rate and overall adequate programmed housing supply that population growth does not rise to a level of environmental significance. In addition, the project would be subject to the County’s housing impact mitigation fee, which provides funding to meet local housing needs. Cumulative impacts on the local and regional population and housing balance would be less than significant.

The proposed project does not require installation of any new infrastructure, including that which might induce growth by extending services outside of the boundaries of the subject site or increasing the capacity of any existing roadway. Napa County collects fees from developers of nonresidential projects to help fund local affordable housing (see Napa County Code Section 18.107.060 – Nonresidential developments – Housing fee requirement). New visitors to the winery could increase demand for group transportation services to the winery, though the potential for employment changes of other businesses supporting the winery’s requested operations is uncertain, unquantifiable, and speculative.

The policies and programs identified in the General Plan Housing Element function, in combination with the County’s housing impact mitigation fee, ensure adequate cumulative volume and diversity of housing. With small staffing increases proposed and no off-site expansion of utilities or facilities to serve other developments, the project would have a less than significant impact on population growth.

b. No residential buildings on or off the property would be demolished as a result of the project. Thus, no residents would be displaced, and there would be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XV.	PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
	i) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	ii) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iii) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	iv) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	v) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. Public services are currently provided to the project site and the additional demand placed on existing services would be marginal. Fire protection measures are required as part of the development pursuant to Napa County Fire Marshal conditions and there will be no foreseeable impact to emergency response times with the adoption of standard conditions of approval. The Fire Department and Engineering Services Division have reviewed the application and recommend approval as conditioned. School impact mitigation fees, which assist local school districts with capacity building measures, will be levied pursuant to building permit submittal. The proposed project will have little to no impact on public parks. County revenue resulting from any building permit fees, property tax increases, and taxes from the sale of wine will help meet the costs of providing public services to the property. The proposed project will have a less than significant impact on public services.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVI.	RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. The project would not significantly increase the use of recreational facilities, nor does the project include recreational facilities that may have a significant adverse effect on the environment.
- b. No new public recreational amenities are proposed to be built with, or as a result of, the requested use permit application. The proposed project would not result in substantial population growth, resulting in no increase in the use of recreational facilities and requiring no construction or expansion of recreational facilities. The proposed project would have no impact.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVII.	TRANSPORTATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature, (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e) Conflict with General Plan Policy CIR-14, which requires new uses to meet their anticipated parking demand, but to avoid providing excess parking which could stimulate unnecessary vehicle trips or activity exceeding the site's capacity?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a./c./d. The parcel is accessed via a private access drive off Spring Mountain Road. The applicant has submitted plans that show widening the existing access drive to meet the commercial standards of the County's Road and Street Standards (RSS). The plans have been reviewed by the Engineering Division and Fire Marshal's Office and has approved the proposed widening as conditioned.

While the study area lacks pedestrian facilities and transit service, there is not expected to be a demand, and therefore, the lack of facilities is considered acceptable. There are no planned future bicycle facilities on Spring Mountain Road. As proposed, the project would not conflict with any plans, ordinances or policies addressing the circulation system. All designs will comply with County RSS and Public Works standards for safe access into and throughout the site. The project would not substantially increase hazards due to design features or result in inadequate emergency access. Impacts would be less than significant.

b. As part of the statewide implementation of Senate Bill (SB) 743, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) settled upon automobile vehicle miles of travel (VMT) as the preferred metric for assessing passenger vehicle-related impacts under CEQA and issued revised *CEQA Guidelines* in December 2018, along with a *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* to assist practitioners in implementing the *CEQA Guidelines* revisions.

The County's General Plan Circulation Element contains a policy statement (Policy CIR-7) indicating that the County expects development projects to achieve a 15% reduction in project-generated VMT to avoid triggering a significant environmental impact. Specifically, the policy directs project applicants to identify feasible measures that would reduce their project's VMT and to estimate the amount of VMT reduction that could be expected from each measure. The policy states that "projects for which the specified VMT reduction measures would not reduce unmitigated VMT by 15 or more percent shall be considered to have a significant environmental impact." That policy is followed by an action item (CIR-7.1) directing the County to update its CEQA procedures to develop screening criteria for projects that "would not be considered to have a significant impact to VMT" and that could therefore be exempted from VMT reduction requirements.

The new *CEQA Guidelines* and the OPR Technical Advisory note that CEQA provides a categorical exemption (Section 15303) for additions to existing structures of up to 10,000 square feet, so long as the project is in an area that is not environmentally sensitive and where public infrastructure is available. OPR determined that "typical project types for which trip generation increases relatively linearly with building footprint (i.e., general office building, single tenant office building, office park, and business park) generate or attract 110-

124 trips per 10,000 square feet". They concluded that, absent substantial evidence otherwise, the addition of 110 or fewer daily trips could be presumed to have a less than significant VMT impact.

The County maintains a set of Transportation Impact Study Guidelines (TIS Guidelines) that define situations and project characteristics that trigger the need to prepare a TIS. The purpose of a TIS is to identify whether the project is likely to cause adverse physical or operational changes on a County roadway, bridge, bikeway or other transportation facility, to determine whether the project should be required to implement or contribute to improvement measures to address those changes, and to ensure that the project is developed consistent with the County's transportation plans and policies. Per the County's current TIS Guidelines, a project is required to prepare a TIS if it generates 110 or more net new daily vehicle trips. Based on the County's winery trip generation assumptions, the proposed project would be expected to generate 26 daily trips on weekdays (a net increase of 18 trips) and 41 trips on Saturdays (33 net), including seven new trips during the weekday p.m. peak hour and 19 during the Saturday p.m. peak hour, compared to permitted conditions. At some point the winery owner will be updating the winery process wastewater system to either a hold and system or an on-site system. If the owner installs a hold and haul system an additional 54 to 72 annual trips will be generated. The trip generation does not exceed 110 net new daily trips; therefore, the project is not required to prepare a traffic impact study (TIS). However, the project included a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) prepared by W-Trans, dated January 28, 2026, to address any potential access and/or safety issues. The TIS concluded that the proposed roadway volumes did not warrant the requirement for a left-turn lane at the project entry and adequate sight distance is available at the project driveway onto Spring Mountain Road.

The TIS Guidelines also include VMT analysis requirements for projects based on trip generation, which includes a screening approach that provides a structure to determine what level of VMT analysis may be required for a given project. This project would fall into the category of a "project modifying an existing facility that would generate additional trips". The TIS Guidelines state that if the net cumulative result of all project modifications after January 1, 2022, would generate less than 110 net new daily passenger vehicle and truck trips the project is presumed to have a less than significant impact for VMT. As noted above, based on the trip generation sheet, the maximum employee and visitor/guest data for the harvest/crush season, the proposed project would not exceed the 110 trip threshold and is therefore presumed to have a less than significant impact. The project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Impacts would be less than significant.

- e. Developers of new or expanded land uses are required to provide adequate parking or demonstrate that adequate parking exists to meet their anticipated parking demand. Excess parking that could stimulate unnecessary vehicle trips or commercial activity exceeding the site's capacity is discouraged. The winery currently has eight parking spaces and proposes to add three additional spaces for a total of 11 parking spaces. Visitors to the winery will be by-appointment only allowing the winery schedule visitors in a staggered arrangement so that the on-site parking should never be more than ten guest vehicles if all tours were scheduled at the same time. Occasionally, visitors could arrive in a higher-occupancy vehicle such as an SUV, minivan or smaller shuttle bus. The owners represent the two full-time employees, The part-time employee would occupy one parking spaces. The proposed project would not be in conflict with General Plan Policy CIR-14. The TIS determined that the proposed parking supply is adequate for the anticipated demand based on increase to the number of employees and visitors. The proposed project would not be in conflict with General Plan Policy CIR-14.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k); or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Discussion:

a/b. On January 22, 2026, County Staff sent invitations to consult on the proposed project to Native American tribes who had a cultural interest in the area and who as of that date had requested to be invited to consult on projects, in accordance with the requirements of Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1. Staff received a response from the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, dated February 6, 2026, indicating that the project site is not within their aboriginal territories and has no comment regarding the project.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIX.	UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of a new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

a. The project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. A Wastewater Feasibility Report, dated November 25, 2024, was prepared by RSA+, detailing the existing system. According to the study, the additional domestic flows from increased visitation will be sent to the existing main residence system which has sufficient capacity to treat the increased flows. No additional or new domestic wastewater treatment or dispersal system is needed. Treatment of production wastewater and employee domestic waste will continue to be treated by the existing winery system. The Wastewater Feasibility Report also presented options for future upgrades to the process wastewater treatment system, either an onsite system or hold and haul. The owner intends to meter process wastewater flows to determine the best option. No change to the winery process wastewater system is proposed at this time. However, per Napa County guidelines, a Registered Civil Engineer, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, or Licensed Contractor would provide semi-annual monitoring and evaluation of any new system. The contract with the responsible party would be provided prior to the final inspection for any new that would be installed. The Division of Environmental Health reviewed this report and concurred with its findings, conditioning that the selected design and plans for any new system shall be designed by a licensed Civil Engineer or Registered Environmental Health Specialist and approved by the Division of Environmental Health. Impacts would be less than significant.

Stormwater drainage would be managed through the Napa Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Guidance. All on site civil improvements shall be constructed according to plans prepared by a registered civil engineer,

which will be reviewed and approved by the Engineering Division. The project does not require the construction of new or expanded electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Impacts are expected to be less than significant.

- b. As discussed in Section X, a Water Availability Analysis was prepared by RSA+, dated November 25, 2024, there is no net increase in water consumption associated with the proposed project. The increased demand for the winery’s domestic water for the increased number of visitors will be offset by water savings associated with the proposed changes to vineyard irrigation water conservation measures to reduce water use throughout the winery. Overall, the proposed water use of 2.546 af/yr is slightly less than the existing levels of 2.9586 af/yr. The proposed water use would not impact groundwater availability.
- c. As discussed above and in Section X, Hydrology, the existing on-site domestic waste system can accommodate the proposed increases to visitors. The proposal does not include an increase in production and winery process waste will continue to be treated by the existing onsite system. The Division of Environmental Health reviewed this report and concurred with its findings, conditioning that the selected design and plans shall be designed by a licensed Civil Engineer or Registered Environmental Health Specialist and approved by the Division of Environmental Health. The project is not served by a wastewater treatment provider; therefore, no impact would occur.
- d/e. According to the Napa County Baseline Data Report, all of the solid waste landfills where Napa County’s waste is disposed have more than sufficient capacity related to the current waste generation. The project would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XX.	WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Due to slope, prevailing winds and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. There are no proposed project features that would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The access drive will be widened to meet commercial standards as defined in the Napa County Road and Street Standards (RSS). Access onto and throughout the parcel includes design components to accommodate fire and emergency apparatus. The Fire Marshal’s office has reviewed the plans, which demonstrate that the project would have adequate emergency access to the existing development. Impacts would be less than significant.
- b. According to the Napa County Environmental resource maps (based on the following GIS layer – Fire Hazard Severity Zones) the property is within an area designated as a high fire risk. The proposed physical improvements are within the existing developed area of the site and vineyards. Although the project results in a larger amount of people on site, the physical improvements and operational changes would not result in a physical modification to the slope of the site, change prevailing winds, or alter other factors that would likely exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

- c. The Fire Marshal's office has reviewed the plans, which demonstrate that the project would have adequate emergency access to the existing development. The project does not require installation or maintenance of infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Impacts will be less than significant.
- d. The physical improvements are in an area of the site which is already developed, disturbed or planted in vines. The proposed project would not physically alter the site in a way which would expose people or structures to risks such as downstream or downslope flooding or landslides resulting from runoff, post-fire instability or drainage changes. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XXI.	MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Discussion:

- a. The project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal species. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-4 require the applicant to obtain preconstruction surveys for special-status plants, Northern Spotted Owl, nesting birds and raptors, and bats to minimize impacts associated with construction related activities to special-status plants, nesting birds and raptors, and bat species. Through implementation of the aforementioned Mitigation Measures, the project is anticipated to result in less than significant impacts to special status plant and animal species. Additionally, the project does not have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California's history or prehistory. As discussed in Section V. Cultural Resources and Section XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources, the project has the possibility of unearthing cultural resources during ground disturbance activities. The County's standard Archeological Finding Condition of Approval has been incorporated into the Project to ensure the preservation or mitigation of significant impacts to cultural resources that could be uncovered during ground disturbing activities.
- b. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable. Potential impacts to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology, and traffic are discussed in the respective sections above and were determined to have a less than significant impact. As discussed in Section VIII. Green House Gas and Section XVII. Transportation, potential impacts to air pollution and GHG emissions are being addressed through meeting BAAD recommended design elements, with the addition of Greenhouse Gas Voluntary Best Management Practices, and VMT reduction strategies, and standard conditions of approval. The applicant intends to implement a number of greenhouse gas reduction strategies. These include providing shuttle service for large marketing events, solar hot water heating, energy conserving lighting, the installation of water efficient fixtures, water efficient landscaping, implementing a sustainable purchasing and shipping program, and limiting the among of grading and tree removal. The applicant also intends to use recycled materials, educate staff and visitors about sustainable practices, and retain biomass via pruning and thinning by chipping the material

for reuse rather than burning. Section X. Hydrology includes detail on the Water Availability Analysis which demonstrates that the proposed project would result in an overall decrease in groundwater use (-0.412af/yr) over the existing levels. Potential cumulative impacts would be less than significant.

- c. All potential impacts identified in this Mitigated Negative Declaration are less than significant with the exception of Biological Resources for which Mitigation measures are proposed. Therefore, the proposed project would not result in significant environmental effects that cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly. Impacts would be less than significant

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

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