

1 Mark R. Wolfe, CSB No. 176753  
2 John H. Farrow, CSB No. 209221  
3 M. R. WOLFE & ASSOCIATES, P.C.  
4 555 Sutter Street, Suite 405  
5 San Francisco, CA 94102  
6 Telephone: (415) 369-9400; Fax: (415) 369-9405  
7 mrw@mrwolfeassociates.com

8 Anthony G. Arger, CSB No. 304483  
9 ROBERTSON, JOHNSON, MILLER & WILLIAMSON  
10 50 West Liberty Street, Suite 600  
11 Reno, NV 89501  
12 Telephone: (775) 329-5600; Fax: (775) 348-8300  
13 anthony@nvlawyers.com

14 Attorneys for Petitioner

15 THE SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
16 COUNTY OF NAPA

17 SODA CANYON GROUP;

18 Petitioner,

19 vs.

20 COUNTY OF NAPA; NAPA COUNTY  
21 BOARD OF SUPERVISORS; and  
22 DOES 1 through 10, inclusive,

23 Respondents

24 MOUNTAIN PEAK VINEYARDS, LLC;  
25 ERIC YUAN; HUA YUAN; and DOES 11  
26 through 20, inclusive,

27 Real Parties in Interest.

Case No.: 17CV001063

**DECLARATION OF LINDA SAVOIE  
IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER'S  
MOTION TO AUGMENT THE  
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD**

[CEQA Matter]

Date: January 11, 2019

Time: 8:30 am

Dept.: I

Action filed: September 20, 2017

28 I, Linda Savoie, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18, and am a not a party to this action.

Declaration of Linda Savoie

1           2.       Except as otherwise qualified below, I have personal knowledge of the facts set  
2 forth in this declaration, and if called today as a witness, I could and would testify competently as  
3 to such matters set forth herein.

4           3.       My husband and I own a home and vineyard property located at 3520 Soda  
5 Canyon Road, Napa, CA 94558. It is located approximately one mile past the proposed  
6 Mountain Peak Winery on the dirt road portion of Soda Canyon Road. We have owned our  
7 home and property since 2015.

8           4.       My husband and I were at our home on Soda Canyon Road on the night of  
9 Sunday, October 8, 2017 when the Atlas Fire began.

10          5.       At approximately 10:00 p.m., our aunt and uncle who were staying with us on Soda  
11 Canyon over the weekend and were returning from a wedding they attended in Sonoma, called  
12 our landline from their cell phone. They knew to call our landline because we have very poor cell  
13 phone service in our house due to the remote location on upper Soda Canyon Road in Foss  
14 Valley. Our Aunt and Uncle were at the corner of Soda Canyon Road and Silverado Trail and  
15 informed us that there was a fire on the lower part of Soda Canyon Road, the firemen had  
16 blocked the road, and they were not able to drive up to our house. We could hear very high  
17 winds and our power was intermittently going out.

18          6.       About twenty (20) minutes later, our aunt called us again to inform us that the  
19 entirety of Atlas Peak was on fire and we had to get out. I looked out our dining room window  
20 and could see a huge orange glow and flames just beyond Antica Winery, a large vineyard and  
21 winery just south of our property. At about the same time, two helicopters appeared above us,  
22 with searchlights and loud speakers, telling us to evacuate our homes immediately.

23          7.       We immediately grabbed our carry-on-sized luggage we brought for the weekend,  
24 got into our car, and called 911 from our cell phone to ask them how to get out. The responder  
25 on the other end of the line told us to go down Soda Canyon Road. We quickly lost reception  
26 and the call dropped.

27          8.       We drove down the dirt road and arrived at the intersection where the dirt portion  
28 of Soda Canyon Road meets the paved portion of Soda Canyon Road at approximately the 6.2

1 mile-mark of Soda Canyon Road. This is where the entrance to the proposed Mountain Peak  
2 Winery is located. At the intersection, there were approximately a dozen other vehicles,  
3 including semi-truck cabs (without trailers), a semi-truck with its trailer fully loaded with grapes,  
4 pickup trucks, SUVs and cars. All these vehicles were coming down from the different branches  
5 of the dirt road that converge at this point and contained what appeared to be both home owners  
6 and vineyard workers.

7 9. Simultaneous to our arrival at the intersection, vehicles started arriving from the  
8 canyon-direction of Soda Canyon Road (i.e. lower Soda Canyon Road). Occupants of these  
9 vehicles told us the canyon was a complete inferno and there is no way to get down that road, so  
10 they turned around and came back *up* the road, which dead ends about a half mile past where we  
11 were at the dirt road/paved intersection in front of the proposed Mountain Peak winery.

12 10. The sudden influx of vehicles and people at this location caused a serious traffic  
13 jam, *right at the entrance to the proposed Mountain Peak winery*. Nobody knew what to do or where to  
14 go, and there was no cell phone service, which is typical for this entire area, even under normal  
15 circumstances. It was pandemonium, with vehicles of all sizes and people of all ages, none of  
16 whom had the first clue of how we could escape the building disaster. [REDACTED]

17 [REDACTED]  
18 [REDACTED]  
19 11. Among the mess of vehicles, and mass and worry of residents, neighbors, and  
20 vineyard workers, the group of approximately 30-40 people started brainstorming and a vineyard  
21 worker volunteered to drive and see if we could reach Atlas Peak Road through access roads and  
22 vineyards on the eastern side of Antica Winery. The worker came back a few minutes later and  
23 told us that the direction of Atlas Peak Road was also completely engulfed in flames and that  
24 there was similarly no way out. As a result, the group decided to drive back up the dirt road  
25 towards Stagecoach Vineyards, which is two to three miles north of the dirt road intersection,  
26 because it was the furthest point away from the Atlas Fire.

27 12. At approximately 11:50 p.m., my husband and I became separated from the group  
28 and ended up at a neighbor's home near Stagecoach Vineyards. From here, we could see the fire

1 that appeared to have begun near Atlas Peak Road to the south and to the east. I then turned  
2 around and, for the first time, saw a new fire burning behind us to the north and west. We were  
3 literally encircled by a ring of fire.

4 13. At approximately 11:57 p.m., we located a spot with cell phone service and again  
5 called 911 asking where we could go. The emergency responder did not have any clear  
6 information and advised us to “shelter in place.” The emergency responder sounded as if they  
7 were completely overwhelmed.

8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]

16 16. We decided to keep moving to try and find safety and around 12:30 a.m., we  
17 arrived at Stagecoach Vineyards and found a large group of approximately 30 neighbors and  
18 vineyard workers. We stayed put in the vineyards for the time being.

19 17. At approximately 1:24 a.m., we were able to get cell service and called 911 again  
20 and informed the responder that there is a group of people stuck on Atlas Peak and that the  
21 smoke is very heavy, it was difficult to breathe, and again asked where we could or should go.  
22 The responder transferred our call to the fire command center, and an individual there told us  
23 they will “send someone.”

24 18. At approximately 1:40 a.m., two (2) CalFire officials arrived in a pick-up truck.  
25 They informed us that there is no way off the mountain, that there were fires everywhere and  
26 that they were short on manpower. They further explained that Stagecoach Vineyards, our  
27 current location, was an okay shelter, but the vineyards at Antica Winery may be better because  
28 several other neighbors and an engine truck were there. My husband and I, along with

1 approximately ten (10) other members of the group, decided to drive to Antica Winery, which  
2 was towards the fire. As we drove towards the blaze, my husband and I were both having second  
3 thoughts, as all we could see the firestorm directly in front of us.

4 19. Guided by my neighbor, Ed Snider, a longtime resident of the area, the CalFire  
5 officials led us to a staging area at Antica Winery. There was, however, no fire engine and no  
6 other neighbors. My heart sunk, as we were now much closer to the fires and there did not  
7 appear to be any means of escape.

8 20. Then, literally out of nowhere, a CHP helicopter landed in a clearing in the  
9 vineyards, and the helicopter took four (4) other people from our group. The CalFire official  
10 who led us there told us we could not count on the helicopter coming back for us because the  
11 winds are so fierce, and the fires so close. The official told us that they were predicting that the  
12 fires were coming over the ridge within the hour and instructed us to shelter in place and “let the  
13 fire go over us.” At this point, my husband and I were absolutely terrified. There were only six  
14 of us left, and all we could do was observe the firestorm and listen to the howling winds and  
15 ominous sounds of fire consuming the mountains.

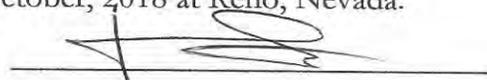
16 21. At approximately 2:35 a.m., another (or perhaps the same) CHP helicopter landed  
17 and my husband and I, along with Ed Snider, got into the helicopter piloted by Pete Gavitte (the  
18 other was piloted by Whitney Lowe), whose names we learned after the fact. While taking off,  
19 the winds were howling at more than 60 miles per hour and the helicopter ride was scarier than  
20 being on the ground. We were flying a few hundred feet above the flames and could see the  
21 entire mountain ablaze with giant trees engulfed in flames; it looked like I could reach out and  
22 touch them. Except for the blaze below, there was no visibility around or above us because of  
23 the thick smoke. The pilot was using night vision goggles. We lost altitude several times, the high  
24 winds caused the helicopter to go off course, and gusts of winds would shake the helicopter. It  
25 felt like being in a toy helicopter dangling by a string that could snap at any moment. Nobody  
26 spoke; the tension in the helicopter was so thick you could cut it with a knife. The pilot appeared  
27 to be exerting tremendous amounts of energy just to keep the helicopter stable. All of us in the  
28

1 helicopter were terrified. I was comforted by the thought that if we crashed, it would be a quicker  
2 death than by dying of smoke inhalation on the mountain.

3 22. Incredibly, the pilots, whose efforts were truly heroic, transported us safely away  
4 from Atlas Peak and dropped us off safely at Queen of the Valley Medical Center. [REDACTED]

5 [REDACTED]  
6 [REDACTED]  
7 [REDACTED]  
8 [REDACTED]  
9 [REDACTED]  
10 [REDACTED]  
11 [REDACTED]  
12 [REDACTED]  
13 [REDACTED]  
14 [REDACTED]  
15 [REDACTED]  
16 [REDACTED]

17  
18 I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the  
19 foregoing is true and correct. Executed this 12 day of October, 2018 at Reno, Nevada.

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21 Linda Savoie, DVM  
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