From:	Hawkes, Trevor
То:	MeetingClerk
Subject:	FW: Napa County Notice of Planning Commission Hearing
Date:	Tuesday, March 18, 2025 9:23:23 AM
Attachments:	image001.png

Please add as public comment for item 7B for tomorrow's public hearing item.

From: Quackenbush, Alexandria <Alexandria.Quackenbush@countyofnapa.org>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:23 AM
To: Hawkes, Trevor <trevor.hawkes@countyofnapa.org>
Cc: Ramirez Vega, Angelica <Angelica.Vega@countyofnapa.org>
Subject: FW: Napa County Notice of Planning Commission Hearing

Please see below, public comment for Staglin Family Vineyards.



A Tradition of Stewardship A Commitment to Service

Alexandria Quackenbush

Administrative Secretary II Planning, Building, & Environmental Services Napa County

Phone: (707) 253-4417

1195 Third Street, Suite 210 Napa, CA 94559

www.countyofnapa.org

From: RICHARD W SVENDSEN <rsvendsen@sbcglobal.net</pre>
Sent: Thursday, March 6, 2025 10:22 AM
To: Quackenbush, Alexandria <<u>Alexandria.Quackenbush@countyofnapa.org</u>>
Subject: Re: Napa County Notice of Planning Commission Hearing

[External Email - Use Caution]

That's what Napa County DOES NOT NEED is another winery in this county. Please vote NO Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 6, 2025, at 9:54 AM, Quackenbush, Alexandria <<u>Alexandria.Quackenbush@countyofnapa.org</u>> wrote:

STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS, MONITORING HEARING - NO. P18-

<image001.png> Alexandria Quackenbush Administrative Secretary II Planning, Building, & Environmental Services Napa County Phone: (707) 253-4417 1195 Third Street, Suite 210 Napa, CA 94559 www.countyofnapa.org

<P18-00253_Monitoring Hearing_PHN.pdf>



WATER AUDIT CALIFORNIA

A PUBLIC BENEFIT CORPORATION

952 SCHOOL STREET #316 NAPA CA 94559 VOICE: (707) 681-5111 EMAIL: GENERAL@WATERAUDITCA.ORG

March 18, 2025

To Napa County Planning Commissioners

Kara Brunzell (District 1), Walter Brooks (District 2) Heather Phillips (District 3) Pete Richmond (District 4) Megan Dameron (District 5)

Sent via email to: meetingclerk@countyofnapa.org

Greetings:

RE County of Napa Planning Commission March 19, 2025 AGENDA 7B. STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / MONITORING HEARING FOR P18-00253

Introduction

While the facts have great similarity, there is one primary difference between the Staglin proceeding and the Henry application that preceded it. The difference reveals the injury done by poor planning review.

The code violations that have persisted since 1991, and languished unaddressed until the 2018 forgiveness plan. Attached by gaining both forgiveness AND additional entitlements, the Applicant started the current process seven years ago. There are two underlying hearings. The February 3, 2021 hearing was continued to March 3, 2021. The March 3, 2021 hearing did not carry forward the Water Availability Analysis/Water System Feasibility Study, Wastewater Feasibility Study, or Traffic Impact Study, and therefore they are not available for Planning Commission review or comment. Selected relevant omitted documents are attached. It is unclear at this date whether the CEQA process has been performed. State Clearing House website posts a Notice of Determination Negative Declaration dated March 19, 2021form https://files.ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/268198-1/attachment/ ZatmQGnrht0orfELNe9cd5rjnCQg1-nlLm7Woa-eKiX9LTIVZ17QOuZZ29D _kqc4Ys1DjNtYiY3CgBH70; however, there are Project review documents for the P18-00253. (see https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/serp?q=staglin) Furthermore, there is a CEQA posting for the 1991 initial request at https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/1991053048

The Planning Commission March 3, 2021, hearing was a demonstration of horse trading whereby visitation changed from annually to seasonally, with the Chair acknowledging a "head nod" from someone outside view of video camera.

Questions re Equitable Process

There were three questions which should be considered to determine whether this was an equitable process:

- 1. Was the approved visitation greater than the Applicant request when visitation changed from annually to seasonally?
- 2. Were cumulative impacts to groundwater in the surrounding community and injury to the public trust considered?
- 3. Without including critical documents in the March 3, 2021, hearing packet, did the Commissioners rely solely on staff recommendations based solely on hearsay submitted by the applicant?

The March 19, 2025 hearing packet omits graphics for the parcels. Water Audit California's ("Water Audit") review of the underlying documents in the prior Planning Commission hearings revealed that the "Overall Site Plan" truncated one of the three project parcels. This is a classic move, mirroring for limited example the earlier Hillwalker and Ingelnook Projects.

The omitted information was a creek tributary to the Napa River, i.e. a significant watercourse under the protection of the public trust doctrine. That omission led to discovering that the CEQA process, water-related documents, and Conditions of Approvals are also flawed.

Recommendations

Based on this new evidence, Water Audit recommends continuing the hearing, and collect monitoring and measuring groundwater data prior to approving this Use Permit Modification based on the following:

- (1) The Overall Site Plan is incomplete and omits critical information. The Plan truncates the vineyard parcel APN 027-250-065 (including as it locates the leachfields on its land), and it omits a Creek that borders the parcel, and that is a tributary to the Napa River. All three parcels are within the GSA boundary. The Plan has no creek, no elevations, and no distances from leach-field or well(s.) Is there one or two wells on the winery parcel?
- (2) Staff has not performed a CEQA process review for P18-00253.
- (3) Public Works consulting engineer, LSCE, did not perform a Water Availability Analysis review. The WAA determined Tier 1 only, however, there are no Well Completion Reports and no Well Location Map.
- (4) The Water Supply Feasibility calculations are not consistent with the County's 2015 Water Availability Analysis Guidance document. WAA calculated Marking at 6 gallons per visitor (without supporting that factor), but WAA Guidance factors 15 gallons per visitor. WAA calculated Winery Process at 6 gallons per gallon of wine, but WAA Guidance factors 7 gallons of process water
- (5) Water system well pumping tests are not in accord with Environmental Health Services 2005 revised 2018 "County Regulated Water System Memorandum" and Worksheet calculus:

"Water supply capacity. Can the water system (including all sources and storage facilities) supply a minimum of three gallons per minute for at least 24 hours for each service connection served?"

(6) Conditions of Approval are insufficient and do not protect public trust in groundwater.

"1.1 PROJECT SCOPE" omits installation of transient non-community water system and improvements proposed for the existing well. "4.9 GROUNDWATER - WELLS" omits "implemented jointly by the Public Works and PBES departments", omits parcel acre-feet limitation on groundwater, and omits the Groundwater Conditions of Approval "4.9 GROUNDWATER - WELLS" omits "implemented jointly by the Public Works and PBES departments", omits parcel acre-feet limitation on groundwater, and omits the Groundwater Demand Management Program.

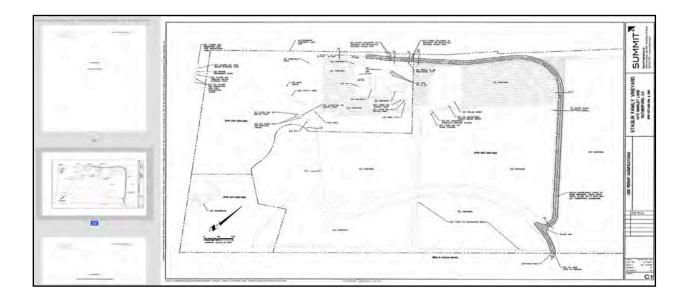
(7) Condition of Approval Environmental Health Services Letter prohibited increased

visitation (emphasis added):

"1. The water supply and related components must comply with the California Safe Drinking Water Act and Related Laws. This will require plan review and approval prior to approval of building permits or increasing visitation, marketing and/or employees..."

Documentation

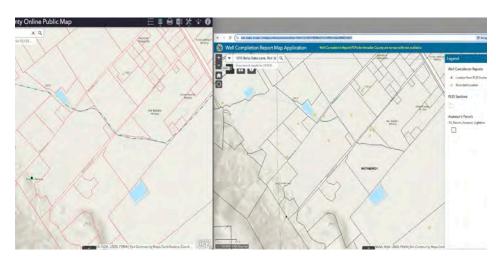
The March 3, 2021, Overall Site Plan found in the "Attachment G. GRAPHICS" at pdf page 5 truncates APN 027-250-064.



Not in Agenda packet but found on County GIS Map is wide shot of winery parcel (small black dot inside light blue ring) with the Creek tributary to Napa River.



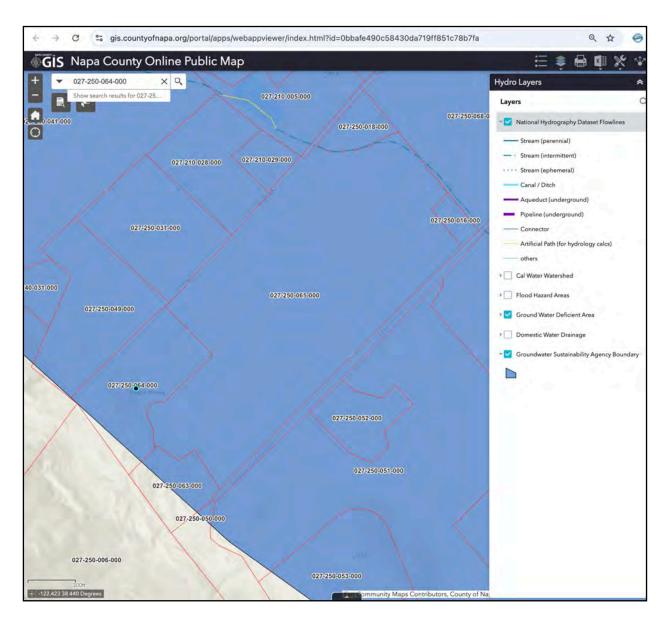
Not in the Agenda packet but found on the State Department Water Resources website is the record location of wells on and surrounding the winery parcel. DWR does not site any wells on the winery parcel. The document coinciding with APN 027-250-063 is a "well destroy" completion report. The other record is on the vineyard parcel APN 027-250-063. It is currently unknown whether or not there is an additional well on the vineyard parcel.



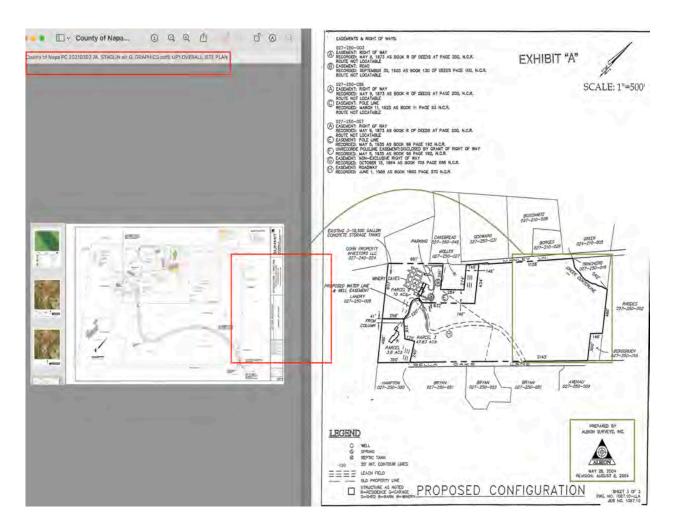
Not in the Agenda packet but found on the State Department Water Resources website is the "well destroy" completion report (right side) and the CoGIS Map with APN 027-250-063.



Not in Agenda packet but found on the County GIS Map GSA Boundary Layer, which reveals that all three winery parcels are inside the GSA Boundary and includes an Intermittent Stream tributary to the Napa River.



Not in the Agenda packet but found on County Electronic Document Retrieval database is a 2004 Grant of Water rights & Easement between APN -027-250-064 and -063, which included a Site Plan with the entire -05 parcel and designated "CREEK CENTERLINE."



Not in the agenda packet but found on County website is the Sample-Site-Plan-Revised 2024-PDF_202411191159440278 found at https://www.countyofnapa.org/ DocumentCenter/View/20486/Sample-Site-Plan_.pdf

C. Label existing and proposed structures and uses Provide dimensions and distance between existing and proposed structures/development. Show all property improvements, such as buildings/dwellings/

decks, storage tanks of any kind (including propane tanks), etc. Setbacks from these improvements will enable our divisions to establish safe distance from possible safety/sanitary issues. Be sure to label all existing (E) and proposed (P) improvements, including area of addition, area of remodel, new structure, etc.

D Setbacks Provide the setbacks that we need to review your submittal for permit. Setbacks are the distance between existing and proposed property improvements. They are the distance of your project from property lines, septic systems, wells, tanks, structures, dwellings (and in case of generator exhaust, the distance from the nearest opening on the structure closest to the installation). Indicate the distance from the center of road for all improvements.

F. Identify Natural Features such as creeks as there are creek setbacks that must be maintained to protect the natural feature from damage and prevent possible flood issues. Identify required creek setback distance pursuant to County Code 18.108.025.

G. Existing and proposed water, wastewater, and stormwater treatment systems systems must be shown and include:

- Wells on the property
- Wells within 100 feet of the project property
- Septic system tanks and sewer line location
- · Leach fields (existing and proposed)
- 100% reserve area (existing and proposed). This is the area that will be used in the event of a septic system failure.

- Storage tanks (Water, grey-water, waste storage)
- Label distances between well(s), septic tank, leach field, and

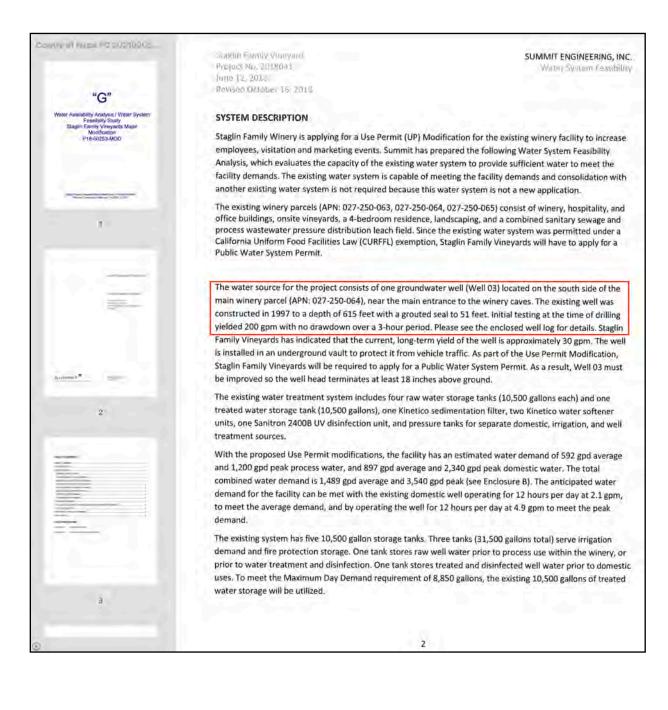
creek, streams, rivers or lakes, if applicable

I. Utilities Show utility lines or service points of connection (water, sewer, electrical, gas, cable). Indicate work areas under overhead lines or above buried lines. If a utility line crosses over a structure/improvement, show clearance above the structure/improvement.

J. Easements Show any easements that exist. Indicate the location of all easements (water, sewer, roadways, open space, etc.)

WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYIS

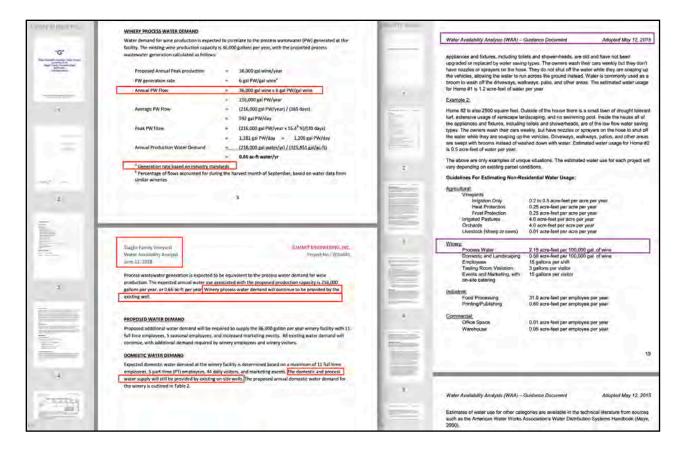
County of Napa PC 20210203 Agenda 7A. Staglin Family Vineyard Attach G. WAA/ Water System Feasibility County: No WCR, Incomplete APN 027-250-065, No elevation, no blueline, no legend, no vicinity map, No Well Location Map of project or neighboring parcels, No Water "Existing" Process, Marketing calcs "6" [there is a 2004 easement -064 supplies -063?]



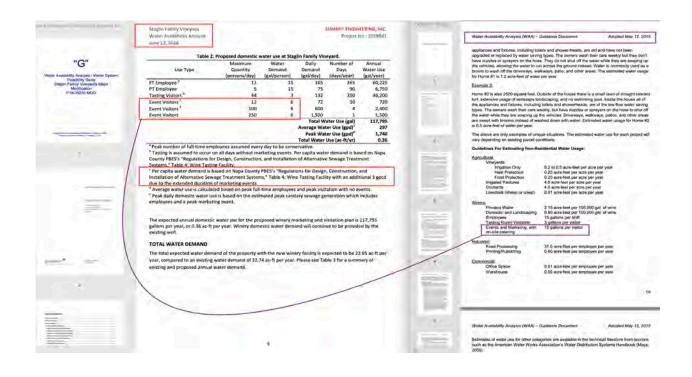
WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS

County of Napa PC 20210203 Agenda 7A. STAGLIN att G. WAA/ Water System Feasibility pdf6 WINERY PROCESS WATER DEMAND "6gpm; existing well; Domestic exisitng on-site wells" [fn rate wo source] COMP COUNTY WAA Guidance "PW 2.15af per100K[anno

Are there two wells or one? Does -065 have a well? No well production logs are presented for any well.

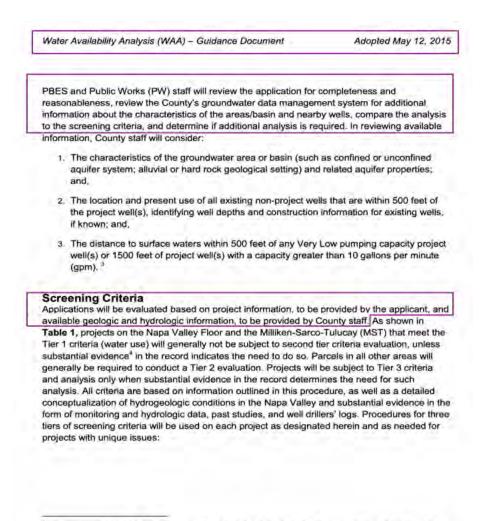


WATER AVAILABILITY ANALYSIS



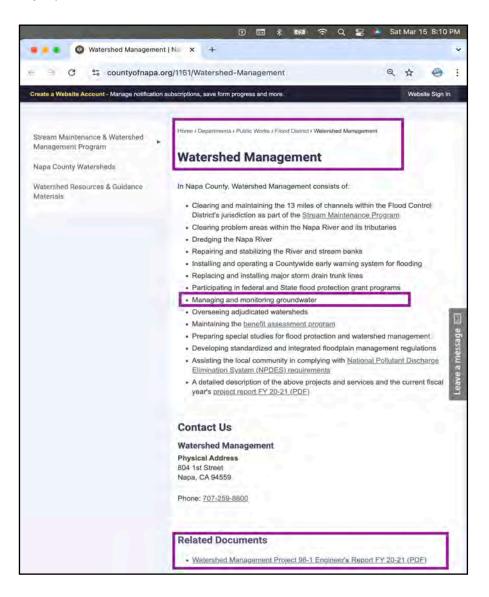
Not in the Agenda packet but found on the County website link to Water Availability Analysis (WAA) Guidance Document Adopted May 12, 2015, at document page 6 (emphasis added). The application was not accompanied by a PBES/PW review.

"PBES and Public Works (PW) staff will review the application for completeness and reasonableness, review the County's groundwater data management system for additional information about the characteristics of the areas/basin and nearby wells, compare the analysis to the screening criteria, and determine if additional analysis is required... Applications will available geologic and hydrologic information, to be provided by County be staff."



³ For the purposes of this WAA, 'very low pumping capacity wells' are defined as wells with a casing diameter of six inches or less and an installed pump capable of producing less than 10 gallons per minute (gpm). Pumping capacities referenced throughout this WAA were developed as part of a separate analysis of potential streamflow depletion in unconsolidated alluvial settings. Details of his analysis are provided in a separate Technical Memorandum (LSCE, 2013).
⁴ 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 prodicated on facts; and expert opinions supported by facts. Argument, speculation, unsubstantiated opinion or narrative, or dearly inaccurate or erroneous information do not constitute substantial evidence.

Not in the Agenda packet but found on County website, Water Audit finds the County Public Works Flood Control Division Watershed Management is tasked with "Managing and monitoring groundwater." (see at https://www.countyofnapa.org/1161/Watershed-Management.pdf)



Not in the Agenda packet, and calendared subsequent to the Staglin hearing, the proposed March 19, 2025, Planning Commission Meeting item 8C, Use Permit Processing Presentation, at page 8/9 states that the County Code Compliance Program prohibits Public hearings for a Use Permit or Modification applications until the owner has operated within legal entitlements for one year from the date of the Initial Notice of Violation. This provision is intended to and shall require that the environmental impacts of discretionary permit applications shall be assessed against a "baseline" of operations that are within existing legal entitlements, rather than in violation of them. (emphasis added below):

Board of Supervisor Resolution No. 2018-164 - County Code Compliance Program, dated December 4, 2018.

Section 1(a)(v): Except for substantially conforming applications received by the Planning Building and Environmental Services (PBES) Department prior to the deadline (March 29, 2019), all properties that have new or continued health and safety or significant pre-existing violations to come into immediate compliance with legal entitlements and all applicable County Code requirements. Owners of properties with health and safety or significant violations shall be required to operate within their existing legal entitlements for one year from the date of the initial Notice of Violation, absent extraordinary circumstances, before a use permit or modification application to remedy the violation(s) may be submitted to PBES. Owners may also be subject to fines or penalties for past and ongoing violations. This provision is intended to and shall require that the environmental impacts of discretionary permit applications shall be assessed against a "baseline" of operations that are within existing legal entitlements, rather than in violation of them. Owners may submit a Use Permit or Modification application to remedy violation(s) during the oneyear period while they operate within their legal entitlements, but only if they agree in writing that their legal entitlements or their existing legal operations, whichever is lower, shall be used as the environmental baseline for all CEQA analysis related to the application. Public hearings for such Use Permit or Modification applications shall not be scheduled until the owner has operated within legal entitlements for one year from the date of the Initial Notice of Violation, absent extraordinary circumstance.

Further, and for the record, Water Audit submits the following, complete with the documents listed and linked herein:

Planning Commission Meeting February 3, 2021

https://services.countyofnapa.org/AgendaNet/GranicusMeetingDocuments.aspx?id=636 2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

7A. STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / MAJOR MODIFICATION #P18-00253-MOD

CEQA Status: Consideration and possible adoption of a Negative Declaration. According to the Negative Declaration, the proposed project would not have any potentially significant environmental impacts. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Request: Approval of a Use Permit Major Modification to an existing 36,000 gallon per year winery to allow the following: a) modification to increase by appointment Daily Tours and Tastings Program from the current 10 persons per day (weekdays only) to 44 persons per day (Monday through Sunday), 308 persons maximum per week; b) modification of the locations of the Daily Tours and Tastings Program to take place in the Steckter House and the existing wine caves; c) on-premises consumption of wines produced on-site located in the outdoor areas immediately to the south and west of the Steckter House in accordance with Business and Professions Code Sections 23358, 23390 and 23396.5 (AB2004-Evans Bill); d) modification of the existing Marketing Program of nine (9) events per year consisting of (eight (8)) events with a maximum attendance of 45 persons and one (1) event with a maximum attendance of 200 persons) to allow the following: including 32 events per year with 12 attendees maximum (11:00am – 10:00pm), 16 events per year with 32 attendees maximum (11:00am – 10:00pm), three (3) events per year with 100 attendees maximum (6:00pm – 10:00pm), one event per year with 100 attendees maximum (10:00am) - 4:00pm), one event per year with 250 attendees maximum (1:00pm - 4:00pm),

catered food prepared by a licensed caterer with minimal on-site preparation (heating and plating), events of 32 attendees or less to occupy the building identified as the Steckter House, and events of 100 attendees or more to occupy the outdoor area north of the Steckter House; e) Increase on-site employees from 8 full-time employees and 0 part-time employees to 11 full-time employees and 5 part-time employees; f) add three (3) parking spaces for a total of 15 spaces; g) deletion of Condition of Approval #3 from the original approved Use Permit (#98072-UP) which required the applicant to notify a representative of neighbors to the applicant 48 hours prior to an event; h) width expansion for sections of the existing internal access driveway to 20 'with a 22 'horizontal clearance to comply with the Napa County Road and Street Standards; and i) modify internal circulation so that a portion of the access driveway loop becomes a one-way road. The project is a located on three parcels totaling 63 acres, located at 1570 Bella Oaks Lane, Rutherford, within the Agricultural Preserve (AP) zoning district and General Plan Land Use Designated as Agricultural Reserve (AR). APN 027-250-063, -064 & -065.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt the proposed Negative Declaration and approve the requested Use Permit Major Modification as conditioned.

Staff Contact: Trevor Hawkes, Planner III, (707) 253-4388 or trevor.hawkes@countyofnapa.org

Applicant Contact: Shari Staglin, Staglin Family Vineyard

Representative Contact: Rob Anglin, Holman Teague Roche Anglin, LLP, (707) 927-4280 or anglin@htralaw.com.

- A <u>Recommended Findings</u> (Adobe PDF 172 kb)
- B Recommended Conditions of Approval and Final Agency Approval Memos (Adobe PDF 1399 kb)
- C Previous Conditions of Approval (Adobe PDF 8893 kb)
- **D** Initial Study Negative Declaration (Adobe PDF 880 kb)
- **E** Use Permit Major Modification Application (Adobe PDF 995 kb)
- F Traffic Impact Study (Adobe PDF 17441 kb)
- **G** Water Availability Analysis Water System Feasibility Study (Adobe PDF 690 kb)

- H Wastewater Feasibility Study (Adobe PDF 929 kb)
- Winery Comparison Tables (Adobe PDF 160 kb)
- J Graphics (Adobe PDF 2389 kb)
- K ltem 7A Public Comments (Added after initial agenda posting) (Adobe PDF 16361 kb)
- L Item 7A Additional Public Comments (Added after meeting) (Adobe PDF 294 kb)
- M Proposed Modifications to the Conditions of Approval (Added after meeting) (

Planning Commission Meeting March 3, 2021

https://services.countyofnapa.org/AgendaNet/GranicusMeetingDocuments.aspx?id=636

<u>4</u>

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / STAGLIN FAMILY VINEYARDS / MAJOR MODIFICATION #P18-00253-MOD

CEQA Status: Consideration and possible adoption of a Negative Declaration. According to the Negative Declaration, the proposed project would not have any potentially significant environmental impacts. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Request: Approval of a Use Permit Major Modification to an existing 36,000 gallon per year winery to allow the following: a) modification to increase by appointment Daily Tours and Tastings Program from the current 10 persons per day (weekdays only) to 44 persons per day (May 1 through November 30; Monday through Sunday) and 22 persons per day (December 1 through April 30), 308 persons maximum per week; b) modification of the locations of the Daily Tours and Tastings Program to take place in the Steckter House and the existing wine caves; c) on-premises consumption of wines produced on-site located in the outdoor areas immediately to the south and west of the Steckter House in accordance with Business and Professions Code Sections 23358, 23390 and 23396.5 (AB2004-Evans Bill); d) modification of the existing Marketing Program of nine (9) events per year consisting of (eight (8)) events with a maximum attendance of 45 persons and one (1) event with a maximum attendance of 200 persons) to allow the following: including 32-16 events per year with 12 attendees maximum (11:00am - 10:00pm), 16 five (5) events per year with 32 attendees maximum (11:00am - 10:00pm), three (3)four (4) events per year with 100 50 attendees maximum (611:00pm 00am - 10:00pm), two (2) events per year with 70 attendees maximum (11:00am - 10:00pm), one three (3) events per year with 100 attendees maximum (10:00am – 4:00pm), one event per year with 250 attendees maximum (1:00pm – 4:00pm), catered food prepared by a licensed caterer with minimal on-site preparation (heating and plating), events of 32 attendees or less and evening events of 50 to 100 attendees to occupy the building identified as the Steckter House and its

enclosable porch on the eastern side of the building, and events of 100-250 attendees or more to occupy the outdoor area north of the Steckter House; e) Increase on-site employees from 8 full-time employees and 0 part-time employees to 11 full-time employees and 5 part-time employees; f) add three (3) parking spaces for a total of 15 spaces; g) deletion replacement of Condition of Approval #3 from the original approved Use Permit (#98072-UP) which required the applicant to notify a representative of neighbors to the applicant 48 hours prior to an event with a required 30 days prior notice of marketing events with over 40 attendees provided to owners of property located within 1,000 feet of the winery parcels and other nearby owners who have requested such notice; h) width expansion for sections of the existing internal access driveway to 20 'with a 22 'horizontal clearance to comply with the Napa County Road and Street Standards; and i) modify internal circulation so that a portion of the access driveway loop becomes a one-way road. The project is a located on three parcels totaling 63 acres, located at 1570 Bella Oaks Lane, Rutherford, within the Agricultural Preserve (AP) zoning district and General Plan Land Use Designated as Agricultural Reserve (AR). APN 027-250-063, -064 & -065.

Staff Recommendation: Adopt the proposed Negative Declaration and approve the requested Use Permit Major Modification as revised and conditioned.

Staff Contact: Trevor Hawkes, Planner III, (707) 253-4388 or trevor.hawkes@countyofnapa.org

Applicant Contact: Shari Staglin, Staglin Family Vineyard

Representative Contact: Rob Anglin, Holman Teague Roche Anglin, LLP, (707) 927-4280 or anglin@htralaw.com.

CONTINUED FROM THE FEBRUARY 3, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING

- A <u>Recommended Findings</u> (Adobe PDF 171 kb)
- B Recommended Conditions of Approval and Final Agency Approval Memos (
- Adobe PDF 1648 kb)
- **C** Applicant's Proposed Modifications (Adobe PDF 236 kb)
- D Summit Engineering, Inc Memo (Adobe PDF 152 kb)
- E Staff Report of February 3, 2021 (Adobe PDF 138 kb)
- **F** Winery Comparison Tables Revised (Adobe PDF 164 kb)
- **G** Graphics (Adobe PDF 2387 kb)
- H Public Comments Received Subsequent to February 3, 2021, Hearing (Adobe PDF 2351 kb)
- 7A Additional Proposed Mods to the COA (Added after initial agenda posting) Adobe PDF - 248 kb)

- J Additional Public Comments (Added after initial agenda posting) (Adobe PDF 3625 kb)
- K <u>7A Applicant Response to Comments (Added after initial agenda posting)</u> (Adobe PDF - 5664 kb)

L 7A Staff Response to Comments (Added after initial agenda posting) (Adobe PDF - 181 kb)

M 7A Additional Public Comments (Added after meeting) (Adobe

Respectfully,

William McKinnon General Counsel Water Audit California