



Meeting Minutes

Napa County Planning Commission

District 1, Kara Brunzell (Chair)
District 2, Walter Brooks
District 3, Molly Moran Williams
District 4, Pete Richmond (Vice-Chair)
District 5, Megan Dameron

Brian D. Bordona, Director
Laura Anderson, County Counsel
Michael Parker, Planning Manager
Alexandria Quackenbush, Meeting Clerk
Angie Ramirez Vega, Meeting Clerk

Wednesday, January 7, 2026

9:00 AM

Board of Supervisors Chambers
1195 Third Street, Third Floor

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Commissioners Present: Kara Brunzell, Pete Richmond, Megan Dameron, Walter Brooks, Molly Moran Williams

Commissioners Absent: None

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. CITIZEN COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Brooks to approve minutes for the December 17, 2025, regular meeting as presented, seconded by Commissioner Moran Williams

Vote: Carried 5-0-0

Yes: Brooks, Moran Williams, Brunzell, Dameron, Richmond

No: None

Absent: None

5. AGENDA REVIEW

Charlene Gallina gave the agenda review.

6. DISCLOSURES

Yes: Moran Williams, Richmond, Dameron, Brooks

No: Brunzell

Absent: None

7. PUBLIC HEARING ITEMS

A. DIAMOND MOUNTAIN VINEYARD COMPANY INC/ DIAMOND CREEK VINEYARDS / MAJOR MODIFICATION NO. P19-00177 - MOD & REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION TO THE NAPA COUNTY ROAD AND STREET STANDARDS

CEQA STATUS: Consideration and possible adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration and a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) (SCH#2025120440). According to the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, the proposed project would not have any potentially significant environmental impacts after implementation of mitigation measures. Mitigation measures are proposed for the following area: Biological Resources. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

REQUEST: 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 proposal is to modify an existing winery Use Permit and subsequent modifications to recognize and approve items that are out of compliance with the permitted entitlements and for expansion beyond existing entitlements such as construction of a new winery building and agricultural storage building, increase in production, number of employees, weekly visitation, on-premises consumption of wine produced on-site, additional parking, number of marketing events, and necessary infrastructure improvements and upgrades to the wastewater system, and conversion of the existing winery building to a single-family residence with parking. The request also includes an Exception to the Napa County Road and Street Standards. The project is located on a 78.12-acre holding within the Agricultural Watershed (AW) zoning district and General Plan designated as Agriculture, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS). The site is located at 1500 Diamond Mountain Road, Calistoga, CA 94515. APN 020-440-004 (Winery Parcel) and 020-400-012 (Residential Parcel).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Continue the item to January 21, 2026, to accommodate completion of the project's CEQA review by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation and the public.

STAFF CONTACT: Kelli Cahill, Planner III, (707) 265-2325 or kelli.cahill@countyofnapa.org

APPLICANT AGENT CONTACT: Lester Hardy, Attorney; (707) 480-8093; lester@lfhardy.com
Chair Brunzell opened public comment, receiving none, she closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Richmond to continue the item to the Planning Commission Meeting on January 21, 2026, seconded by Commissioner Dameron

Vote: Carried 5-0-0

Yes: Richmond, Dameron, Moran Williams, Brunzell, Brooks

No: None

Absent: None

B. HAL AND FIONA BARNETT / BARNETT VINEYARDS WINERY / USE PERMIT P19-00125-UP, VIEWSHED P20-00121-VIEW, AND EXCEPTION TO THE ROAD AND STREET STANDARDS

CEQA STATUS: Consideration and possible adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. According to the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, the proposed project would not have any potentially significant environmental impacts after implementation of Mitigation Measures. Mitigation measures are proposed for the following area: Biological Resources. In accordance with Section 15105(b) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, Napa County submitted the proposed Initial Study/Negative Declaration to the State Clearinghouse for a 30-day review period beginning December 4, 2025, and running through January 3, 2026 (State Clearinghouse No. SCH 2025120300) <https://ceqasubmit.opr.ca.gov/>. This project is not on any lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5.

REQUEST: The proposal is for a new Use Permit for a small winery established under a Small Winery Use Permit Exemption approved on September 12, 1988, for an existing 20,000 gallon per year winery (Permit No. 158889). 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 to allow the following:
The Use Permit would modify and supersede an existing winery first approved under a Small Winery Exemption permit to recognize and establish uses and activities beyond the scope allowed under the previous Small Winery Exemption. The existing winery is currently approved for 20,000 gallons per year with 7,046 sq. ft. winery facility containing a 3,276 sq. ft. type 1 production cave, 1,470 sq. ft. production building, and 2,300 sq. ft covered crush/fermentation pad with solar panels, two (2) full time employees, six (6) parking spaces, process wastewater system, and other improvements typically associated with a winery.

A. Components Necessary to Remedy Existing Violations:

Establish a new Use Permit to recognize and approve:

- 1) Twenty-one (21) visitors per day for by-appointment Tours and Tastings with a weekly maximum of 97 visitors. The winery was approved for zero (0) visitors per day;
- 2) Recognize and approve a marketing program in the form of seven (7) events per year with a maximum of 30 guests with catered food and one (1) event per year with a maximum of 250 guests with catered food. The winery was approved for zero (0) marketing events;
- 3) Recognize and approve five (5) full-time employees. The winery was approved for two (2) full-time employees;
- 4) Recognize and approve on-premises consumption of wines produced on-site on the outdoor patio, outside of the northeastern cave portal, in accordance with Business and Professions Code Sections 23358, 23390 and 23396.5. No on-premises consumption was approved for the winery;
- 5) Hours of operation seven days a week: production 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., visitation 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and marketing events 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The winery was approved for wine

production between 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. Monday through Sunday. Recognition and approval of these unpermitted activities and uses triggers the installation of a public water system; excavation of approximately 1,000 cubic yards of spoils associated with the construction of improvements to the project driveway; removal of three (3) oak trees associated with driveway improvements, and the planting of nine (9) replacement oak trees (at a 3:1 ratio) on the project parcel.

6) Approval of an Exception to the Napa County Road and Street Standards (RSS) to construct a modified driveway design that serves the same overall practical effect of the RSS.

B. Expansion Beyond Existing Entitlements:

- 1) Increase production capacity from 20,000 gallons per year to 30,000 gallons per year;
- 2) Construction of a new 1,700 square foot structure for uses accessory to a winery, including a tasting room and office, in conformance to the Viewshed Protection Program (Napa County Code Chapter 18.106) and a garbage enclosure;
- 3) Excavation of approximately 800 cubic yards of spoils associated with the construction of structural pads for the new accessory structure and removal of approximately 1,150 square feet of vineyard;
- 4) Increase the number of onsite parking spaces from six (6) to twelve (12);
- 5) Install a new 12,000-gallon fire protection water tank;
- 6) Increase visitation from 21 visitors per day (recognized above) to 30 visitors per day for by-appointment Tours and Tastings with a weekly maximum of 210 visitors (97 maximum weekly visitors recognized above);
- 7) Increase employment from five (5) full-time employees (recognized above) to nine (9) full-time employees;
- 8) Reconfigure the marketing program to allow: four (4) events per year with a maximum of 20 guests, three (3) events per year with a maximum of 60 guests, and two (2) events per year with a maximum of 100 guests. Events to include catered food. Daily tours and tastings shall not occur on days with marketing events;
- 9) Installation of wastewater improvements, as detailed in the Wastewater Feasibility Report prepared by Madrone Engineering, dated February 12, 2020; and
- 10) Landscaping, and other improvements typically associated with wineries.

The project is located on an approximately 39.96-acre site within the Agricultural Watershed (AW) zoning district with a General Plan land use designation of Agriculture, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS) at 4070 Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena, CA 94574; APN: 020-300-047-000.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project and approve Use Permit No. P19-00125, Viewshed Protection Program No. P20-00121, and Exception to the Road and Street Standards, as conditioned.

STAFF CONTACT: Matt Ringel, Planner III, Matthew.ringel@countyofnapa.org, (707) 299-1351

APPLICANT CONTACT: Hal and Fiona Barnett, 4070 Spring Mountain Road, St. Helena, CA

94574, hbarnett@barnettvineyards.com, (707) 963-3724.

APPLICANT REPRESENTATIVE CONTACT: Rob Anglin, Holman Teague Roche Anglin, LLP, 1455 First Street, Suite 217, Napa, CA 94559, anglin@htralaw.com, (707) 927-4280.

Chair Brunzell opened public comment, receiving none, she closed public comment.

Motion by Commissioner Dameron to 1. Adopt the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration based on recommended Findings 1-7 in Attachment A; 2. Approve the Exception to the Road and Street Standards based on recommended Findings 8-9 in Attachment A, and subject to the recommended Conditions of Approval in Attachment B; 3. Approve the Viewshed Protection Program request (P20-00121-VIEW) based on recommended Findings 10-16 in Attachment A, and subject to the recommended Conditions of Approval in Attachment B; 4. Approve the Use Permit request (P19-00125-UP) based on recommended Findings 17-21 in Attachment A, and subject to the recommended Conditions of Approval in Attachment B; seconded by Commissioner Moran Williams.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

A. COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE 2026 CALENDAR YEAR

Request: Annual appointments and/or reappointments of Commission members to Standing Committees.

Staff Contact: Charlene Gallina, Supervising Planner (707) 299-1355 or charlene.gallina@countyofnapa.org

ITEM CONTINUED FROM DECEMBER 17, 2025.

Motion by Commissioner Dameron, to select a new appointment of Commissioner Moran Williams to the Wildlife Conservation Commission; to confirm existing appointment of Chair Brunzell to the Airport Advisory Committee and to confirm existing appointment of Commissioner Richmond to the Watershed Information and Conservation Council (WICC), seconded by Commissioner Brooks.

Vote Carried: 5-0-0

Yes: Dameron, Brooks, Richmond, Moran Williams, Brunzell

No: None

Absent: None

9. DIRECTOR OR DIRECTOR'S DESIGNEE REPORT

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS FOR THE *JANUARY 21, 2026 REGULAR MEETING*

Michael Parker discussed potential items for the January 21, 2026, meeting.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ACTIONS - None

OTHER DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES - None

CODE COMPLIANCE REPORT - None

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR ACTIONS - None

OTHER PENDING PROJECT'S STATUS

Chair Brunzell presented Commissioner Dameron with 2025 exiting chair certificate.

10. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS / COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Brooks provided comments.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:01am

ANGIE RAMIREZ VEGA, Meeting Clerk