



February 2, 2026

Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Letter of Support for Hourglass Wine Company Use Permit Application

Dear Napa County Planning Commission,

I am writing to express my strong support for the use permit modification application submitted by Hourglass Wine Company. I'm a resident and business owner in the Napa Valley and am very familiar with this property and the surrounding area, I have also known the Smith family for many years.

After reviewing the proposed alterations to their use permit, I believe the proposed project is consistent with Napa County's policies and development goals. In fact, it is exactly the kind of modest and responsible development we all want in our community. The proposed winery modifications clearly demonstrated the owner's continued thoughtful consideration of potential impacts to traffic, noise, water use, and visual considerations being largely underground.

Following the devastating 2020 Glass Fire the Smith family has struggled as have others to rebuild and recover, faced now with the industry's current financial challenges, allowing this modification to improve their property in order to compete and survive in the marketplace is something we all need to support. In my view, approval of this use permit modification will contribute positively to the Napa Valley's reputation for high-quality, small-scale wine production while maintaining compatibility with neighboring properties.

I respectfully encourage the Planning Commission to approve the Hourglass Wine Company's use permit modification. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "PN", written in a cursive style.

Paul Niles
Grassi & Associates, Inc.

From: Alex Ryan
To: [Jeff Carolyn Smith](#)
Cc: [Jon Webb](#)
Subject: Hourglass Winery - Use Permit Major Mod - P19-00102-MOD
Date: Monday, February 2, 2026 7:55:13 AM

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Dear Napa County Planning Commission,

As a 50 year resident of Napa County, I am in full support of the Hourglass Winery Use Permit Modification. Owner Jeff Smith, and this small, agriculturally based wine company, is perfectly suited for the Napa community and exactly what Napa needs now. Napa's future success will continue to need successful growing wineries to invest in the community and support the local economy, and I firmly believe Hourglass will do this as it has done for the past 25 years. All of the requests contained within this application are in line with the spirit of family owned, small premium wineries which we would all agree are the backbone of the overall Napa community.

Thank you for your attention to this important community matter.

Best regards,

Alex Ryan
1053 Mt George Ave
Napa, CA 94558

From: [Jon Webb](#)
To: [Ringel, Matthew](#)
Subject: Fw: Our support of your application to expand your winery business
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:54:07 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

[External Email - Use Caution]

Matt

Additional Letter of Support below

Thank You

Jon M Webb, PLS 6709
Albion Surveys, Inc.
1113 Hunt Avenue
Saint Helena, CA 94574
707-963-1217, ext 117
707-963-1829(facsimile)
jwebb@albionsurveys.com

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From: Jeff Smith <jeff@hourglasswine.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2026 10:46 AM
To: Jon Webb <jwebb@albionsurveys.com>; Thomas Adams <tadams@dpf-law.com>; Mike Muelrath <mike@appliedcivil.com>
Subject: FW: Our support of your application to expand your winery business

Jon,

Mike Cole's letter. I'm working with Kelly now. Should have that by tomorrow.

Jeff Smith
President/Founder
Hourglass Wine Company, Inc.
1104 Adams St. Suite 104, St. Helena CA 94574
C 707-484-9333, O 707-968-9332



From: Mike Cole <jmcole.650@gmail.com>
Date: Thursday, January 29, 2026 at 9:28 AM
To: Jeff Smith <jeff@hourglasswine.com>
Cc: Anna Cole <annajanaecole@gmail.com>
Subject: Our support of your application to expand your winery business

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

We are writing to express our strong support for our neighbors' application to expand their winery and rebuild what was lost from the Glass fire. We have known the Smith family for more than ten years and throughout that time, Jeff and his family have been respectful, responsible, and thoughtful neighbors. We have always valued the care they take in maintaining their property and the property border we share with them.

The Smiths are deeply rooted in the Napa Valley Community. They have made significant contributions to support their local community over the last 60 years through the families many different philanthropic, educational, social, economic, and artistic endeavors.

This dedication extends beyond how they treat their community and neighbors, to

how they run their local family wine business. They have been good stewards of the land for over two generations being an early mover in implementing organic farming practices and sustainably building their LEED Platinum certified winery in 2009.

They take great care in everything they do. The winery is mostly hidden away from the Silverado Trail at the back of their property with a minimal footprint and impact to their neighbors. We have personally not experienced any unusual noise, or light issues save for normal farming activities. The proposed modifications are comparably small in scope, appropriately scaled, and focused to the rear of their 41 acre property. We foresee no negative traffic impact during project construction. There is ample space in both directions for trucks when turning from the Silverado Trail to Lommel Road and vice versa.

In summary, we fully support this application and hope the County will also support the reestablishment of a fire impacted business. They are proposing modest and necessary increases in production and visitation to be successful given the current challenging economic circumstances facing the wine industry.

Yours sincerely,
John and Anna Cole

Mike Cole

From: Kelly Peterson <kelly@switchbackridge.com>

Date: Friday, January 30, 2026 at 4:32 AM

To: Jeff Smith <jeff@hourglasswine.com>

Subject: Use Permit Modification

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

Unfortunately, I will be traveling on the day of the Hourglass Winery modification hearing, but I would like to have attended to voice my enthusiastic support of the Hourglass Winery Use Permit Modification. I am a fourth generation Calistogan and have known the Smith family for 27 years. My family's property has been their direct neighbor sharing 1600 feet of Selby Creek as our mutual property boundary for the past 20 years. The Smiths are a third generation Napa Valley family moving here in the early 1960s. Like us, they have deep roots and have contributed significantly to the fabric of our community. They have been good stewards of the land, taking their vineyard organic about 8 years ago, and have been engaged and responsive to any issues that come up in our neighborhood. The original winery they completed in 2009, which sadly was destroyed in the Glass Fire, was a model winery, built with a minimal footprint in LEEDs standards. It is tucked away in the back of the property and is not visible to the public. Most of it is contained underground. We have never had any light or noise issues outside of normal farming activities. They rebuilt the winery after the 2020 Glass Fire with the same attention to a minimal eco-conscious design in essentially the same footprint. We understand the proposed modifications are similarly designed with minimal impact that is proportional to the 40+ acre property it resides within. We have a driveway just to the north and have never experienced any traffic issues caused by the winery and they enjoy easy egress to their property. They have been extremely respectful and gracious neighbors.

In summary, we fully support this application and hope that the County will also support the reestablishment of fire impacted businesses that propose modest and necessary increases in production and visitation necessary for successful family owned wineries given the current challenging economic circumstances facing the wine industry.

Sincerely,

Kelly J Peterson
Managing Partner
SWITCHBACK RIDGE
Peterson Family Vineyard
4292 Silverado Trail N
Calistoga, CA 94515



RELIC

Dear Chair and Commissioners,

We are writing to voice our support for Hourglass Winery's requested use permit modifications, currently under consideration. These would be Hourglass Winery, Use Permit Major Modification #P19-00102-MOD, Viewshed Protection Program #P23-00278-VIEW, Exception to the Conservation Regulations #P23-00279-UP and Exception to the Road and Street Standards.

We feel strongly, as long-time residents of Saint Helena and as fellow winery owners, that these modifications should be approved.

We've known the Smith's for over 20 years and have been witness to their strong and sincere passion for Napa Valley, building a modest winery while being thoughtful and helpful neighbors to those around them and in the greater community and industry.

As long-time residents, they bring decades of Napa Valley history to the project and have contributed greatly to the Valley culture and economy through their entrepreneurship, commitment to wine quality and land stewardship.

They have demonstrated their respect for our land and community through the size and scope of their winery, which honors the landscape, view-shed and setbacks that preserve the unique character of Napa Valley.

Small, family-owned and run wineries are the lifeblood of Napa Valley and need flexibility in the wine marketplace in order to succeed, providing jobs and county revenue as a result. Specific to this application, the Smith's were deeply affected by the Glass Fire of 2020 and have faced a long road to recovery. We feel that the small modifications requested here should be granted without controversy.

Sincerely,
Mike Hirby and Schatzi Throckmorton
January 30, 2026