

DOJ issues Subpoena to Napa County



The Napa County Administration building.
Nick Otto, Register

[Barry Eberling](#)

The U.S. Department of Justice has issued a demand to Napa County for numerous documents, including ones that appear [related to a land deal involving the family of Supervisor Alfredo Pedroza](#), the Napa Valley Register has learned.

Separate federal subpoenas ask for documents related to the Napa County Airport as well as ones related to the Upper Valley Waste Management Agency.

[[Federal investigators contact Napa County](#)

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Though Pedroza himself is not listed, the first subpoena asks for any documents connected to 40 individuals and companies, including Vinedos AP, LLC, which completed the Atlas Peak land deal involving the supervisor's in-laws.

Though the subpoena does not indicate what officials are looking for, it asks for documents dating from Jan. 1, 2016.

Napa County released the subpoenas in response to a Napa Valley Register public records act request.

Vinedos bought 405 acres on Atlas Peak next to the Walt Ranch, which was for years a controversial vineyard project before the county. Pedroza was a member of Vinedos from Jan. 29 to Nov. 1, 2021, according his state-required statement of economic interest form.

Pedroza has said the purpose was to buy land that could become a vineyard for his father-in-law Esteban Llamas, who is a vineyard manager. The subpoena seeks county documents involving Llamas as well as Craig and Katherine Hall, who owned [Walt Ranch prior to the land becoming a nature preserve](#) and Circle R Ranch, which sold the land to Vinedos.

Also on the list for county information are Altamuras Enterprises, Caymus Vineyards, the developers of Watson Ranch in American Canyon, Hundred Acre Winery, Alpha Omega winery, Meritage Resort and Pacific Hospitality Group Ventures, among others.

How each is connected to Pedroza, if at all, is unclear at this point.

Pedroza could not be reached for comment Thursday evening.

A second, Dec. 4 federal subpoena appears to be linked to another topic. It asks for all records related to a [Napa County grand jury report on the county's efforts to redevelop the Napa County Airport](#). The subpoena lists the date of the report as June 21, 2023, though the report actually came out on June 21, 2022.

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[[Napa County responds to stinging grand jury airport report](#)

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The grand jury criticized how the county handled the airport redevelopment effort, alleging unwarranted secrecy. The Board of Supervisors in an Aug. 23, 2022 response — by a 3-2 vote — said the county didn't misuse or overuse closed sessions. It also said the county didn't lack a common vision or fail to promote transparency in ways that undermined its push to create a 21st-century version of the south county airport.

A third federal subpoena dated Dec. 7 went to Public Works Director Steven Lederer. It asks for information related to waste management services in upper Napa Valley, which includes Yountville, St. Helena and Calistoga.

The Napa Valley Register previously reported that federal investigators had sought information kept by the county for the [Upper Valley Waste Management Agency](#), a joint powers authority that oversees upper valley waste disposal. The county provides administration for the agency.

Among other things, the subpoena asks for documents addressing competition for waste management services in Marin, Sonoma, Napa, Yolo and Solano counties. The subpoena mentions a company, but the name is redacted.

The Pestoni family in 2022 sold Upper Valley Disposal & Recycling Services and the Clover Flat landfill outside Calistoga to Waste Connections, which operates in 43 U.S. states and six Canadian provinces.