

GROWERS/VINTNERS FOR RESPONSIBLE AGRICULTURE

Summary from Strategic Plan Focus Group with County held on 9/20/18

September 26, 2018

Problem Statement: We are in an existential struggle to save the agricultural and environmental integrity of Napa Valley.

Current Situation: There are competing interests in our community, and we are concerned about this Valley's future. We place the highest value on the rural, agrarian quality of life which drew us all here. Napa Valley is a **National Treasure** and as such deserves to be stewarded with great care. Our natural resources are finite and we are living in a time of great climate upheaval. All of us in Napa County are now dealing with the harsh realities of mega droughts and record breaking temperatures. Threats to the quality and quantity of our diminishing water supply loom large due to increasing pressure to develop in the hillsides and the lack of rock solid, fully enforced protection of fresh water for today and long into the future. Municipalities augment their limited local water supplies with imports from the State Water Project, a water source that is already over allocated and is becoming scarcer due to changes in precipitation and snowpack. We need a long-term vision.

Actions: We offer the following Actions to address the above concerns, distilled into two main areas:

1. Agricultural Integrity

- a. WDO: Restore the definition of Agriculture in our Winery Definition Ordinance back to what it was in the WDO's original form
 - i. Agriculture (defined as growing and harvesting of crops and stock) and production (defined as conversion of crops and stock into products for human use) dominant, all other uses ancillary
 - ii. The hospitality area at wineries is calculated must be changed (too broad now)
- b. Enforce use permits and codes to ensure no violations
 - i. Codify variances strictly to reduce their use
 - ii. 75% rule must be honored and enforced
 - iii. Strict compliance with CEQA (cumulative impacts of projects must be considered). Require permit violators to operate within their permits. County must match inventory of grapes to permit wine production
 - iv. Define and codify which projects require an EIR versus those that get a mitigated negative declaration
- c. Increase minimum acreage for a winery to 40 acres
- d. Human Resources: to farm and produce well, we need a solid local labor force that can get to work with minimal traffic. Minimizing hospitality activities and focusing on agriculture will decrease traffic and increase housing available to our vineyard and winery (production) workers
- e. Prohibit Hold and Haul

2. Environmental Protection

- a. Enhance protections for our watershed, thus restoring the health of the Napa River and our reservoirs which will ensure the integrity of the Ag Preserve by:
 - i. Allowing no more deforestation of our oak woodlands and establishing a County policy to control Timber Harvest Plans
 1. Make mandatory the current voluntary oak woodland plan and increase the mitigation ratio to three to one with appropriate enforcement
 2. Promote Forest Safe Wine certification (and require it for any new applications for wineries or vineyards)

3. Establish a Forest Management Plan in order to minimize fire danger
- ii. Enhance water quality buffer zones for streams and wetlands
- iii. Not approve any new vineyards or wineries for which water must be trucked in or wastewater trucked out
 1. Allow no wineries or vineyards if the existing infrastructure (roads, water, etc.) cannot support them
 2. Consider ways to reduce the dangers to human life by restricting development in areas subject to “cut off” from fires
- iv. Encourage (or require) progressive, enlightened, chemical use reductions in farming practices
- v. Greenhouse Gasses: complete Climate Action Plan to address this
- vi. Require minimum 2 lane road standards for new permit development