



March 3, 2015

Supervisor Diane Dillon
Planning Commissioner Heather Phillips
Napa County Administration Building
1195 Third Street
Napa, Ca 94559

Dear Chairwoman Dillon and Chairwoman Phillips,

We the undersigned Presidents offer our collective perspective on issues currently under discussion at the County and within our community at large.

The Napa Valley Grapegrowers, the Winegrowers of Napa County, and the Napa Valley Vintners encourage the County to exhibit leadership in navigating the complexity of these issues and in defining the future vision of Napa. Napa County has carefully enacted comprehensive policies and regulations in place to protect our resources and ensure a strong future. We encourage the County to enforce these regulations and follow through on its General Plan policies. We believe that unrealistic winery applications, shored up by the excessive use of variances, should be denied. We do not favor or encourage a moratorium. Strict oversight of existing procedures, paired with fewer creative solutions to non-conforming parcels, will go a long way toward diminishing community and industry concerns. We further request continued attention be paid to the enforcement of food and wine pairing accessory use at wineries.

There has been much discussion of establishing guidelines or using a 'conceptual matrix' when balancing parcel size or acreage with production and visitation. We formally offer our assistance in helping the Planning Department establish these guidelines with an eye to sensible and sustainable development. In addition, we are willing to meet with any community groups, organizations or municipalities to broaden our mutual understanding. We are not suggesting hard and fast rules to limit development, but merely a sincere effort to cull out the outlandish before everyone becomes too invested in the outcome.

We sincerely appreciate your leadership in these complex discussions. Opposition to all development is not the answer. We commit to continuing our support of Napa County leadership, to ensure the preservation of Napa's Agricultural Preserve and along with that, the Napa brand which we all hold dear.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Moulds
Napa Valley
Grapegrowers

Tony LeBlanc
Winegrowers
of Napa County

David R. Duncan
Napa Valley Vintners