

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 4

OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

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a California Way of Life.*

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Blake Hillegas, Project Planner
Sonoma County
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

VJB Vineyard and Cellars – Transportation Impact Study

Dear Blake Hillegas:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for the VJB Vineyard and Cellars project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the July 2019 Transportation Impact Study.

Project Understanding

VJB Vineyards and Cellars requests a modification to an existing Use Permit to acknowledge the outdoor seating area and outdoor kitchen (BBQ), the installation of a right-hand turn lane through the re-striping of a portion of Shaw Avenue, the widening of the shoulder along State Route (SR)-12 across from the property frontage, the opening of Maple Avenue for egress only, the reduction of off-site parking along Shaw Avenue, the addition of an off-site parking lot at 75 Shaw Avenue, 15 special events with 100 guests each, restriction of the hours of operations to 10 am to 4 pm, and the modification to conditions, as appropriate, to reflect changes in the project, which have occurred over time and by request. The proposed project is adjacent to SR-12.

Design

The feasibility of widening the shoulder on either side of Shaw Avenue (west of SR-12) should be investigated in the subsequent environmental document.

Construction-Related Impacts

Potential impacts to SR 12 from project-related temporary access points should be analyzed. Mitigation for significant impacts due to construction and noise should be identified. Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on state roadways requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, Sonoma County is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to SR-12. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any work or traffic control that encroaches onto SR-12 requires an encroachment permit that is issued by Caltrans. To obtain an encroachment permit, a completed encroachment permit application, environmental documentation, and six (6) sets of plans clearly indicating the State ROW, and six (6) copies of signed and stamped traffic control plans must be submitted to: Office of Encroachment Permits, California DOT, District 4, P.O. Box 23660, Oakland, CA 94623-0660. To download the permit application and obtain more information, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications/>

Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Michael McHenry at 510-286-5562 or michael.mchenry@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review