



County of Santa Barbara Planning and Development

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 06 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

June 6, 2019

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION 19NGD-00000-00007

For the Proposed

Sanja Cota Frost Protection Reservoir No. 2 Project

18CUP-00000-00028

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: A request of Brett Jones, agent for The Wine Group, LLC, owner, for approval of a Minor Conditional Use Permit on property zoned Agriculture (AG-II-100). The Minor Conditional Use Permit is a request to construct and operate a water storage reservoir that would be used to provide frost protection for approximately 300 acres of existing vineyards.

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed reservoir would be located at 222 Refugio Road, approximately 1.1 miles south of the Santa Ynez Airport, in the 3rd Supervisorial District. The reservoir would be located on Assessor Parcel Number 141-440-017, which is 237 acres in size. A related soil stockpile would be located on the same parcel and a temporary construction staging area would be located on Assessor Parcel 141-440-011.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Santa Barbara County P&D is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration 19NGD-00000-00007. You may comment by submitting written or oral comments to the project planner identified below prior to **the close of public comment period on July 5, 2019 at 5 p.m.**

PROJECT DETAILS: A request of Brett Jones, agent for The Wine Group, LLC, owner, to consider case number 18CUP-00000-00028 [application filed on September 21, 2018] for approval of a Minor Conditional Use Permit in the Agriculture (AG-II-100) zone district under the Land Use Development Code. The proposed Minor Conditional Use Permit would result in the construction and operation of a water storage reservoir. The reservoir would have a water storage capacity of 41 acre feet and a water surface area of 2.64 acres. A total of approximately 65,602 cubic yards of cut and fill grading would be required to construct the reservoir. Grading for the construction of the reservoir would occur on approximately 4.4 acres. Approximately 7,348 cubic yards of excess soil would be placed in a stockpile to be located approximately 150 feet south of the reservoir. The soil stockpile would occupy an area of approximately 1.1 acres.

The water stored in the proposed reservoir would be used to provide frost protection for approximately 300 acres of existing vineyards. Frost protection would be achieved by applying spray irrigation to the grape vines when frost has the potential to damage the plants. Frost protection would generally be required during the months of February, March and April, and the reservoir would be maintained in a full condition during those months. Water contained in the reservoir after the end of the frost season would be used for vineyard irrigation. Water to be stored in the reservoir would be supplied by two existing Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District agricultural water meters and an existing agricultural well located on Assessor Parcel 141-440-017. Water from each of the wells would be conveyed to the reservoir by existing vineyard irrigation pipelines, and water that is stored in the reservoir would also be distributed using existing irrigation pipelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FINDINGS: P&D has prepared a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (19NGD-00000-00007) pursuant to Section 15073 of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the County of Santa Barbara Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA. P&D's issuance of a Mitigated Negative Declaration affirms our opinion that any significant adverse impacts associated with the proposed project may be reduced to a less than significant level with the adoption of mitigation measures and that the project does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The Mitigated Negative Declaration prepared for the project identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts and monitoring requirements for identified subject areas. Significant but mitigable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas: **Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geologic Processes, and Water Resources/Flooding**. If the project description changes, P&D will require a reevaluation to consider the changes. This reevaluation will be subject to all regular fees and conditions. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed project.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: If a copy of the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is not attached, the draft MND may be obtained and all documents referenced in the MND may be reviewed at Planning & Development offices located at 123 E. Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara **OR** 624 Foster Road, Suite C, Santa Maria **AND** on our website at: www.sbcountyplanning.org/environmental/active.cfm. The MND is also available for review at the Solvang Branch Public Library located at 1745 Mission Drive, Solvang, CA 93463.

HOW TO COMMENT: Please provide comments to the project planner, Steve Rodriguez, telephone (805) 682-3413, Fax (805) 568-2030, or email at rodriguezaiCP@aol.com prior to the **close of public comment on July 5, 2019 at 5 p.m.** Please limit comments to environmental issues such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public hearings to consider project approval or denial.