



State Water Resources Control Board

February 13, 2025

Hannah Spencer
Sonoma County
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

COMMENT LETTER ON THE SONOMA COUNTY (COUNTY), REVISED
SUBSEQUENT INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR FILE
NO. UPE17-0049 CROIX ESTATE WINERY EXPANSION PROJECT (PROJECT);
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE #2024080048

Dear Hannah Spencer:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Environmental Document for the proposed Project. The State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water (State Water Board, DDW) is responsible for regulating public water systems and issuing water supply permits pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act. This Project is within the jurisdiction of the State Water Board, DDW's Marin District.

A public water system, as defined in the California Health and Safety Code (Health & Saf. Code) § 116275 subd. [h], is "a system for the provision of water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances that has 15 or more service connections or regularly serves at least 25 individuals daily at least 60 days out of the year."

If the above noted project results in the formation of a public water system, an application must be submitted, and a permit must be obtained from the DDW Marin District before water can be provided for human consumption. "Human consumption" means the use of water for drinking, bathing or showering, hand washing, oral hygiene, or cooking, including, but not limited to, preparing food and washing dishes." Health & Saf. Code § 116275 subd. [e].

Note, Health & Saf. Code § 116527 subd. (b) requires that any person submitting a permit application for a proposed new public water system must first submit a Preliminary Technical Report (PTR) at least six months before initiating construction of any drinking water-related improvements. The technical report must include an examination of the possibility of connecting to or being annexed by an existing adjacent community water system. The following website has more information for the Project applicant (Applicant) and guidance document for the initial Preliminary Technical Report: [Permits for Water Systems | California State Water Resources Control Board](#).

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The State Water Board, DDW has the following technical recommendations regarding the Project planning to be shared with the Applicant:

- The Applicant should initiate communication with the DDW Marin District early in the project design phase to ensure compliance with all necessary drinking water permit regulations for the proposed facilities.
- The Applicant should provide project design drawings and as-built plans to the Marin District via the email below for all existing and proposed infrastructure, including main and water line connections to buildings, prior to the start of any construction to ensure compliance with separation standards as outlined in Cal. Code Regs. tit., 22, § 64572. The plans should detail all pipes and conveyances from the proposed groundwater source well(s), mains and connections to any structures, covering both potable and wastewater conveyances.
- The Applicant should reach out to the Marin District at (707) 576-2145 and/or by email DWPDist25@waterboards.ca.gov

The State Water Board, DDW, as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act has the following comments on the County's Environmental Document:

- The proposed Project appears to create a new public water system. The State Water Board, DDW, prefers projects connect with a nearby community water system if feasible, instead of forming a new public water system. If connecting to a nearby community system is not feasible, the applicant will need to submit a PTR to DDW Marin District six months before initiating construction of any drinking water-related improvements. (Health and Saf. Code § 116527 subd. (b)). If feasible, it may be beneficial to discuss connecting to a nearby community water system in the Environmental Document.
- If a new public water system will be created by the Project:
 - Please add, "The State Water Board, Division of Drinking Water" and "Water Supply Permit" to Table 2. Under "Authorization" add "Ca. Code Regs. tit. 22, 64556 (3)(a)."
 - Please provide a map of the proposed public water system or discuss where the water system components will be sited within the Project area.
 - Please provide a description of the new and existing potable water system components and impacts associated with construction and operation of the system. Please consider wells, water storage, treatment, and if fire flow will be provided by the Croix winery's potable water system.
 - Cal. Code. Regs. § 64572 and Cal. Code. Regs. § 64560 requires separation of drinking water service lines and domestic supply wells from sources of potential contamination such as leach fields. The Project site includes multiple existing leach fields for domestic and winery process water (PDF pages 42, 58, and Attachment 2, Project Plans page 2). Please indicate if Cal. Code. Regs. can be met or if a waiver or alternative to Waterworks Standards (Cal. Code. Regs. § 64551.100) will be needed. If a waiver is needed, the Applicant will need to provide the DDW Marin

- District with the alternate plans and a waiver approval should be listed as part of the needed DDW approvals in the Environmental Document.
- Under Mitigation Measure BIO-1, the Project requires a wetland assessment and evaluation of potential direct and indirect impacts to any wetland habitat, such as modification of hydrological conditions (PDF page 25). Under the Hydrology and Water Quality Section (a), when discussing if the Project will violate waste discharge requirements, in addition to discussing septic waste, please discuss possible discharge impacts to wetlands that may be identified by the assessment in Mitigation Measure BIO-1 and the actions that will be taken to protect the hydrology and water quality of these identified wetlands.

Once the Environmental Document is adopted, please forward the following items in support of the Applicant's permit application to the State Water Board, DDW Sonoma District Office at DWPDIST25@waterboards.ca.gov:

- The Environmental Document and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP);
- All comment letters received and the lead agency responses as appropriate;
- The Resolution or Board Minutes adopting the Environmental Document and MMRP and approving the Project; and
- The date stamped Notice of Determination filed at the County Clerk's Office and the State Clearinghouse.

Please contact Lori Schmitz of the State Water Board at (916) 449-5285 or Lori.Schmitz@waterboards.ca.gov, for questions regarding this comment letter.

Sincerely,

Lori Schmitz
Environmental Scientist
Division of Financial Assistance
Special Project Review Unit
1001 I Street, 16th floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Cc:

State Clearinghouse

Elena Joy Pelen
District Engineer
Marin District