



January 26, 2021

Donald Barrella, Planner III
County of Napa
Planning, Building, and Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, California 94559

RE: Chappellet Vineyard, Napa County ECP – Response to Napa County comments on biological resources (File #P20-00271-ECPA)

Mr. Barrella:

This letter provides a response to a request from Napa County (County) for additional information/analysis regarding biological resources for the Chappellet Vineyard property located on Sage Ranch Road (Study Area; APNs 032-010-076, -94) near Saint Helena in unincorporated Napa County, California.¹ The request is outlined in a letter from the Planning, Building, and Environmental Services Department, *Application Completeness Determination –Chappellet Vineyard Agricultural Erosion Control Plan (ECPA) File #P20-00271-ECPA*. The request was made in the context of a previous Biological Resources Reconnaissance Survey (BRRS) report covering the site/project by WRA, Inc. (WRA) dated February 2020. This letter is effectively an addendum to WRA’s February 2020 report.

The proposed project consists primarily of installation of new vineyard blocks on the property.

Response to County Request

The section below directly addresses the comments from the County point-by-point (with text from the County in *italics*); the relevant pages from the County’s letter are included as Attachment B.

2. Supplemental Environmental Information...

a. Biological Resource Information...

- i. Provide a listing of trees, including species and diameter at breast height (dbh), of trees being removed that are located in areas identified as ‘Unsurveyed Areas With Potential Trees’ in [BRRS report] Figure A-3 (Tree Survey).*

¹ The Application Completeness Determination letter references new parcel numbers resulting from remapping by the Assessors Division, i.e., APNs 032-560-022, -033.

The February 2020 BRRS report provided an inventory of trees proposed for removal within the Study Area. However, five specific areas were noted as “Unsurveyed Areas...” because of alterations to the proposed development that included these areas subsequent to the field tree inventory.

It’s is WRA’s understanding that the County approved of a “remote” assessment for these unsurveyed areas, as informed by (field-collected) data from adjacent on-site areas that were surveyed.² A qualified WRA plant biologist (Aaron Arthur; co-author) performed the evaluation using available aerial photography and existing tree inventory data. Trees were assigned to likely species based on visual characteristics (i.e., one of the three species recorded during the field inventory). Tree size (DBH in inches) was extrapolated via the field data i.e., using the mean DBH for that species as was field-inventoried across the site.

Trees added via the remote assessment are shown along with the previously inventoried trees in Figure A-1 (Attachment A), and a summary by species with extrapolated size is provided in Table 1. A total of 89 additional trees are now treated as scheduled for removal.

Species	# ground	# remote	Total	Est. DBH remote (in. ± st. dev.)
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i> coast live oak	137	32	169	28.2 ± 24.0
<i>Quercus douglasii</i> blue oak	47	22	69	29.9 ± 17.4
<i>Umbellularia californica</i> California bay	144	35	179	22.4 ± 18.0
Total	328	89	417	-

ii. A discussion and impact analysis of any special-status mosses, bryophytes, and lichens...

Searches of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB; CDFW 2021), California Native Plant Society Electronic Inventory (CNPS 2021), Calflora Electronic Inventory (Calflora 2021), and the Napa County Baseline Data Report (NCBDR; Napa County 2005) result in no documented occurrences of special-status mosses, bryophytes or lichens in Napa County. Furthermore, botanical survey guidelines state that it is appropriate to conduct botanical field surveys when special-status plants have been historically identified in a project area and/or the project area contains similar physical and biological properties to know occurrences of special-status in the general vicinity (CDFW 2018). Few special-status bryophytes or lichens as listed in the databases above have been documented from chaparral or cismontane woodland (e.g., oak woodland/forest); most have been documented from coniferous forest types. And as noted above, none have been documented from Napa County or the immediate environs with similar chaparral and woodland types.

² Personal communication with Mike Muelrath of Applied Civil Engineering, December 23, 2020.

Please contact us if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Yakich". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jason" and last name "Yakich" clearly distinguishable.

Jason Yakich
Senior Biologist
yakich@wra-ca.com

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Arthur". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aaron" and last name "Arthur" clearly distinguishable.

Aaron Arthur
Senior Associate Plant Biologist
Certified California Consulting Botanist #0016
arthur@wra-ca.com

Enclosures: Attachment A – Figure
Attachment B – Excerpt pages from County letter

REFERENCES

Calflora. 2021. Website: Information on wild California plants for conservation, education, and appreciation. Available at: <http://www.calflora.org/>. Accessed: January 2021.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 2021. California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), Wildlife and Habitat Data Analysis Branch. Sacramento, CA. Accessed: January 2021.

(CDFW). 2018. Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities. California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Game. March.

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). 2021. Online Inventory of Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Plants of California. Available at: <http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/>. Accessed: January 2021.

Napa County. 2005. Napa County Baseline Data Report. Available at: <http://www.co.napa.us/gov/>.