

KJELDEN BIOLOGICAL CONSULTING
Chris K. Kjeldsen Ph.D., Botany
Daniel T. Kjeldsen B.S., Natural Resource Management
923 St. Helena Ave.
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

December 18, 2023

To: County of Napa
Planning, Building and Environmental Services
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Application Review Determination – Harcorss Winery Vineyard
Agricultural Erosion Control Plan (ECPA) Record #P23-00325-ECPA
6402 Dry Creek Road, APN 027-530-006

Biological Resource Information d.ii

INTRODUCTION

A letter dated December 8, 2023, from Napa County, states that the initial review of the ECPA application package has found that the information in Exhibit A is necessary to adequately describe and review the request and complete the application.

Exhibit A identifies environmental information necessary to evaluate the significance of any potential impacts the project may have on the environment pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Information is needed to prepare a technically adequate and legally defensible CEQA document and determination. Because the ECPA application is being processed in conjunction with the pending winery use permit application (#P23-00105-UP) an Initial Study and Negative Declaration will be prepared.

Biological Resource Information

- d. Biological Resource Information: Please provide an addendum or update to the Biological Resource Survey (Kjeldsen Biological Consulting September 2023) that includes, address, or shows the following:*
- ii. Confirmation that the grasslands do not provide important or significant foraging habitat for birds and raptors within the project area or surround areas.*

The project proposes the construction of a winery and development of vineyards within an open ruderal grassland area on the property. Ruderal annual grasslands on the project and in the area are dominated by non-native exotic species that have become established in California. There is evidence that the open area on the property has been cleared and disturbed in the past, as evidence of drainage channels along the contours and remanent non-native grape vines.

The quality of foraging habitat for birds and raptors is typically based on habitat structure, food availability, human activities, and competition (difficulty by species competition for limited resources). The project will impact most of the open ruderal habitat on the property and a small amount of oak woodland.

The extent to which critical features are available to a species and how important it is for such species life cycle or part of it defines a habitats quality.

Suitable Habitat – Offers essential requirements for a species life cycle or part of it. The species occurs in the habitat regularly or frequently.

Marginal Habitat – Offer little or hard access to essential elements of a species live cycle. The species occur in the habitat only irregular or infrequently, or only a small proportion of individuals are found in the habitat.

The ruderal grasslands on the property provide marginal foraging habitat for birds and raptors. Removal of a small amount of ruderal grassland habitat within the surrounding area would not be considered a significant loss of foraging habitat. There are large areas of similar habitat with greater structure available for foraging birds and raptors in the surrounding area.

The disturbed nature of the grasslands on the project site has reduced habitat structure, lowered food availability, and distance to the road with increased noise, are all factors that reduce the quality of habitat, and therefore the development within the ruderal grassland would be considered less than significant for local birds and raptors.

Grasslands on the property proposed for development provide marginal habitat for a small amount of birds species. The removal of ruderal grasslands on the property would not be considered a significant loss of foraging habitat for birds and raptors within the surrounding area.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: Telephone (707) 544-3091, Email kjeldsen@sonic.net, or Fax (707) 575-8030.

Sincerely,

Kjeldsen Biological Consulting