

K18514

February 8, 2010

Napa County Conservation, Development and Planning Department;

We are writing in regards to the J Cellars Winery/ J Cellars Investments, LLC-Use permit P09-00174-UP CEQA proposal being presented to this board on February 17th, 2010.

As a resident of Diamond Mtn Rd for 41 years and one of one of the adjoining properties affected by this proposal, we are deeply concerned about the passage of this proposal, especially as it is presented. Here are our concerns:

1. **Water Usage.** This is a huge undertaking and utilization of the water resources within this watershed. It does not take much analysis to see the impact and concern of a 30,000 gallon winery, a 40,000 gallon fire protection water tank, and use permit for 104 person, 40-person marketing event will have on the water resources within this area.
2. The amount of people expected and planned for in attendance on a weekly and weekend basis is out of reason for this particular area. 104, 40 person events can be understood to mean EVERY weekend day, each Saturday and Sunday for 52 weeks out of the year. We, the neighbors within this area, will be severely impacted. One's expectation of any kind of residential solitude will be gone.
3. **Traffic within this area?** Currently this area is surrounded by at least 10 residences, if not more, all with wells to supply their water. This project will have a very negative impact on all of us living within this area. We feel the amount and capacity of tour buses and daily traffic should be questioned. We have seen what this can do and have experienced much of this on Diamond Mtn. Road. What is said on permits does not always happen and the county does not have the resources to monitor aberrant management behavior.
4. **Noise?** What can be expected from a project such as this? Not only the environmental negativity from the building of such a project, but the daily and weekly events can only be negative.
5. **Environment?** Napa College rescinded it's plan to build it's Up Valley College on the original Sweir's property due to the negative impacts this proposal will have on the flora, fauna, and certainly the native habitat, let alone the after dark hour elimination of any 'night sky' visibility. It is presumed many lights will surround this planned

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project. The winery machines, air conditioning and cooling units, engines, trucks, tractors, generators all will have an impact. The 'industrialization' of this fragile area truly warrants a full Environmental Impact Report regardless of what other wineries have been allowed to do. Why would this proposal not be looked at in the same manner?

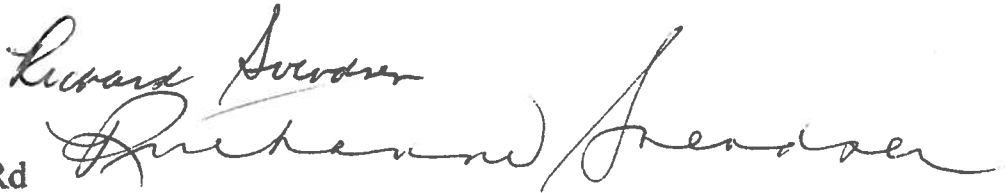
6. Is this area not part of the original Humana Carna Land grant and are not areas surrounding this Indian Burial grounds?

We personally have experienced the impact of wineries being established on Diamond Mtn Rd. Daily traffic can often be difficult for a road such as this. Large tour buses travel this road taking tourists for tasting. Neighbors have lost their well supply due to wineries above them damming Diamond Mtn Creek(Wind Whistle Creek). We have seen the loss of all water in this creek due to the impact of said damming and utilization of underground water for irrigation. We feel the loss of trout and steelhead in this creek within the past 10 years is evidence enough to review with a complete EIR for this current project. We have personally experienced the noise surrounding the construction and digging of wine caves.

We affirm the necessity of the wine industry and how the wine consortium has maintained the ambiance of this valley. However we are not convinced the Napa Valley wine pioneers envisioned wineries to impact the natural lifestyle of its residences when they designed the Agricultural Preserve.

We ask you all to reconsider this project and the negative impact it will have for all the above-mentioned reasons. We also implore you to require a FULL Environmental Impact Report for this project prior to it continuing any further.

Sincerely;
Richard Svendsen
Ruthanne Svendsen
1309 Diamond Mtn. Rd
Calistoga, Ca

The block contains two handwritten signatures in cursive. The first signature is for Richard Svendsen and the second is for Ruthanne Svendsen. They are written in dark ink and are positioned to the right of the typed names.

Cc: Napa County Board of Supervisors
California Department of Fish and Game
Department of California Forestry
California State Water Resource Board

Napa County Sierra Club
University of California, Davis. Dept of Native American Studies
Environmental Protection Agency