

7-1-15 PC  
#10A

7/1/2015

Dear Planning Commission:

Today you are asking for public input regarding future winery visitation, wanting to create a baseline for total annual visitation.

In 1995, I was told by the county, 1-2 clients per week, in order to preserve the rural nature of the neighborhood, so I opened an office in the city of Napa, in the appropriate business zoning.

Based on that model, in the urban setting, visitation appropriate to the zoning, and in the rural areas, 104 for total annual visitation, to preserve and protect the nature and character of the valley.

Our little valley is a gem, as someone recently said. And that gem is in danger of being buried.

Slowly, subtly, the life is being drained out of her, her natural beauty, which visitors come here to enjoy, is slipping into nothingness.

We have the ability to stop, right now, regroup, and save what's left of this beautiful valley.

Setting visitation limits, may be a first step in identifying parameters, however, we first need to identify what our vital resources will support. And go from there.

Do we have enough water to support what's here now? We are told we have another 2-3 years on the valley floor, no one knows what's in the hills, which is our watershed. Are we going to wait until 2-3 years down the road to do something significant? Even if we get rain, it will take several heavy rain years to recharge. We do have test wells, yet, we are still drawing, with no recharge in sight. Do we plan for the future now, or do we wait.

Do we require the projects in the pipeline to have metered wells, to keep a daily log of their draw, to have close monitoring by the county? If found overdrawing, then require a cutback?

Do we continue enlarging, building, and expanding?

Are we bold enough, brave enough to say, STOP! And institute a moratorium on any further projects until we have concrete proof of a sustainable water supply.

Are we brave enough, bold enough, to embrace the change from striving to become something, to recognizing that we are already there, we are the gem we have been looking for, we just have to embrace her and protect her.

Thank you, Doreen Leighton. Soda Canyon