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Public Comment Period Extension Request - Letter dated July 5, 2016, from Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP

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July 5, 2016

Via E-Mail and U.S. Mail

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Re: Request for Extension of Public Comment Period for Yountville Hill Winery DEIR

Dear Mr. Trippi:

I am writing on behalf of the Save Yountville Hill to request an extension of time to comment on the Yountville Draft EIR circulated by Napa County. We appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the nearly 800 pages of the EIR and associated documents. However, the time provided for the public comment period of 45 days is too short to allow for meaningful review and comment on such a large document.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, 45 days would be the *minimum* time period for public review of a draft environmental impact report of this scope. Pub. Res. Code § 21091(a). Many lead agencies routinely extend public comment periods for Draft EIRs of this scope.

Notably, the Draft EIR was circulated on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday weekend, when many members of the public were on vacation. Moreover, the comment period extends over the summer holidays generally, when many people are unavailable and will not have adequate time to devote to the review of the Draft EIR. An extension is especially warranted given that circulation of the Draft EIR has been delayed multiple times, resulting in the circulation period now coinciding with the summer months.

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We can appreciate the effort that has obviously been devoted in preparing the Draft EIR, and would like opportunity to review the document and provide thorough and meaningful comments. This is an important opportunity to engage the public in the review process. Therefore, we respectfully request that the comment period be extended to allow for a public review period of 90 days, with the comment period closing on September 28, 2016. At the very least, the County should extend the public comment period to 60 days, which is routinely provided for environmental documents such as this one.

Very truly yours,

SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER LLP

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Edward T. Schexnayder

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