

MUSCI NATURAL RESOURCE ASSESSMENT

1130 CAYETANO COURT NAPA CA 94559-4199
musci@musci.com

707.257.2487
www.musci.com

RASMUSSEN VINEYARDS WINERY

FOCUSED BIOLOGICAL REVIEW

**CUTTINGS WHARF ROAD, NAPA COUNTY
(APN 047-240-006-000)**

(MUSCI JOB # LTR-10-136)

12 APRIL 2010

This review presents summary information on sensitive wildlife and plant species reported generally near the existing vineyard operation at along Cuttings Wharf Road just north of its right angle turn to the west towards Las Amigas road in the Carnernos area of Napa County (APN 047-240-006-000) (see Existing site, Drawing 1), a portion of which is proposed for conversion to winery operations. The purpose of this review is to consider whether significant biological resources identified as a matter of concern by Napa County may occur within the project area.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project is a winery structure with associated structures and improved access within the parcel. The project proposes to remove existing vineyard within the area of activity and improve access along established routes leading to Cuttings Wharf Road. The project does not propose modification or destruction of native vegetation. The project is confined to an area already significantly altered and adversely impacted by intensive agricultural activities.

FIELD REVIEW

A field review was conducted on 9 February 2010 and 22 March 2010 by Stephen P. Rae, PhD of MUSCI. The evaluated area encompasses the entire parcel. Field reviews did not include plant collections or systematic animal observations. Protocol surveys for animal and plant species were not conducted because of the absence of suitable habitat for animal nesting and native sensitive plants.

SITE DESCRIPTION

The site consists of existing vineyard and structures (see Site View, Image 1) with an absence of native vegetation within the area proposed for activity. There has been a long history of intensive agriculture with associated supporting activities, including vehicular access and construction and installation of structures.



IMAGE 1: SITE VIEW

[View from Las Amigas Road to the northwest. Note edge of existing structure at extreme right]

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF CONCERN IN THE AREA

Polygonum marinense (Marin Knotweed). Reported from coast marshes and swamps, especially those defined by brackish or salt water, this plant is known from the Carneros area but cannot occur within or contiguous to the project site due to the absence of suitable habitat. There is no habitat available for the species.

Trifolium amoenum (Showy Indian Clover). Reported from valley and coastal scrub and grassland, this plant has been found in the southern reaches of Napa County within areas of grassland and woodlands with some disturbance. However, the degree of disturbance within and contiguous to the project site are different from reported occurrences. There is no habitat available for the species.

Pallid Bat. The bat has been reported in the southern reaches of Napa County associated with structures, especially those with limited occupation or seasonal use. The project site appears to support significant activities that may not promote use by the Pallid Bat. The available habitat is low value for nesting.

Golden Eagle. The eagle is known from this portion of Napa County. However, as a top of the pyramid predator it occurs throughout a large foraging area. It is known to roost and nest in larger trees providing opportunities to observe large foraging areas. It is also known to feed on small mammals and other animals living in marshes, grasslands and brushfields. The site does not include significant marshes, grasslands or brushfields that could function as foraging areas. The largest trees in the area are

significantly shorter than Eucalyptus trees to the east that provide preferred roosting opportunities. The available habitat is low value for forage and no value for roosting and nesting.

American Badger. Known from grassland areas the badger could be present if the land had not already been subjected to intensive agricultural management. The conversion of land to vineyard with its subsequent management practices and associated vehicular and storage activities would preclude badger residence. There is not sufficient available habitat for badger use.

CONSEQUENCES OF DEVELOPMENT

The proposed winery development project and associated parcel improvements would not have significant effects on the five species discussed above as the site in question is of little or no value currently to all of them.

SENSITIVE SPECIES

The extensive long-term vineyard management and associated land uses have reduced habitat complexity and plant species diversity. There is limited potential for encountering other sensitive species on the parcel.

RESOURCE-AT-RISK ISSUES

There are no resource-at-risk issues identified as a consequence of implementing the winery project. Therefore, there are no recommendations for mitigation.

CONCLUSIONS

There are no sensitive biological resources associated with the evaluated parcel.

RECOMMENDATION

There are no recommendations pertinent to sensitive species.



STEPHEN P. RAE, Ph.D.
MANAGING PARTNER

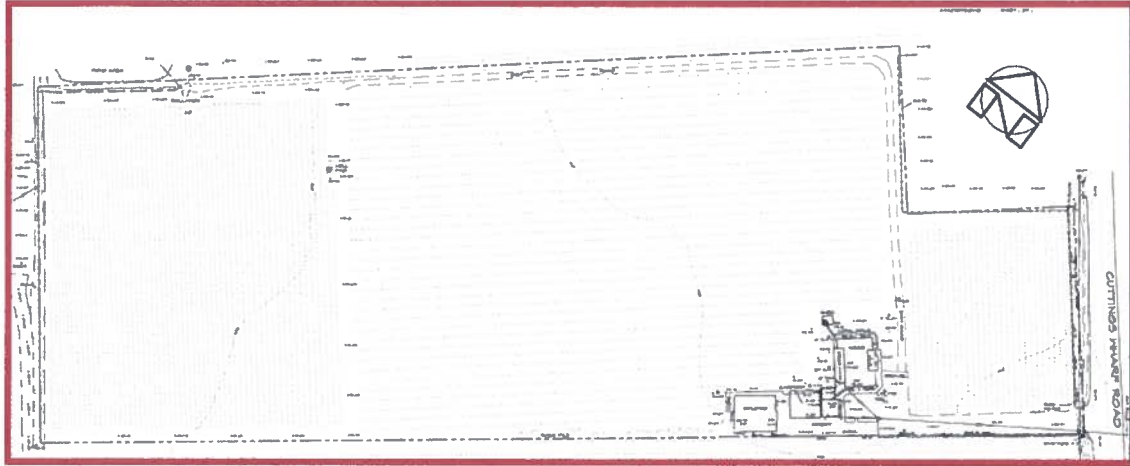


DIAGRAM 1: EXISTING SITE – RASMUSSEN VINEYARDS WINERY
[from Michael W. Brooks & Associates, Job 4442TOPO.DHG, Sheet 1]