

“B”

Exhibit A - Findings

**PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING – MAY 18, 2016
EXHIBIT A – FINDINGS**

**MAHONEY VINEYARDS
MAJOR MODIFICATION #P14-00242-MOD
1134 DEALY LANE
(APN: 047-090-007-000)**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION:

The Planning Commission (Commission) has received and reviewed the proposal pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and of Napa County's Local Procedures for Implementing CEQA, and finds that:

1. The project is Categorically Exempt, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, Section 15301 [See Class 1 ("Existing Facilities")]; Section 15303 [See Class 3 ("New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures")]; and Section 15304 [See Class 4 ("Minor Alterations to Land")], which may be found in the guidelines for the implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act; and, Section 15061(b)(3), General Rule, where there is no potential for causing a significant environmental effect. The project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

USE PERMIT

The Commission has reviewed the Use Permit request in accordance with the requirements of Napa County Code §18.124.070 and makes the following findings. That:

2. The Commission has the power to issue a use permit under the zoning regulations in effect as applied to the Property.

Analysis: The project is consistent with AW (Agricultural Watershed) zoning district regulations. A winery (as defined in Napa County Code §18.08.640) and uses in connection with a winery (see Napa County Code § 18.20.030) are permitted in an AW-zoned district subject to use permit approval. The project complies with the requirements of the Winery Definition Ordinance (Ord. No. 947, 1990, *as amended*) and the remainder of the Napa County Zoning Ordinance (Title 18, Napa County Code), as applicable.

3. The procedural requirements for a use permit set forth in Chapter 18.124 of the Napa County Code have been met.

Analysis: The use permit application has been filed and noticing and public hearing requirements have been met. The hearing notice and intent to adopt the categorical exemption was posted on May 7, 2016, copies of the notice were forwarded to property owners within 1000 feet of the Property. The public comment period ran from May 7, 2016 through May 17, 2016.

4. The grant of a use permit, as conditioned, will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or welfare of the County of Napa.

Analysis: Various County departments and divisions have reviewed the project and commented regarding water, traffic, access, and fire protection. Conditions are

recommended which will incorporate these comments into the project to assure the ongoing protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

5. The proposed use complies with applicable provisions of the Napa County Code and is consistent with the policies and standards of the Napa County General Plan.

Analysis: The Winery Definition Ordinance (WDO) was established to protect agriculture and open space and to regulate winery development and expansion in a manner that avoids potential negative environmental effects.

The project complies with the requirements of the Winery Definition Ordinance (Ord. No. 947, 1990), the 2009-2010 Winery Definition Ordinance Update (Ord. No. 1340, 2010), and the remainder of the Napa County Zoning Ordinance (Title 18, Napa County Code), all as applicable.

General Plan **Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Goal AG/LU-1** guides the County to, “preserve existing agricultural land uses and plan for agriculture and related activities as the primary land uses in Napa County.” General Plan **Agricultural Preservation and Land Use Goal AG/LU-3** states the County should, “support the economic viability of agriculture, including grape growing, winemaking, other types of agriculture, and supporting industries to ensure the preservation of agricultural lands.” Approval of this project furthers both of these key goals.

The subject parcel is located on land designated Agriculture, Watershed, and Open Space (AWOS) on the County’s adopted General Plan Land Use Map. This project is comprised of wine production up to 30,000 gallons per year, conversion of an existing 4,450 sq. ft. wine warehouse to winery case goods storage, construction of a new 1,960 sq. ft. tasting room, construction of a 3,000 sq. ft. covered crush pad, and related improvements and accessory uses.

As approved here, the use of the property for the accessory uses thereto supports the economic viability of agriculture within the county consistent with General Plan **Economic Development Policy E-1** (“The County’s economic development will focus on ensuring the continued viability of agriculture...”).

As analyzed in item **No 6**, below, the winery will not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater level. The project is consistent with General Plan **Conservation Policies CON-53** and **CON-55**, which require that applicants for discretionary land use approvals prove the availability of adequate water supplies which can be appropriated without significant negative impacts on shared groundwater resources.

Napa County’s adopted General Plan reinforces the County’s long-standing commitment to agricultural preservation, urban centered growth, and resource conservation. On balance, this project is consistent with the General Plan’s overall policy framework and with the Plan’s specific goals and policies.

6. That the proposed use would not require a new water system or improvement causing significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on an affected groundwater basin in Napa County, unless that use would satisfy any of the other criteria specified for approval or waiver of a groundwater permit under Sections 13.15.070 or 13.15.080 of the County Code.

Analysis: The subject property is not located in a “groundwater deficient area” as identified in Section 13.15.010 of the Napa County Code. Minimum thresholds for water use have been established by the Department of Public Works using reports by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). These reports are the result of water resources investigations performed by the USGS in cooperation with the Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District. Any project which reduces water usage or any water usage which is at or below the established threshold is, for purposes of the application of the County’s Groundwater Conservation Ordinance, is assumed not to have a significant effect on groundwater levels. The projected water use for the project is 11.405 AF/YR. Current water use for the 46.5 acres of vineyards, residence, and landscaping is 10.73 AF/YR and will remain the same. The winery will use 0.675 AF/YR as a result of the projected operations. Landscaping currently utilizes 0.68 AF/YR and will remain constant. The proposed water use of 11.405 AF/YR, an increase of 0.675 AF/YR, is minimal and comparable to a single-family residence (0.75 AF/YR). Based on the submitted historical well data dating back to 1989, there is substantial evidence in the record to support the project and that the associated minimal increase would not cause any significant impact to groundwater resources.