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## Recommended Findings

**PLANNING COMMISSION HEARING – MARCH 20, 2019  
RECOMMENDED FINDINGS**

**O'Brien Winery Major Modification Use Permit  
Application Number P18-00175-MOD & Use Permit Conservation Regulation Request  
Application Number P18-00305-UP  
1200 Orchard Avenue, Napa, California  
APN# 035-041-015**

**ENVIRONMENTAL:**

The Planning Commission (Commission) has received and reviewed the proposed Categorical Exemption 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. Because of the minimal construction and limited operations, it has been determined that this project does not have a significant effect on the environment and is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act pursuant to Section 15301, Class 1 Minor Alterations to Existing Facilities, Section 15303, Class 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures, and Section 15304, Class 4 Minor Alterations to Land.
2. The site of this proposed project is not on any of the lists of hazardous waste sites enumerated under Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not within the boundaries of any airport land use plan.
3. The Secretary of the Commission is the custodian of the records of the proceedings on which this decision is based. The records are located at the Napa County Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department, 1195 Third Street, Second Floor, Napa, California.

**PLANNING AND ZONING ANALYSIS:**

**EXCEPTION TO CONSERVATION REGULATIONS:**

4. Roads, driveways, buildings and other man-made structures have been designed to complement the natural landform and to avoid excessive grading.

Analysis: The support columns for the proposed covered crush pads will be placed within previously constructed concrete work areas with no additional grading or disturbance within the creek setback area.

5. Primary and accessory structures employ architectural and design elements which in total serve to reduce the amount of grading and earthmoving activity required for the project including the following elements: a) multiple-floor levels which follow existing, natural slopes; b) foundation types such as poles, piles, or stepping levels which minimize cut and fill and the need for retaining walls; c) fence lines, walls, and other features which blend with the existing terrain rather than strike off at an angle against it.

Analysis: The proposed covered canopy structural support columns are designed to reduce the amount of grading and earthmoving activity by utilizing a previously disturbed concrete work area. There will be no impacts to the existing terrain.

6. The development project minimizes removal of existing vegetation, incorporates existing vegetation into the final design plan, and replacement vegetation of appropriate size, quality and quantity is included to mitigate adverse environmental effects.

Analysis: The project will not result in substantial effects to mapped or designated environmentally sensitive areas or resources. No native trees or native vegetation will be removed to construct the project. No work will be performed within the defined bed and bank of the creek other than the construction of support columns for the proposed canopies on existing concrete pads and a six-inch curb along the perimeter of an existing paved area which can be accomplished without entering the bed and bank. The covering of the existing uncovered crush pads is required to address storm water quality control requirements to prevent process wastewater runoff into the unnamed blue line stream. Implementation of the proposed crush pad covers and curb will improve the existing condition at the subject site by preventing runoff into the stream. All other improvements within the stream setback are existing and will remain unchanged. Additional vegetation is proposed within the stream bank to restore this area.

7. Adequate fire safety measures have been incorporated into the design of the proposed development.

Analysis: The existing access driveway will be improved to County standards for a two-way commercial roadway. Required fire protection water storage tanks, fire pumps, and turnaround areas will also be installed.

8. Disturbance to streams and watercourses shall be minimized, and the encroachment if any, is the minimum necessary to implement the project.

Analysis: Encroachment within the stream setback is limited to the area required to install the canopy support columns within an existing concrete work area. No further disturbance to the unnamed blue line stream will occur.

9. The project does not adversely impact threatened or endangered plant or animal habitats as designated by state or federal agencies with jurisdiction and identified on the County's environmental sensitivity maps.

Analysis: The unnamed blue line stream which traverses the site is not mapped as an environmentally sensitive resource (source: Napa County Geographic Information System including California Natural Diversity Database layer). However, the stream is designated as a critical linkage riparian corridor. According to the County's resource maps, there are no scenic resources, hazardous waste sites, nor historic resources identified on the site. As mentioned above, no work will be performed within the defined bed and bank of the creek other than the construction of support columns for the proposed canopies on existing concrete pads and a six-inch curb along the perimeter of an existing paved area which can be accomplished without entering the bed and bank.

10. An erosion control plan, or equivalent NPDES stormwater management plan, has been prepared in accordance with Section 18.108.080 and has been approved by the Director or designee.

Analysis: A Stormwater Control Plan for a Regulated Project has been prepared in accordance with Section 18.108.080 and approved by the Director or designee.

## USE PERMIT:

The Commission has reviewed the use permit major modification request in accordance with the requirements of the Napa County Code §18.124.070 and makes the following findings:

11. The Commission has the power to issue a Use Permit under the Zoning Regulations in effect as applied to property.

Analysis: The project is consistent with the Agricultural Preserve (AP) zoning district regulations. A winery (as defined in the Napa County Code Section 18.08.640) and uses in connection with a winery (refer to Napa County Code Section 18.16.030) are permitted in the AP District with an approved use permit. The project, as conditioned, complies with the Napa County Winery Definition Ordinance (WDO) and all other requirements of the Zoning Code as applicable.

12. The procedural requirements for a Use Permit set forth in Chapter 18.124 of the Napa County Code (zoning regulations) have been met.

Analysis: The Use Permit Major Modification and Conservation Regulations Exception application have been appropriately filed and notice and public hearing requirements have been met. The hearing notice and intent to adopt Categorical Exemptions were posted on March 8, 2019, and copies were forwarded to appropriate persons on the mailing list. The public comment period ran from March 8, 2019 to March 19, 2019.

13. The grant of the Use Permit, as conditioned, will not adversely affect the public health, safety or welfare of the County of Napa.

Analysis: Granting the Use Permit Major Modification for the project, as proposed and conditioned, will not adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of the County. Various County divisions and departments have reviewed the project and commented regarding site access, repairing the existing wastewater disposal system, parking, building permits, and fire protection. Conditions are recommended which will incorporate these comments into the project to ensure the protection of the public health, safety, and welfare.

14. 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 and any applicable specific plan.

### Analysis: Compliance with the Zoning Ordinance

The project is consistent with the AP zoning district regulations. A winery (as defined in the Napa County Code Section 18.08.640) and uses in connection with a winery (refer to Napa County Code Section 18.16.030) are permitted in the AP District subject to an approved use permit. The proposed project includes interior changes to an existing building, driveway improvements, and the construction of covered work areas and will comply with the development standards of the AP District. The project, as conditioned, complies with the Napa County Winery Definition Ordinance (WDO) and all other requirements of the Zoning Code as applicable.

### Analysis: Compliance with the General Plan

As proposed and as conditioned, the requested Use Permit Major Modification is consistent with the overall goals and objectives of the General Plan (2008). The General Plan land use designation for the subject parcel is Agricultural Resource (AR).

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 Goal AG/LU-3 states that 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.” Goal AG/LU-3 and Policy AG/LU-2 recognize wineries as agricultural uses.

The approved use of the property for fermenting and processing of grape juice into wine supports the economic viability of agriculture within the County, consistent with Goal AG/LU-3 and Policy AG/LU-4 (“The County will reserve agricultural lands for agricultural use including land used for grazing and watershed/open space...”). By allowing the expansion of the existing agricultural use, the requested Use Permit Major Modification supports the economic viability of both the vineyard and agricultural product processing uses on the property, consistent with Economic Development Goal E-1 and Policy E-1.

The “Right to Farm” is recognized throughout the General Plan and is specifically called out in Policy AG/LU-15 and in the County Code. “Right to Farm” provisions ensure that agriculture remains the primary land use in Napa County and is not threatened by potentially competing uses or neighbor complaints. Napa County’s adopted General Plan reinforces the County’s long-standing commitment to agricultural preservation, urban centered growth, and resource conservation.

Applicable Napa County General Plan goals and policies:

Goal AG/LU-1: Preserve existing agricultural land uses and plan for agriculture and related activities as the primary land uses in Napa County.

Goal AG/LU-3: Support the economic viability of agriculture, including grape growing, winemaking, other types of agriculture, and supporting industries to ensure the preservation of agricultural lands.

Policy AG/LU-2: “Agriculture” is defined as the raising of crops, trees, and livestock; the production and processing of agricultural products; and related marketing, sales and other accessory uses. Agriculture also includes farm management businesses and farm worker housing.

Policy AG/LU-4: The County will reserve agricultural lands for agricultural use including lands used for grazing and watershed/open space, except for those lands which are shown on the Land Use Map as planned for urban development.

Policy AG/LU-8: The County’s minimum agricultural parcel sizes shall ensure that agricultural areas can be maintained as economic units.

Policy AG/LU-15: The County affirms and shall protect the right of agricultural operators in designated agricultural areas to commence and continue their agricultural practices (a “right to farm”), even though established urban uses in the general area may foster complaints against those agricultural practices. The

“right to farm” shall encompass the processing of agricultural products and other activities inherent in the definition of agriculture provided in Policy AG/LU-2.

Goal CON-10: Conserve, enhance and manage water resources on a sustainable basis to attempt to ensure that sufficient amounts of water will be available for the uses allowed by this General Plan, for the natural environment, and for future generations.

Goal CON-11: Prioritize the use of available groundwater for agricultural and rural residential uses rather than for urbanized areas and ensure that land use decisions recognize the long-term availability and value of water resources in Napa County.

Policy CON-53: The County shall ensure that the intensity and timing of new development are consistent with the capacity of water supplies and protect groundwater and other water supplies by requiring all applicants for discretionary projects to demonstrate the availability of an adequate water supply prior to approval. Depending on the site location and the specific circumstances, adequate demonstration of availability may include evidence or calculation of groundwater availability via an appropriate hydrogeologic analysis or may be satisfied by compliance with County Code “fair-share” provisions or applicable State law. In some areas, evidence may be provided through coordination with applicable municipalities and public and private water purveyors to verify water supply sufficiency.

Policy CON-54: The County shall maintain or enhance infiltration and recharge of groundwater aquifers by requiring all projects in designated groundwater deficient areas as identified in the County’s groundwater ordinance (County Code Chapter 13.15) be designed (at minimum) to maintain a site’s predevelopment groundwater recharge potential, to the extent feasible, by minimizing impervious surfaces and promoting recharge (e.g., via the use of water retention/detention structures, use of permeable paving materials, bio-swales, water gardens, cisterns, and other best management practices).

Policy CON-55: The County shall consider existing water uses during the review of new water uses associated with discretionary projects, and where hydrogeologic studies have shown that the new water uses will cause significant adverse well interference or substantial reductions in groundwater discharge to surface waters that would alter critical flows to sustain riparian habitat and fisheries or exacerbate conditions of overdraft, the County shall curtail those new or expanded water uses.

Policy CON-60.5 All aspects of landscaping from the selection of plants to soil preparation and the installation of irrigation systems should be designed to reduce water demand, retain runoff, decrease flooding, and recharge groundwater.

Policy CON-72: The County shall seek to reduce the energy impacts from new buildings by applying Title 24 energy standards as required by law and providing information to the public and builders on available energy conservation techniques, products, and methods available to exceed those standards by

15 percent or more.

Policy CON-77: All new discretionary projects shall be evaluated to determine potential significant project-specific air quality impacts and shall be required to incorporate appropriate design, construction, and operational features to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants regulated by the state and federal governments below the applicable significance standard(s) or implement alternate and equally effective mitigation strategies consistent with BAAQMD's air quality improvement programs to reduce emissions. In addition to these policies, the County's land use policies discourage scattered development which contributes to continued dependence on the private automobile as the only means of convenient transportation. The County's land use policies also contribute to efforts to reduce air pollution.

Policy CON-81: The County shall require dust control measures to be applied to construction projects consistent with measures recommended for use by the BAAQMD [Bay Area Air Quality Management District].

Goal E-1: Maintain and enhance the economic viability of agriculture.

Policy E-1: The County's economic development will focus on ensuring the continued viability of agriculture in Napa County.

Policy SAF-20: All new development shall comply with established fire safety standards. Design plans shall be referred to the appropriate fire agency for comment as to:

- 1) Adequacy of water supply.
- 2) Site design for fire department access in and around structures.
- 3) Ability for a safe and efficient fire department response.
- 4) Traffic flow and ingress/egress for residents and emergency vehicles.
- 5) Site-specific built-in fire protection.
- 6) Potential impacts to emergency services and fire department response.

15. That the proposed use would not require a new water system or improvement causing significant adverse effects, either individually or cumulatively, on the 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 project is consistent with General Plan Conservation Policies CON-53 and CON-55, which require that applicants, who are seeking discretionary land use approvals, prove that adequate water supplies are available to serve the proposed use without causing significant negative impacts to shared groundwater resources. The water sources for the project site consist of one existing well used for process water, landscape, and vineyard irrigation. A new well will be installed to be used for the public water system and will have a 50-foot annular seal. The applicant submitted a Tier 1 Water Availability Analysis (WAA) completed by RSA on July 6, 2018 showing the projected water use for the project plus existing demand is 12.28 AF/YR. No increase in water demand will occur as part of the proposed project. The parcel water demand can be met with the existing project well. The

Water Availability Analysis concluded that sufficient water will be available to serve the proposed project as the estimated groundwater recharge for this project site located on the valley floor is 26.93 AF/YR (1.0 AF/YR X 26.93 acres). Therefore, the project is considered not to have a potential to significantly impact groundwater resources. Because the projected water demand for the project is below the estimated water availability acre feet per year for the parcel, the requested Use Permit is consistent with General Plan Goals CON-10 and CON-11, as well as the policies mentioned above that support reservation and sustainable use of groundwater for agricultural and related purposes. The project will not require a new water system or other improvements and will not have a negative impact on local groundwater. The project is also consistent with General Plan Conservation Policy CON-54 because it minimizes impervious surfaces and utilizes bio swales to aid in maintaining the site's predevelopment groundwater recharge potential.