



A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights & Measures

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PESTICIDE USE, PEST EXCLUSION AND PEST MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office, has the responsibility to administer California's Pesticide Use Enforcement Program; Pest Detection and Trapping Programs; and Pest Management/Pest Exclusion Programs at the county level. These programs ensure the safe use of pesticides in all settings; provide for early detection and control of injurious pests to agriculture; and prevent and/or limit the spread of new or existing pests. The Vine Trails Project might negatively impact the responsibilities of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office by the increased access to agricultural production areas in the county. Outlined below are additional areas of concern.

As part of the Pesticide Use enforcement Program, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office evaluates proposed applications near or around sensitive areas and ensures that applicators/growers take precautions to protect people and the environment. Given the possible proximity of the proposed Vine Trail to working vineyards, the Agricultural Commissioner's Office may have to deny the permit, or require site specific pesticide use practices to mitigate any hazards. For example, the Agricultural Commissioner may issue a permit contingent upon the method of application, time of day, weather conditions and/or the use of buffer zones. While this type of response is how the Agricultural Commissioner's Office handles permits at the present time, given the probability that more growers will be adjacent to the Vine Trail, this could increase restrictions of pesticide use to the affected growers.

Another area of concern relates to preventing misapplication, drift and possible contamination of people or the environment. Over the years, this office has seen increased potential pesticide drift and complaint issues around ag/urban interface areas. The proposed location of the Vine Trail could increase the possibility of a trail user, or trespasser, being exposed to pesticides during an application or by entering a recently treated field. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office would be required by State law to initiate an investigation and interview the affected parties, the applicators, any potential witnesses and, of course, the grape grower. If any violations are found that contributed to an exposure or illness, this office would be required to take a compliance or enforcement action against the grower.

Additionally, increased traffic along the Vine Trail path could also mean increased traffic in the vineyards. Vineyard workers and county trappers spend a good portion of their time travelling between the vineyard rows and on the vineyard rights of way in trucks, all-terrain vehicles, or tractors. They are well trained and vigilant in looking for people, animals and other hazards in the course of their vineyard activities; however, the increase in traffic can pose additional dangers. Trespassers from the Vine Trail are not used to the daily hazards faced in a vineyard. In addition to the risk of exposure to pesticide residue, there is a risk of vehicle incidents.

Pest Exclusion and Pest Management are additional programs run by this office. Pest Exclusion through established quarantines helps prevent the unregulated movement of material from one area to another. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office enforces current quarantine regulations. The proximity of the proposed Vine Trail to active vineyards that may fall within a quarantine area create potential risks for the unwanted movement of agricultural material including vine cuttings, vegetation, posts etc. Again, the issue of potential trespassers is a real concern. Similarly, preventing the transportation and spread of noxious weeds from one area to another is also a concern. Heavy traffic along the proposed Vine Trail could potentially result in the introduction or

movement of weed seeds from one area to another. It is the duty of the Agricultural Commissioner's Office to contain and manage pests of limited distribution within a given area.

Another critical responsibility of this office is the early detection of pests. Approximately 18,000 traps are placed throughout Napa County each year in both urban and cropland settings to monitor for a number of invasive pests, whose introduction could devastate Napa County agriculture and commerce. The proximity of the proposed Vine Trail to vineyards in certain locations has the potential to create some obstacles for the trapping program. It is common practice for specific trap types to be placed at the end post on a vineyard row. Traps placed in vineyards immediately adjacent to the proposed Vine Trail, where there is an increase in foot and bicycle traffic, would need to be moved further down the row or to a different vineyard altogether in order to prevent potential vandalism or tampering. Trap tampering would call into question the authenticity of a pest find identified by the state lab. This identification is critical; as it dictates the action taken by this office whether it involves delimitation trapping, quarantine restrictions or the implementation of eradication efforts.

While these issues are not insurmountable, they can increase the cost per trap; increase the amount of time spent to service traps; effecting overall efficiency; and increase potential pesticide exposure to persons using.