

November 25, 2008

Napa County Planning Commission
c/o Mr. John McDowell, Deputy Planning Director
County of Napa
County Administration Building
1195 Third Street, Room 210
Napa, CA 94559

Dear Planning Commission:

My name is Dorothy Wurz. I live at 2060 Wurz Lane which is located adjacent to West Oak Knoll Road. The front of my home looks directly onto the property of the Laird Winery. I am 83 years old and have lived in my home for 41 years. I am unable to attend the December 3 meeting regarding the Laird Winery's proposal to expand the winery and construct a large barrel storage warehouse near my home, but wanted to voice my objection.

I have enjoyed living in my home amongst vineyards and wineries. Back in 1998 when the Laird Winery was proposed, I appreciated the outreach conducted and the how the Laird group agreed to landscape the winery building and build some of it below grade so that it would blend in with the surrounding agricultural landscape. I supported the winery, but no mention was every made of an intent to build large barrel storage warehouses.

No neighbor outreach was done with respect to the first warehouse approved in 2001, and I was very surprised at the large size and appearance of the building when it went up. I think it is unsightly and there is no attempt to shield it or to have it blend in the way the winery does.

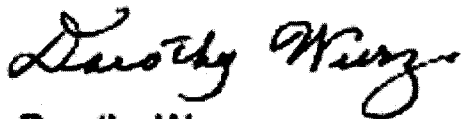
I am very concerned about the new proposed warehouse's size and location. The warehouse, including the overhanging roof is well over twice as big as the existing warehouse. The Laird Winery again did no neighbor outreach back in March and did none prior to submitting the new application. It is larger and will be even closer to my house than the first warehouse. It will block virtually all of the view of the Napa Hills from my house and will increase the amount of noise I will hear from the winery operations. It will include a new loading bay at its closest point to my home. It is industrial-looking and not in keeping with the beauty of the Napa Valley. For these reasons, it will negatively affect the value and enjoyment of my property.

It does not have to be this way. The warehouse could be located on the southern half of the property. If placed there, it would still be much farther away from the nearest residence than the current warehouse is from my house. Such a location would not block anyone's view or create a noise or other impact.

I do not want to see the Valley full of large, industrial warehouses, especially close to existing homes. It is unnecessary and the cumulative impact on neighbors should be considered as required by the County General Plan's Agricultural Preservation and Land Use policies.

I ask that you deny the permit application for these reasons and that the proposed warehouse be relocated so as to address the neighbors' concerns. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dorothy Wurz".

Dorothy Wurz