

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 4
OFFICE OF TRANSIT AND COMMUNITY PLANNING
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www.dot.ca.gov



September 14, 2021

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Co/Rt/Pm: NAP/29/31.03

Jason Hade, Principal Planner
County of Napa
1195 Third Street, Suite 210
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Ehlers Estate Winery Use Permit Major Modification – Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND)

Dear Jason Hade:

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the environmental review process for this project. We are committed to ensuring that impacts to the State's multimodal transportation system and to our natural environment are identified and mitigated to support a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system. The following comments are based on our review of the August 2021 Draft IS/MND.

Project Understanding

The proposed project would modify an existing use permit for an existing winery to allow the following changes: 1) recognition of an existing annual production capacity of 29,000 gallons; 2) recognition of daily tasting of 90 persons per day, 630 visitors maximum per week by appointment; 3) recognition of an existing marketing program; 4) recognition of 12 fully-time employees and 2 part-time employees; and 5) creation of a right-turn pocket via striping on the Ehlers Lane approach to State Route (SR)-29.

Right-Turn Pocket on Ehlers Lane

The proposed mitigation of providing a right-turn pocket on Ehlers Lane will need coordination with Caltrans. Please ensure that the proposed right-turn pocket is designed per Caltrans standards. Design plans should be submitted to Caltrans for review and approval. Caltrans also recommends that a deceleration/acceleration lane be provided on Northbound SR-29 for vehicles turning into/out of Ehlers Lane.

Construction-Related Impacts

Project work that requires movement of oversized or excessive load vehicles on State roadways, and/or travel lane closures on SR-29 requires a transportation permit that is issued by Caltrans. To apply, visit: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/transportation-permits>.

Prior to construction, coordination may be required with Caltrans to develop a Transportation Management Plan (TMP) to reduce construction traffic impacts to the State Transportation Network (STN).

Lead Agency

As the Lead Agency, the County of Napa is responsible for all project mitigation, including any needed improvements to STN. The project's fair share contribution, financing, scheduling, implementation responsibilities and lead agency monitoring should be fully discussed for all proposed mitigation measures.

Equitable Access

If any Caltrans facilities are impacted by the project, those facilities must meet American Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards after project completion. As well, the project must maintain bicycle and pedestrian access during construction. These access considerations support Caltrans' equity mission to provide a safe, sustainable, and equitable transportation network for all users.

Encroachment Permit

Please be advised that any permanent work or temporary traffic control that encroaches onto the State Right-of-Way (ROW) requires a Caltrans-issued encroachment permit. As part of the encroachment permit submittal process, you may be asked by the Office of Encroachment Permits to submit a completed encroachment permit application package, digital set of plans clearly delineating the State ROW, digital copy of signed, dated and stamped (include stamp expiration date) traffic control plans, this comment letter, your response to the comment letter, and where applicable, the following items: new or amended Maintenance Agreement (MA), approved Design Standard Decision Document (DSDD), approved encroachment exception request, and/or airspace lease agreement. Your application package may be emailed to D4Permits@dot.ca.gov.

To download the permit application and to obtain more information on all required documentation, visit <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>.

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Thank you again for including Caltrans in the environmental review process. Should you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Yunsheng Luo at Yunsheng.Luo@dot.ca.gov. Additionally, for future notifications and requests for review of new projects, please email LDIGR-D4@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Leong". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

MARK LEONG
District Branch Chief
Local Development - Intergovernmental Review

c: State Clearinghouse