



COUNTY *of* NAPA

ROBERT J. PETERSON, P.E.
Director of Public Works
County Surveyor-County-Engineer
Road Commissioner

DONALD G. RIDENHOUR, P.E.
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Sean Nozzari
Deputy District Director
Division of Operations
California of Department of Transportation, District 4
P.O. Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

RE: CalTrans Encroachment Permit 0406-6MC2098
V. Madrone Winery (Christopher Tilley, St. Helena, Napa Valley)

Dear Mr. Sean Nozzari,

The Napa County Department of Public Works respectfully requests a clarification on the intent of the California Department of Transportation encroachment permit 0406-6MC2098 which has been issued to a Mr. Christopher Tilley regarding improvements in the State Highway right of way at 3199 St. Helena Highway.

In September of 2005 the Napa County Planning Commission approved Winery Use Permit P04-05410UP for V Madrone Cellars at the above mentioned location, including a condition that the applicant provide a left-turn lane access on the State Highway to serve visitors and workers entering the winery property. A CEQA determination was made, and a Mitigated Negative Declaration was adopted indicating that a left-turn lane would provide sufficient mitigation of traffic safety concerns and that a left-turn lane is warranted based on a traffic study completed by George W. Nickelson, P.E. dated November 8th, 2004. This condition was supported by the Department of Transportation (DOT), District 4 in a letter from the IGR/CEQA office dated June 22, 2005 (NAP029729).

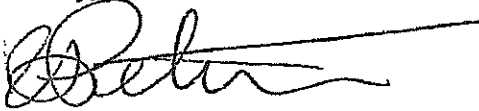
In 2004 the available estimated annual daily vehicle traffic over the section of Highway 29 where the winery is located was 14,600 vehicles a day (obtained from the published CalTrans traffic counts.) The average daily traffic for the winery provided by the applicant was proposed to be 26 vehicles a day. These two values graphed on the Napa County Left Turn Lane Warrant chart (NC Road and Street Standards Page 15, Sec. 16 and Page 16-A) indicates that a left-turn lane is required. CalTrans has historically supported a Napa County left-turn lane condition on Highway 29 due to the safety concerns and traffic volumes present. Since Highway 29 is the jurisdiction of the State, this department will support whatever improvements that CalTrans staff feels would offset the proposed increased traffic. In the case of the Winery project proposed, this department requests clarification to confirm that DOT staff considers the proposed improvement

at 3199 St. Helena Highway (as illustrated in the approved encroachment permit) mitigates the traffic safety concerns.

If your staff has obtained new information that was not considered in the original environmental review indicating that there is a change in traffic conditions, or an ecological or natural feature in the State right of way that prevents the construction of the left-turn lane as required, we would request that you provide the information to this department so that an amendment to the approved environmental document can be processed by Napa County. Please include any reports or other documentation obtained or provided by the applicant that would support the decision to disallow the conditioned left-turn lane widening at this time. Any information you can provide to support the equivalence of the approved encroachment permit and the requirement for a left-turn lane will be greatly appreciated.

In order to help Mr. Tilley proceed to construction of the winery we request this information at your earliest convenience due to the need to amend our Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project based on the additional information that you may have. If you have any questions for Napa County Public works staff please contact at Drew Lander, (707) 253-4892. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Peterson
Napa County
Director of Public Works

cc: Nate Galambos, DPW, Principal Engineer
Trish Hornisher, CDPD, Project Planner
Sandy Finegan, Caltrans District 4, IGR/CEQA Coordinator
Jim Heddy, NCTPA 707 Randolph St. Suite 100