



PLANNING COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 17, 2022
ITEM: No. 1 – 1:05 pm
FROM: Georgia McDaniel, Project Planner

SUBJECT: File No.: **ORD16-0001**; Continued hearing for Winery Events Ordinance
Applicant: County of Sonoma
Supervisorial Districts: All

Prior Planning Commission Actions:

On June 3, 2021, Permit Sonoma staff presented a draft Winery Events Ordinance to the Planning Commission. On a 5-0-0 vote, Commissioners voted to continue the item to a date uncertain, and directed staff to return to the Commission with a table comparing the definitions of local guidelines prepared by two advisory groups - Dry Creek Valley Citizens Advisory Council (DCVCAC) and Sonoma Valley Citizens Advisory Commission (SVCAC). The item was rescheduled for a hearing on July 15, 2021; however, the Planning Commission did not discuss the draft Winery Events Ordinance and instead continued the item.

The draft county ordinance represents staff's recommendation on a set of county definitions and standards that harmonizes with the following: (1) the DCVCAC guidelines that were approved by the Board of Supervisors in October 2018, (2) the draft local guidelines prepared by the Sonoma Valley Stakeholders Group, and (3) community input, most recently from Permit Sonoma's public workshop held on February 18, 2021. In spring of 2021, SVCAC formed a Winery Events Ad Hoc Committee to recommend changes to the draft guidelines proposed by the Sonoma Valley Stakeholders Group. The SVCAC adopted the Ad Hoc Committee's guidelines on May 26, 2021. Permit Sonoma staff provided support for this effort to ensure the final draft countywide ordinance harmonized with local guideline efforts and public input.

Staff have submitted two tables comparing definitions and standards proposed by the draft county ordinance, the DCVCAC guidelines, and the SVCAC guidelines. In the tables, staff have noted, in bold, where there are similarities across the definitions and standards to highlight how the draft countywide definitions and standards presented to Planning Commission on June 3, 2021 were harmonized with the local guidelines and public input.



Prior Board of Supervisors Direction:

On October 11, 2016, the Board of Supervisors adopted a Resolution of Intention (Attachment 3) directing staff to initiate zoning code amendments to address key issues associated with winery events, and to develop siting criteria and standards for areas with potential overconcentration. Specifically, the 2016 Resolution directs staff to “clarify the definition of events and food service” and “to develop standards and siting criteria for events in areas of local concentration, for adoption either as part of the Zoning Code or as separate guidelines.”

During a Winery Events Policy update on May 19, 2020, the Board directed Permit Sonoma to obtain additional public feedback and move forward with preparing a countywide winery events ordinance that defines key terms and addresses common issues identified across the local guidelines.

Attachments

1. Winery Events Policy – Definition Comparison
2. Winery Events Policy – Standards Comparison
3. Board of Supervisors Resolution of Intention, October 11, 2016