

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 19, 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 and February 17, 2022, Permit Sonoma staff presented a draft Winery Events Ordinance to the Planning Commission. On June 3, 2021, Commissioners continued the item 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). During the February 17, 2022 meeting, the Planning Commission took straw votes on revised county definitions and directed staff to return to the Commission with a revised definition and criteria for “Agricultural Promotional Events”; and to review the changes made to definitions and any effects on the draft county standards. The item was continued to a date uncertain.

Staff Response:

Staff documented the Planning Commission’s revised county definitions in the Definition Comparison Table (see Attachment 1). To align the county standards with the straw votes taken on February 17, 2022, staff recommends the Planning Commission consider revisions to the draft county standards which are reflected in the Standards Comparison Table (see Attachment 2). An updated draft Planning Commission Resolution with the revised Winery Events Ordinance (including track changes) is also provided for Planning Commission review (see Attachment 3). Staff may amend the draft ordinance based on on-going Planning Commission deliberations.

Background:

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 (see Attachment 4) 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" reflecting Planning Commission straw votes taken on February 17, 2022.
2. "Winery Events Policy – Standards Comparison reflecting Planning Commission straw votes taken on February 17, 2022.
3. Draft Planning Commission Resolution with draft "Winery Events Ordinance" reflecting Planning Commission straw votes taken on February 17, 2022 (including track changes and a clean copy).
4. Board of Supervisors Resolution of Intention, October 11, 2016.

