



*El Dorado County*  
*Agricultural Department*  
*Planning and Building Department*

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### DRAFT AMENDMENTS TO RANCH MARKETING ORDINANCE AND WINERY ORDINANCE

**Q1: What is driving the need for amendments to the Ranch Marketing or Winery Ordinances?**

A: Key challenges driving the need for amendments are:

- Consistent terminology between both ordinances
- Commercialization of Agriculturally zoned parcels
- Activity tracking and enforcement
- Amplified noise and noise compliance

**Q2: How do I verify if my Ranch Marketing or Winery activities are allowed by right?**

A: The property zoning, parcel size, and crop size determine whether the operation qualifies for Ranch Marketing or Winery activities by right. Table 130.40.400.1 (Wineries Allowed Uses Matrix), Table 130.40.400.3 (Micro-Winery and Small Vineyards Use Matrix), Table 130.44.104.1 (Ranch Marketing Use for Crop Production), and Table 130.44.106.1 (Ranch Marketing Uses for Agricultural Grazing Lands) outline the uses that are permitted by right or uses requiring additional administrative or use permit approval.

**Q3: Do I need to provide activity reporting to the Ag Department? Can it be an annual report?**

A: As proposed, activity reporting would be required 14-days in advance of a qualifying Special Event. This activity will be posted on the Ranch Marketing/Winery ordinance website. You will be able to review and verify that your reporting is up to date on the website. Staff is developing the activity tracking procedures/tools and would ultimately make the information available on either the Ag Website or within the County's Community tracking system. Staff will continue to refine these procedures and tracking tools as we move forward in the amendment process.

**Q4: What is the difference between a Special Event and a Marketing Event?**

A: A Marketing Event is an event sponsored by the operator of property, that is intended for the promotion and sales of the operators/facilities products.

A Special Event is any event, such as charitable events, promotional events, and facility rental events of the property.

**Q5: What is the yearly limit for Marketing Events?**

A: There is no limit the amount of qualifying Marketing Events that can be held during the year.

**Q6: What is the yearly limit for Special Events?**

A: The Winery Ordinance allows 48 Special Events a year, with a further restriction for facility rental events. For facility rental events, the ordinance identifies that parcels 20 acres or more in size are allowed 24 calendar days per year, and 12 days per calendar year on parcels less than 20 acres in size. These allowances are not being modified through the proposed ordinance amendments.

The Ranch Marketing Ordinance allows 24 Special Events a calendar year. These allowances are not being modified through the proposed ordinance amendments.

Approval of a conditional use permit is required in order to exceed these yearly allowances.

**Q7: Do I need a Noise Analysis for my Marketing Events?**

A: For any events occurring between 7pm and 10pm that include amplified music or sound, a noise analysis shall be submitted to the Agricultural Department demonstrating that the noise standards will not be exceeded. This is an existing requirement that is not being modified through the proposed amendments.

No outdoor music will be allowed after 10pm.

**Q8: Do I need a Noise Analysis for my Special Events?**

A: For any events occurring between 7pm and 10pm, a noise analysis shall be submitted to the Department demonstrating that the noise standards will not be exceeded. This is an existing requirement that is not being modified through the proposed amendments.

No outdoor music will be allowed after 10pm.

**Q9: How do the new enforcement provisions work?**

A: As proposed

- Winery Ordinance Special Events are subject to enforcement by the County Code Enforcement Division. Violations of Subsection E.3.e (Special Events) is a misdemeanor and fines can be assessed for each violation.
- Ranch Marketing violations are subject to enforcement by the County Code Enforcement Division. Under chapter 9.02 a violation is a misdemeanor and fines can be assessed for each violation in accordance with 9.02.090.

**Q10: How do I know if my neighbors are approved for Marketing Events or Special Events?**

A: The first step to verifying if a ranch marketing or winery event is approved is to visit the Agricultural Department's [Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinance webpage](#). If you are unable to determine the answer from the webpage, you can call the Ag Department at 530-621-5520 or email at [eldcag@edcgov.us](mailto:eldcag@edcgov.us).

**Q11: What do I do if my neighbors are exceeding the provisions of the Ranch Marketing Ordinance or Winery Ordinance?**

A: The first step to verifying if a ranch marketing or winery event is exceeding the provisions of the Ranch Marketing or Winer Ordinance is to visit the Agricultural Department's [Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinance webpage](#). If you are unable to determine the answer from the webpage, you can call the Ag Department at 530-621-5520 or email at [eldcag@edcgov.us](mailto:eldcag@edcgov.us). If it is determined that the allowances of the ordinances have been exceeded, you may contact the County's Code Enforcement Division at 530-621-5999 or by email at [cdacode.enforcement@edcgov](mailto:cdacode.enforcement@edcgov) to discuss your options.

**Q12: What is an addendum under CEQA and what does the CEQA process for an addendum consist of?**

A: The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires government agencies to consider the environmental consequences of their actions before approving a project. An addendum is one type of CEQA document used by an agency to make changes or additions to a prior environmental document. An addendum is appropriate when minor, technical changes to a project are warranted and none of the changes trigger any of the conditions for preparation of a subsequent or new document under CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines, §§ 15164(a), (b).) County staff has determined that an addendum is the appropriate document for the amendments to the Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinances.

Pursuant to CEQA, there is no requirement to circulate an addendum for public review. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15164(c).) The decision-making body will then consider the addendum with the EIR prior to making a decision on the project. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15164(d).) In this instance, the County has decided to release a Notice of Availability of the addendum to the Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Targeted General Plan Amendments & Zoning Ordinance Update (TGPA-ZOU) Project. The addendum for the Ranch Marketing and Winery Ordinance amendments was available for public review for a 14-day period [February 11, 2023, through February 24, 2023]. County staff is recommending the Board approve the addendum, with the proposed amendments, at the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting.

If you have a question that you think would be helpful to add to this FAQ, please email it to [eldcag@edcgov.us](mailto:eldcag@edcgov.us). For other specific questions about how the proposed amendments to the Ranch Marketing Ordinance or Winery Ordinance applies to your specific project, please call the Agricultural Department at: **(530) 621-5520**.

For more information about the proposed amendments to the Ranch Marketing Ordinance or Winery Ordinance, visit the webpage at: [Ranch Marketing Winery Ordinance Updates \(edcgov.us\)](https://www.edcgov.us/ranch-marketing-winery-ordinance-updates)

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