

Agricultural Commission Staff Report

Date:

April 3, 2018

To:

El Dorado County Agricultural Commission

From:

LeeAnne Mila; Deputy Agricultural Commissioner

Subject:

Oakstone Winery Revision to an Existing Conditional Use Permit

Project File No. S04-0001-R-2

Planning Request and Project Description:

Planning Services is processing the attached application for a revision to an existing Conditional Use Permit and requests the project be placed on the Agricultural Commission's Agenda. The applicants are requesting the following:

S04-0001-R-2 is based on the following project description: This request is to modify conditions of approval to S04-0001R to remove limitations on annual case production, increase days of tasting room operation from 4 to 6, modify production hours from 9 AM to 5 PM to 8 AM to 5 PM and to reconfigure existing parking space design for more efficiency and spaces. The parcel has a General Plan designation of Rural Residential (RR) and a zoning designation of Limited Agriculture, 20 Acres (LA-20). No new units or parcels are proposed. The applicant's parcel, identified by APN 095-080-56 consists of 20.818 acres and is located at 6470 Irish Acres Rd, Fair Play. (Supervisor District: 2).

The following General Plan Policy directs Commission guidance:

Policy 8.1.4.1 The County Agricultural Commission shall review all discretionary development applications and the location of proposed public facilities involving land zoned for or designated agriculture, or lands adjacent to such lands, and shall make recommendations to the reviewing authority. Before granting approval, a determination shall be made by the approving authority that the proposed use:

A. Will not intensify existing conflicts or add new conflicts between adjacent residential areas and agricultural activities; and

- B. Will not create an island effect wherein agricultural lands located between the project site and other non-agricultural lands will be negatively affected; and
- C. Will not significantly reduce or destroy the buffering effect of existing large parcel sizes adjacent to agricultural lands.

Parcel Description:

- Parcel Number and Acreage: 095-080-56, 20.8 Acres
- Agricultural District: Yes
- Land Use Designation: RR Rural Residential.
- Zoning: LA-20 Limited Agricultural Lands 20 Acres
- Soil Type: Choice soils
 - o HgC Holland Coarse Sandy Loam, 9 to 15 percent slopes

Discussion:

A site visit was conducted on March 29, 2018. This request is only to amend the Conditional Use Permit to remove limitations on annual case production, increase days of tasting room operation from 4 to 6, modify production hours to 8am to 5pm. and to reconfigure existing parking space design. The applicant is going to utilize an existing building for winery operations and no additional structures or development is proposed at this time. The vineyard at approximately 6.0 acres in size is well cared for and commercially viable.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends support of the request by the applicant for the modifications to conditional use permit S04-0001R.

COUNTY OF EL DORADO



AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

311 Fair Lane Placerville, CA 95667 (530) 621-5520 (530) 626-4756 <u>eldcag@edcgov.us</u> Greg Boeger, Chair – Agricultural Processing Industry
Dave Bolster, Vice-chair – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry
Lloyd Walker- Other Agricultural Interest
Chuck Bacchi – Livestock Industry
Bill Draper – Forestry/Related Industries
Ron Mansfield – Fruit and Nut Farming Industry

MEETING NOTIFICATION

The El Dorado County Agricultural Commission has been requested to review a project application for a parcel that is located in the proximity of your property. It is the customary business practice for this Commission to notify all parcels located within 500 feet of the subject parcel's boundary lines. <u>Please note that the requested project may or may not affect your property.</u>

The project listed below will be heard by the El Dorado County Agricultural Commission on <u>April 11, 2018</u>. This meeting is a public hearing that will begin at <u>6:30 pm</u> in the <u>Building A</u> <u>Board of Supervisors Hearing Room</u> 330 Fair Lane, Placerville, California.

RE: Oakstone Winery Revision to an Existing Conditional Use Permit Project File No. S04-0001-R-2

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The Agricultural Commission is an <u>advisory</u> body to and for the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission on all matters pertaining to agriculture. The Agricultural Commission reviews and makes recommendations only on the <u>agricultural element</u> of the project. **Please note that the exception to this is a "Request for Administrative Relief from an Agricultural Setback" which is processed solely through the El Dorado County Department of Agriculture with the Agricultural Commission's decision being able to be appealed to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors.

All interested parties for the above-mentioned project are encouraged to attend this meeting. Public testimony will be received on each agenda item as it is called. Individual comments are limited to 3 minutes; and individuals representing a group are allocated 5 minutes.

If you wish to view the meeting agenda in its entirety, please go to following website: https://eldorado.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx The agenda is also posted in the lobby of the Bethell-Delfino Agriculture Building located at 311 Fair Lane, Placerville, California. A copy of the project's submitted documents may also be reviewed at this location.

If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact the Clerk to the Agricultural Commission at (530) 621-5520. All questions relating to specific details of the project should be addressed to the Planner identified above at Planning Services, (530) 621-5355.



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09508048 COCA JOSE R JR 6495 SLUG GULCH RD SOMERSET, CA 95684

09508031 EVERS WILLIAM JOSEPH CO TR 6455 IRISH ACRES SOMERSET, CA 95684

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09509006 BIRD JASON T TR 7800 BOONDOCK TRL SOMERSET, CA 95684

09407045 CHENEY LAURA A 6247 SLUG GULCH RD SOMERSET, CA 95684

09407046 COUNTY OF EL DORADO 330 FAIR LANE PLACERVILLE, CA 95667

09508007. FAULKNER RICHARD E SUCC TR 6440 IRISH ACRES RD FAIR PLAY, CA 95684

> 09508006 GARRETT CHRISTOPHER 6295 SLUG GULCH SOMERSET, CA 95684

> 09508012 HERBAUGH THOMAS TR PO BOX 948 SOMERSET, CA 95684

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09508056 BARREL HEAD VINEYARDS CA LLC PO BOX 227 SOMERSET, CA 95684

09526040 BLASENHEIM AMY PAULA 4096 PIEDMONT AVE STE 908 OAKLAND, CA 94611

> 09508024 CHILIMIDOS STEVEN D P O BOX 110 MT AUKUM, CA 95656

09508023 DICONZA ROCCO P O BOX 0105 MT AUKUM, CA 95656

09526052 FIELDS DEBRA L PO BOX 637 MOUNT AUKUM, CA 95656

> 09406023 HARRIS EARLE W TR 6281 IRISH ACRES RD SOMERSET, CA 95684

09508002 HILLFELLAS PROPERTY MGMNT LLC 733 5TH STE #307 WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95605

> 09406024 MCDONALD JAMES A %6341 IRISH ACRES RD SOMERSET, CA 95684

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09509010 RICHARD BETTY J TR 2720 SUNSET LN ANTIOCH, CA 94509

09509061 SMITH JOHN LAUREN SPEER TR 9042 NW NURDOCK ST PORTLAND, OR 97229

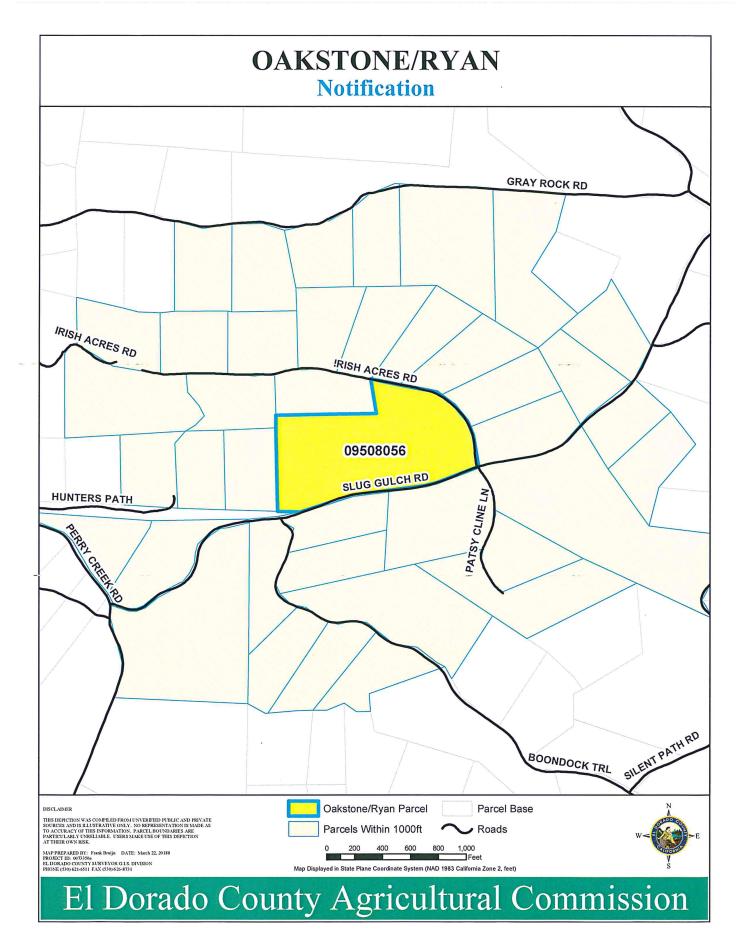
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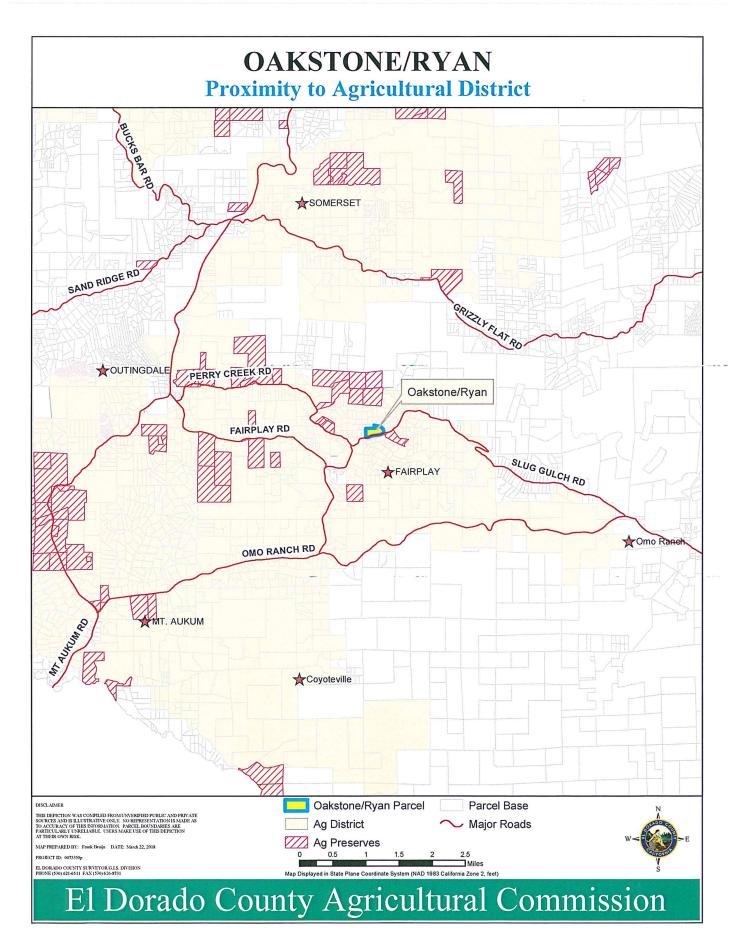
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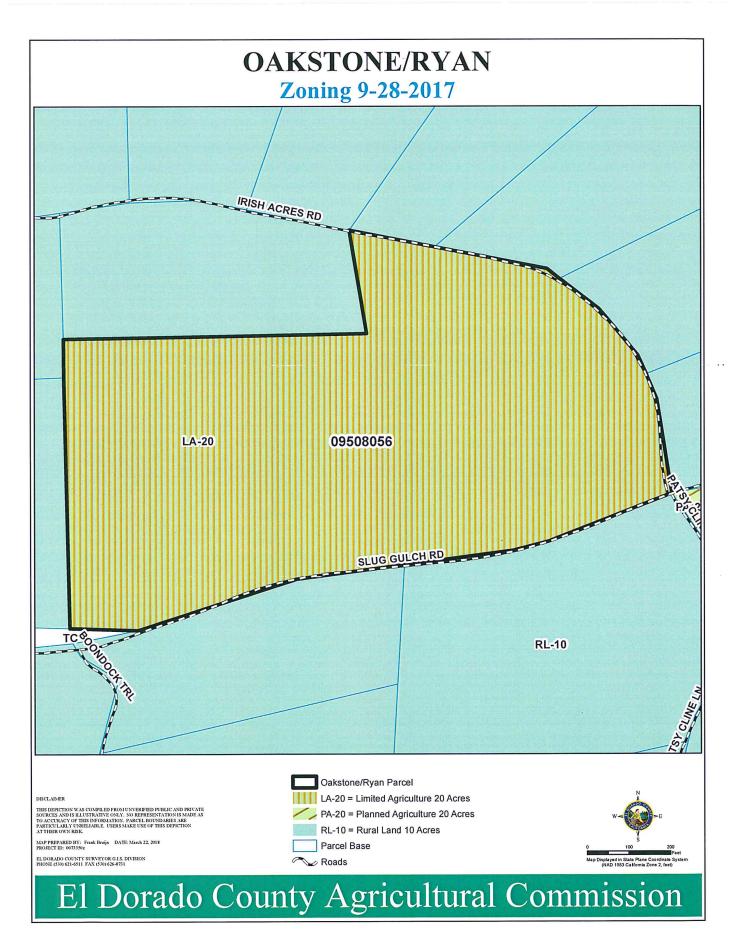
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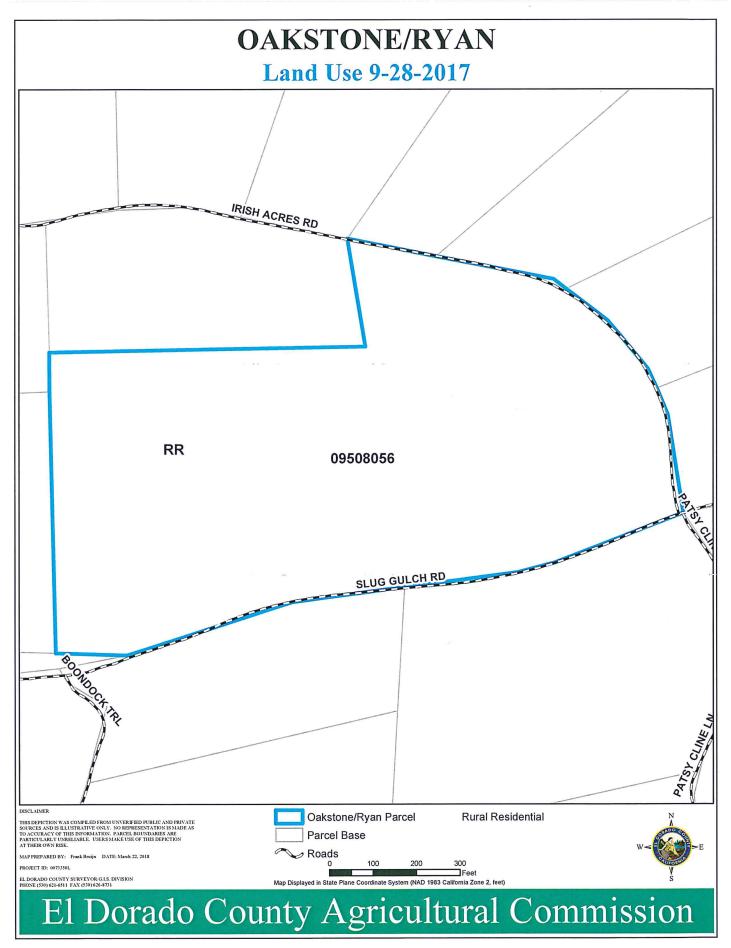
09526064 RICHMAN SEYMOUR TR 6420 SLUG GULCH RD FAIR PLAY, CA 95684

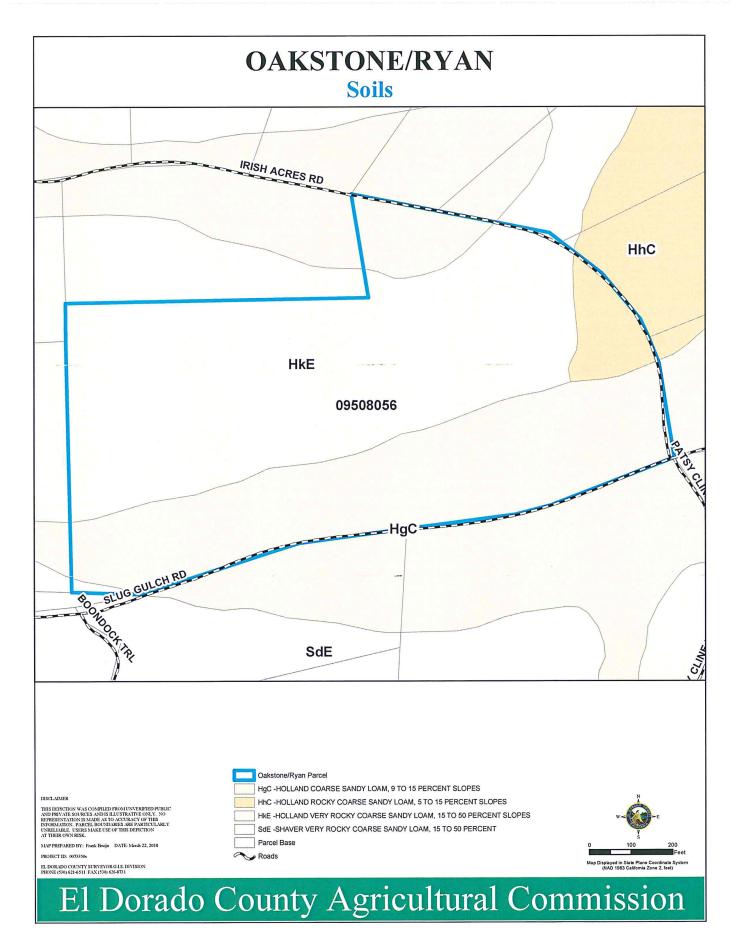
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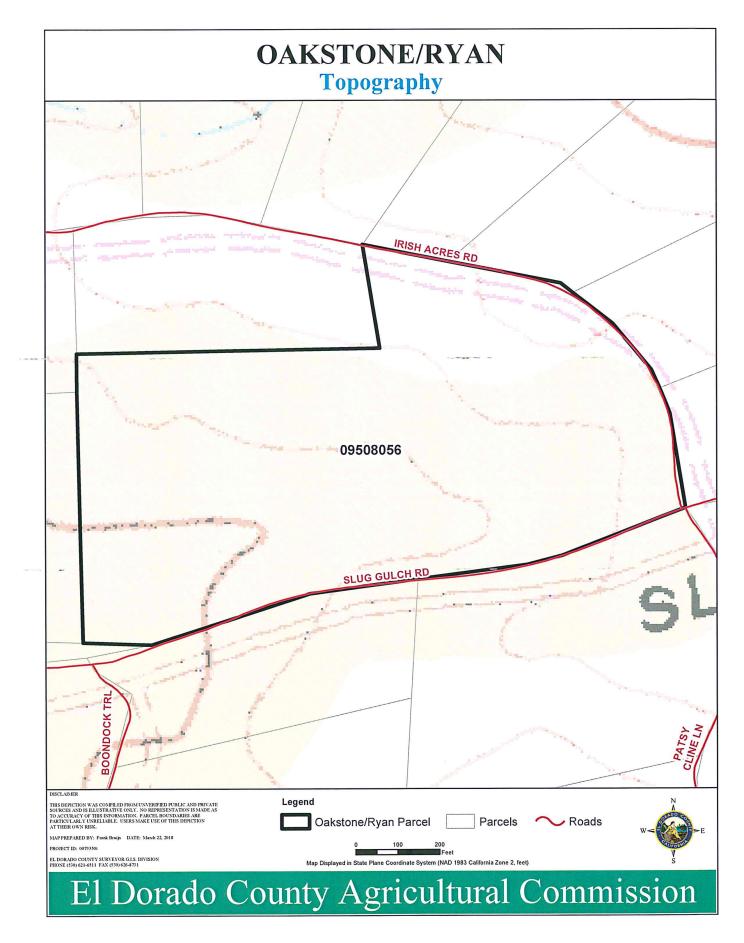


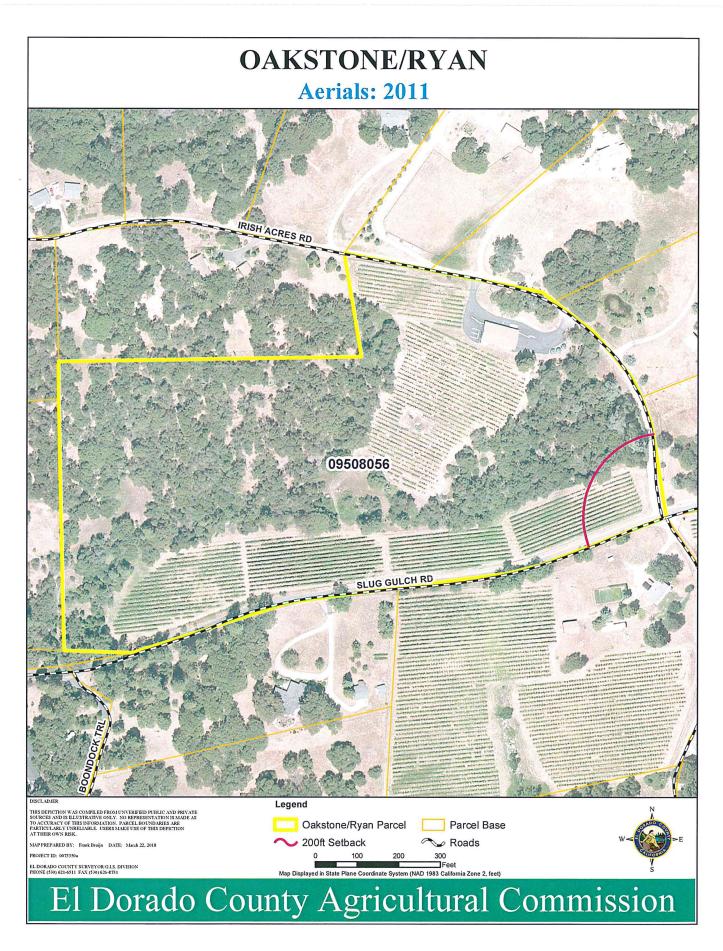












John L. Smith, Ph.D. NIVG Consulting, LLC 9042 NW Murdock ST. Portland, Or 97229

APR648 815

April 3, 2018

Chairman Greg Boeger and Commissioners El Dorado County Agricultural Commission 311 Fair Lane Placerville, CA 95667

Re: Oakstone Winery Revision to an Existing Conditional Use Permit Project File No. S04-001-R-2

Dear Chairman Boeger and Commissioners:

Stephen and Elizabeth Ryan, owners of Oakstone Winery, were able to purchase that facility in 2012 following a devastating fire at the original property, where they were employed as winemaker and business manager. With meager resources and minimal equipment, they worked tirelessly to build the new facility into a winery that is now respected as a center of wine excellence in El Dorado County. The wines they produce have continued to win accolades in regional and statewide competitions, and the winery has been recognized as the keystone of a winemaking area that was originally a single, distant vineyard property, planted almost 40 years ago by Commissioner Ron Mansfield.

As the builder and founder of both wineries, and as owner of adjacent vineyard property that is leased to the Ryans, I wish to add my support for these proposed minor changes to the original Conditional Use Permit. The original Use Permit was requested fourteen years ago with no knowledge that this property would someday become the sole source of livelihood for two people who now also own the property on which the original winery was built. As a result of their diligent efforts, the new winery has continued, and even exceeded, the reputation of that pioneering winery facility.

The existing facility is capable of additional production beyond the original case production limit, and should be allowed to be open for business on additional days beyond the original limitation. The winery owners own or lease 24 acres of grapes on and adjacent to the winery property, and would be able to convert those grapes into wine that is made and sold locally, instead of being shipped out of County, as many tons of those grapes are currently. These requested changes can be accommodated within the existing site plan, and the facility is located on a road that has been improved to accommodate any minor increase in traffic from the requested expanded use.

Susan and I still own the adjacent property at 6428 Slug Gulch Road with six acres of grapes, and strongly encourage the Commission to recommend approval of the proposed changes to the Conditional Use Permit. We would be delighted to see the continuation and improvement of the traditions we helped to build in that area beginning in 1997.

Your consideration and recommendation of this project will help to maintain the vibrancy and health of the agricultural community in the County, and will reward the determination of the owners to perpetuate the tradition of excellence in grape growing and winemaking for which the County has received continuing accolades.

Sincerely yours,

John & Smith

John L. Smith,

Former member, El Dorado Agricultural Commission