

## **Vintners Association / Placer County Meeting**

**\*\*\*\*DRAFT MINUTES\*\*\*\***

**Lone Buffalo Vineyards**

**October 26, 2022**

**4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

### **Attendees:**

Shanti Landon, Joshua Huntsinger, Nicole Hinkle, Jennifer Byous, Jocelyn Maddux, David Kwong, Justin Black, Ben Branaugh, George Rosasco, Rebecca Taber, Craig Paul, Jason Phillippe, Christopher Graham, Gloria Stearns, Christopher Schmidt, Phil Maddox, Michael Fournier, Joe Ciotti, Earl Stevens, Michele Nichols, Tammy Lindstrom, Judi Tichy, Kevin Stevenson, Teena Wilkins, and Michelle Lewis.

### **Actions:**

Josh Huntsinger gave a brief history of winery regulation. In the early days, wineries were a MUP. In 2005/6 to 2008 the first winery ordinance was in place. There were wine industry task force meetings. Several new wineries opened after 2008. In 2012/13, the County started site visits to wineries regarding issues. In 2014/15, a winery (and brewery) ordinance revision began, and it required a full EIR due to CEQA. In 2019, the current ordinance was adopted. While there is a winery task force meeting now, it is internal to the County.

Jocelyn Maddux described a vision for the region, which involves being known for good wines and events. In 2010, the Vintners Association was established and continues to meet regularly. They established a list of concerns prior to today's meeting.

Justin Black is the president of the Vintner's Association, and his hope is for open dialogue. They would like to see ag tourism become prosperous for all. Some wineries can still have a rural charm, which can provide for economic development and maintaining a quality of life.

Jason Phillippe is with Environmental Health and they are subject to State requirements. They try to minimize triggers for State requirements impacting wineries/breweries. What are other smaller wineries doing? Will they need septic and/or well? What thresholds trigger these things?

### **Upcoming Discussion Topics:**

- Update the online FAQs or Cheat Sheet that helps winery/brewery start-ups to better understand all issues they might face (PCCP, traffic, permits, septic, well, events, etc)

- Help the County to understand future growth plans of wineries by identifying anticipated employees, gallons of wine produced, number /frequency of events
- Define what is an event. If a winery/brewery has live music every Saturday, is that an event or is that just typical operation? If 200 people show up for a tasting, is that a tasting or an event?
- Establish regular meetings with the Vintner's Association and Placer County.
- What are food options? What food might be less than a common kitchen but more than packaged food? What mobile food is an option?
- When meetings occur to discuss issues in the winery / brewery ordinance, relevant parts of the ordinance (also zoning code, General Plan) should be included with the agenda.
- Are non-wine sales allowed? Most in the meeting agreed this was ok. If it is ok, what, if any limits are there?
- Are noise ordinance issues being handled with consistency? What are noise limits for various events?
- There is a perception that if a complaint occurs, wineries/breweries may be checked for other potential violations.
- What is the number of events or other thresholds that require a well or septic upgrade?
- What are encroachment standards for ag?
- Are more tiers needed for wineries? Right now all existing wineries are in one tier. Should more exist with different standards?
- What are the top 5 or 7 issues that need to be worked out? Can we have discussions to resolve those and keep moving forward on issue resolution?

**Action Items:**

- Draft minutes will be shared and posted. If corrections to the minutes are needed, please email Ava Keck at [akeck@placer.ca.gov](mailto:akeck@placer.ca.gov). Ava works in Economic Development with Gloria Stearns.
- A series of meetings will occur to discuss various topics. People may attend the meetings of interest or all meetings. These meetings will be scheduled by Shanti Landon. The next meeting is expected to be scheduled for January 2023.