

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Jenner Vacation Rentals [us@jennervacationrentals.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 07, 2009 6:06 PM
To: Efren Carrillo
Cc: Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Wine Tasting: 15001 Meyers Grade Road

LETTERS OF
SUPPORT
HT HT HT II

Dear Supervisor Carrillo,

We are Malcolm Sibbernsen and Sherry King, residents and business owners of Jenner, CA.

Our business, Jenner Vacation Rentals specializes in renting homes to tourists in the Jenner to Timber Cove Area. We are very familiar with the area including Meyers Grade.

We are writing to fully support the proposed tasting room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner, California located in the 5th Supervisor District. We know our clients will love the ability to drive north to Meyers Grade and enjoy a world-class wine tasting opportunity.

The proposed tasting room will be a welcome addition to the area and will enhance the experience of travelers to the area and will be an excellent additional point of interest for residents and visitors to the area who will be given the opportunity to be able to taste local wine made with grapes grown in the true coastal area of Sonoma County and that this will be good for agriculture and business generally in the area.

The area is becoming well known for its pinot noir, chardonnay and other cool climate grapes and the tasting room will bring new knowledge and experience of the area to more people and encourage the agricultural reputation of the area.

The tasting room will generate additional and much needed taxes for the county coffers. We receive many inquiries from travelers to the area wishing to visit wine tasting rooms and sample local wines and as there are currently no tasting rooms in the immediate area you have to direct them inland away from the area where they could most enjoy the local facilities that would benefit the local economy.

The tasting room will create additional symbiotic support for other business on the coast thus benefiting the economy of the area as a whole. The location of the site 2.5 miles up Meyers Grade off Highway One is on a two lane county road and is in an area of mostly large parcels of land with a few smaller residential lots and the traffic impact in the area of the tasting room should be minimal as most of the denser residential subdivisions and small holdings on Seaview Road and Hauser Bridge Road are 6 – 10 (15-25 minutes drive) miles to the north of the proposed tasting room.

Sincerely,

Malcolm Sibbernsen and Sherry King

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Rosemary Gorz [Rosemaryg@digitalpersona.com]
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Wine Tasting Room proposal for 15001 Meyers Grade Rd

Hello Cynthia,

I saw a posting on the Coastal Community Bulletin Board, announcing this proposal and asking us to send comments:

1,500 square foot Wine Tasting Room is being proposed for 15001 Meyers Grade Road

I think it's a great idea to have some wine country business in our coastal area. We have a home in Timber Cove. As long as the project is done in a tasteful way, my husband and I are all for it.

Thank you,
Rosemary Gorz

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Cynthia Demidovich

From: Andria Evans [leathevans@msn.com]
Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 7:12 AM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: RE: Use permit for 15001 Meyers Grade Rd.

Dear Cynthia Demidovich,

I and my husband live at 15901 Meyers Grade rd.. We have lived directly adjacent to Lester Schwartz property and vineyard for the past 7 years.

After looking at the site a proposal for Lester Schwarze's wine tasting room, we have no objections to the project.

The Schwartz's' are good stewards of their property and courteous neighbors. When building their vineyard next to my yard, they were very sensitive to our concerns.

The possible small increase in traffic is inconsequential, compared to the traffic generated in front of my home by: Plantation camp, Flowers vineyard and the Ratnal Ling construction and bindery. This list does not include Sunday drivers and bicyclists.

I realize that we live in a beautiful place and that others will want to come and enjoy the beauty once in a while.

A small business, such as the wine tasting room, may create a couple of sorely needed jobs for the community. With the, possible, closing of two State parks in the area, these jobs may be sorely needed. I see very few negative effects of a small wine tasting room on ourselves or the community.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Andrea and Jim Daley
15901 Meyers Grade Rd.
Jenner CA 95450
Home 707-847-3113
Andrea Work 707-299-2826

Cynthia Demidovich

From: kiwiplumbing@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 3:19 PM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Re: 15001 Meyer's Grade Road tasting room



Hello Cynthia:

We are interested in this projected tasting room on the Seaview Ridge, and feel it would not negatively impact the quality of life up there. We'd like to put in a positive and supportive vote for this project. Especially since the land use is not going through a request for re-zoning, it appears to us that the owner can develop his property within reason as is his right. We live up there part-time and have always thought that it's a fabulous destination point for friends, family and tourists alike - and don't feel a tasting room would prompt a major traffic or over-development explosion. Our family/friends enjoy visiting and supporting the Timber Cove Lodge, the Seaview Art Glass Studio, Annapolis Vineyard, various coastal stores and the State Parks, and this could be one more local stop for them as they head "up the coast" to visit us. We also would be interested in enjoying good wine in the lovely local setting that the property occupies, ourselves.

One thought I had regarding any road traffic concern that may arise is that several more visible yellow signs be placed on the Meyers' Grade Road and Seaview Road anyway, requesting lower rates of speed. The privately placed signs in our immediate area are usually taken down by the county, but when one walks on the road for exercise or blackberry picking or bird watching, people often fly past, locals and tourists alike.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project, and please feel free to contact us should you have any questions regarding this email.

Regards,

~Melissa and Kevin Burrell
Seaview Road

Cynthia Demidovich

Subject: FW: Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room.

From: joel martin [mailto:seagullco@yahoo.com]

Sent: Thursday, September 24, 2009 2:27 PM

To: Cynthia Demidovich

Cc: Efren Carrillo; Susan Upchurch; William Passaretti

Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room.

To: Cynthia Demidovich
Project Planner

Re: Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room

My name is Joel Martin and I am the owner of Seagull Company Gifts in Jenner. I am located in Supervisor District 5. I am writing to support the proposed tasting room at Lester & Linda's the Fort Ross Vineyard located at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner.

Having a winery tasting room in near proximity to the coast would only enhance the experience of those travelers who visit and stay in the area and allow them to better experience and enjoy our wonderful part of the county. Our area of the coast has become well known for its excellent pinot noir and other cool climate varietals and Fort Ross Vineyard is an excellent example of a vineyard that produces wines from estate grown grapes in the area. I am constantly asked by visitors of Jenner and my shop about the nearest winery that has a tasting room. I always have to direct them away from our area, which usually means fewer dollars spent in our locale and less tax revenues.

Especially in this current economic climate our coastal economy could use Lester and Linda's tasting room to enhance the experience of staying in Jenner, and the north coast.

We could certainly use more activities to make staying in our area that more enjoyable.

Thank You

Joel Martin/Seagull Company
P.O. Box 83, Jenner, Ca 95450

Cynthia Demidovich

From: LINDA WILLES [clwilles@wildblue.net]
Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 10:09 AM
To: Efen Carrillo
Cc: Lester Schwartz; Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Re: Wine Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner, California - Planning
File Number UPE09-0027

Dear Supervisor Carrillo

My wife and I reside at 22095 Umland Cir, in Timber Cove approximately 8 miles from the site of the tasting room proposed at 15001 Meyers Grade.

We support the installation of a tasting room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road. The proposed tasting room will be in a RRD zone which specifically allows for tasting rooms for agricultural products which are grown on site and the property owners should be entitled to use their property for its legitimately zoned purposes. The tasting room will promote agriculture in the coastal area and particularly the grape growing and winemaking which occurs here and it will benefit this part of the county as well as the county at large. A tasting room will enable residents and travelers to the area to taste wine made with grapes grown in the area itself and experience first hand the effects on the wine of the topography, altitude, climate and other growing conditions unique to this area. The tasting room will also generate additional jobs and revenues for the County at a time when the economy needs stimulus. I believe that the majority of tax paying voters would support this type of culture in our community.

I know Meyers Grade very well and drive it on a regular basis. The road is a two lane county road. I do not believe that the addition of the tasting room will adversely affect my ability to travel safely on the road nor will it impact me or my property in any material way.

The tasting room will be a useful and productive facility for the area and should be encouraged and approved.

Yours truly,

Craig Willes

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Nick Frey [frey@sonomawinegrape.org]
Sent: Thursday, October 15, 2009 8:27 AM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Cc: David Hardy; Efren Carrillo; Susan Upchurch; lester@citystorage.com
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyards tasting room

Lester Schwartz has reviewed his plans for a tasting room on his ranch with me. I am writing in support of his application for a use permit. It is very difficult for small grape and wine producers to sustain their businesses without direct consumer sales. The Sonoma Coast American Viticulture Area that is nearest the Pacific Ocean is receiving a great deal of recognition for the quality of grapes and wines produced there. A tasting room will certainly help Mr. Schwartz generate more direct sales. The small-scale project should have minimal impacts on nearby residents.

One of the marketing objectives the Commission has is to help consumers (and local residents) appreciate the importance of the vineyard and the grapes they produce to the finished wine. It really is all about the grapes, not the winery. This project really makes the point because the tasting room is at the vineyard, not at a winery. People will only travel there to see the vineyard and taste the wine. It is a unique project.

Sincerely,

Nick Frey
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission
420 Aviation Blvd, Ste 106
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Ph 707-522-5861; Cell 707-291-2857
www.sonomawinegrape.org

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Juan S. Parra [tour2nv@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, October 25, 2009 10:22 PM
To: Efren Carrillo
Cc: Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard-New Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County

Hello Efren Carrillo,

My name is Sam Parra, live in Windsor and wanted to take a minute to e-mail you to support the Tasting Room proposal for Fort Ross Vineryard at 15001 Meyers Grade Road. I work in the wine business myself for Rochioli Winery in Healdsburg. Fort Ross Vineyard new tasting room will help promote and encourage interest in the grapes and wines of Sonoma Coast area. The new Tasting Room will help support local agriculture in Sonoma Coast along the Sonoma Coast and in particular the grapes grown in proposed new Fort Ross-Seaview AVA, thanks!

Sam Parra

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Gail Connor [gailconnor@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 27, 2009 9:16 AM
To: Efren Carrillo
Cc: Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich; tastingroom@fortrossvineyard.com
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard - Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County

Dear Efren Carrillo,

I am writing to support the new Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County. There will be many benefits with this Tasting Room including:

- The Tasting Room will promote interest in the grapes and wines of Sonoma County.
- The Tasting Room will help to promote interest in local agriculture and agriculture and the wine industry in Sonoma County.
- The Tasting Room will help to promote the new proposed Fort Ross-Seaview AVA and the grapes and wines grown in the region.
- The Tasting Room will help to increase revenue from visitors to local food and hospitality businesses which benefits the local economy and Sonoma County.
- With the opportunity for visitors to taste Fort Ross estate grown wines and visit the vineyard, visitors can experience the coastal terroir first hand and it will help to promote the region.
- The location of the proposed Tasting Room is ideal because it presents a perfect place for visitors to the Sonoma Coast to stop during the long trip between Jenner and points further north

Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

Gail Connor
707.889.2469

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Amy Dixon [amydancerdixon@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2009 1:31 PM
To: Efren Carrillo
Cc: Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich; tastingroom@fortrossvineyard.com
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard - New Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County

I am writing to support the new Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County.

The new Tasting Room will help promote and encourage interest in the grapes and wines of Sonoma County.

The new Tasting Room will help support local agriculture in Sonoma County and in particular the grapes grown in proposed new Fort Ross-Seaview AVA.

The new Tasting Room will allow visitors and members of the wine trade to taste Fort Ross wines made from their estate grown grapes and visit the vineyard to see and experience the coastal terroir first hand and taste the wines at their place of origin.

The new Tasting Room will benefit the Sonoma County economy and the local food and hospitality businesses in the area.

Such wonderful folks at Fort Ross too!

Sincerely,
Amy Dixon

Cynthia Demidovich

From: jeanrharris@sbcglobal.net
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2009 11:49 AM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: ft ross vineyard.doc

Dear Supervisor Demidovich:

Re: Tasting Room-15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner, Sonoma County PRMS File # UPE09-0027

I've had a home at Timber Cove for some twenty years and I know the area well. I live at 22069 Kelly, approximately 6 miles north of the proposed tasting room. I want you to know I would welcome a tasting room, as I would any addition to the wine and food culture here.

The Fort Ross Vineyard is uniquely located, within a mile of the Pacific Ocean which produces cool climate pinot noirs and chardonnays that are emblematic of the area. Where else if not here?

The new tasting room will promote and encourage support for local agriculture in Sonoma County, and will symbiotically help other local food and hospitality businesses in the area which rely on visitors patronizing their businesses. It's also a unique opportunity, because of the tax revenue which would be generated for the county.

Personally, I would love to have a tasting room of this quality nearby. Through the years I've had many visitors. They've come from all parts of the world. What a treat this would be! Now, in addition to Timber Cove's natural beauty, I'd be able to offer them a taste of our local wines. With great pride.

Therefore I strongly urge you to support the proposed tasting room.

Sincerely

JEAN R. HARRIS
jeanrharris@sbcglobal.net

Cynthia Demidovich

From: joshlharris@aol.com
Sent: Monday, November 02, 2009 1:15 PM
To: Efren Carrillo; Susan Upchurch; Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room

RUSTIC BAKERY INC.
1139 MAGNOLIA AVENUE LARKSPUR, CA 94939
TEL 415 925-1556

11/02/09

Dear Supervisor Carrillo:

I co-own a bakery that supplies many wine tasting rooms throughout Sonoma County. I also have a family residence on Kelly Court in Timber Cove California about 6 miles north of the proposed Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room. This letter is intended to express my approval of the tasting room and would like to offer my support for it.

Fort Ross Vineyard is a uniquely located vineyard within a mile of the Pacific Ocean and produces cool climate pinot noirs and chardonnays that are emblematic of the area. The new Tasting Room will help promote and encourage interest in the grapes and wines of Sonoma County and in particular those from the proposed new Fort Ross-Seaview AVA. It will offer visitors to the area an opportunity to visit a local coastal vineyard and taste the local wines where they are grown. Not only will the new Tasting Room thus encourage support for local agriculture in Sonoma County but it will symbiotically help other local food and hospitality businesses in the area that rely on visitors patronizing their businesses. All of these businesses contribute to the local economy and also generate tax revenue for the County. The tasting room will be a positive addition to the Fort Ross and Jenner part of the West County as well as the County in general.

I fully support the proposed tasting room and encourage you to approve it.

Sincerely,

Josh Harris, Co-Owner Rustic Bakery

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Allison Dorsett [ADorsett@kostabrowne.com]
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2009 10:41 AM
To: Efren Carrillo
Cc: 'supchurc@sonom-county.org'; Cynthia Demidovich; 'tastingroom@fortrossvineyard.com'
Subject: Fort Ross Vineyard-New Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Sonoma County

Importance: High

Dear Supervisor Carrillo,

I hope you are having a fantastic week. I am writing to you in support of the new Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road in Sonoma County. I highly support the tasting room and believe it would not only promote and encourage interest in the grapes and wines of Sonoma County and of the Sonoma Coast, but also it will help support local agriculture. As I work in the wine industry, I know first-hand how beneficial a tasting room is in supporting the local economy, local food industries/restaurants, and hospitality businesses in the area.

Tourists, visitors and members of the wine industry would have the unique opportunity to taste Fort Ross wines made from their estate grown grapes, and to visit the vineyard. To see and experience the beautiful coastal terroir of this magical area would be an incomparable experience. Being able to taste the wines at their place of origin is key—one will be able to get a sense of place....to see what unique aspects influence and shape this wonderful wine.

I look forward to hopefully visiting the Fort Ross Vineyard tasting room in the very near future. The wines are fantastic and the Fort Ross area can only be described as extraordinary.

Thank you very much your time and personal attention/consideration to this matter.

Kindest Regards,

Allison Dorsett
Marketing Coordinator
Kosta Browne Winery
P.O. Box 1555
Sebastopol, CA 95473
707.823.7430 ext. 10

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Gard Hellenthal [gard@bffb.net]
Sent: Tuesday, November 03, 2009 5:48 AM
To: Susan Upchurch
Cc: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Fwd: Tasting Room

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gard Hellenthal** <gard@bffb.net>
Date: Mon, Nov 2, 2009 at 6:33 AM
Subject: Tasting Room
To: ecarrillo@sonoma-county.org
Cc: lester@citystorage.com

Re: Tasting Room - 15005 Meyers Grade Road , Jenner - Sonoma County PRMS File #UPE09 - 0027 Dear Supervisor Carrillo : My family owns a small vineyard on Bohan Dillon Rd. , not far from Fort Ross Vineyard . We would like to express our full support for the proposed tasting room on Meyers Grade Rd. We have known Lester and Linda Schwartz for years and admire the great work they have done to establish a world class vineyard . We know they will put full effort into the project of trying to make a tasting room work out here , while at the same time being aware of others concerns for the rural feel of the area . I think it will be a very positive addition to the community , and could help promote agricultural lifestyles here . I feel it is important for our local government to support positive efforts , by individuals , to try and make this area self - sustaining by viable enterprises . Thank You Gard Hellenthal

Cynthia Demidovich

From: Jsarrera@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2009 1:26 PM
To: Cynthia Demidovich
Subject: Subject: 15001 Meyers Grade Road Tasting Room - File Number UPE09-0027

Subject: 15001 Meyers Grade Road Tasting Room - File Number UPE09-0027

Dear Planner Demidovich:

October 1, 2009

My wife Barbara and I reside at 29800 Seaview Road, a 15 minute drive from the proposed tasting room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road and about 5 miles south of our property.

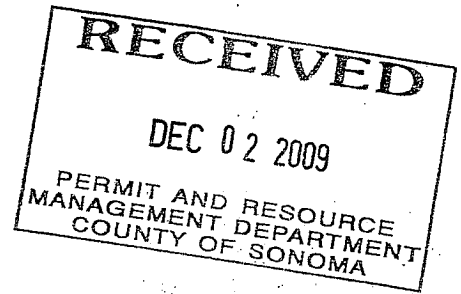
We are writing to fully support the proposed tasting room and the efforts of the Ft. Ross Winery owners who have proven to be good stewards of the land and of our beautiful coast.

We believe that the proposed tasting room will be an excellent addition to the facilities and points of interest in the local area. It will be a good place for residents of, and travelers to the area, to have an opportunity to taste wines made with locally grown grapes. The cool climate coastal area around Fort Ross in Sonoma County is becoming well known for its excellent Pinot noir and Chardonnay.

The proposed tasting room will not only generate and encourage more interest in grapes and wine from our excellent local wine growing area but will have secondary benefits for the area and the County as a whole such as, for example, tax generation.

The location of the proposed tasting room is about 2.5 miles north of Highway One on the two lane Meyers Grade county road. It is proposed for a relatively unpopulated part of the area. We travel Seaview Road and Meyers Grade often both in northerly and southern directions and we do not believe that any traffic that might be generated by the proposed tasting room will realistically affect traffic conditions on these roads in any significant way. In fact, the terrain has a built in moderator for traffic in that a good fraction of the population refrains from driving up Jenner Grade. I am not at all concerned that any traffic from the tasting room will substantially affect us or our property on Seaview Road. We also own property in The Sea Ranch and travel there via Seaview Road, Timber Cove Road and Highway One and we do not believe that the proposed tasting room will significantly affect traffic on those roads either.

We urge you to approve the tasting room.



Supervisor Efren Carrillo
575 Administration Dr. Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

November 23, 2009

Proposed Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room - 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner.

Dear Supervisor Carrillo:

We at Fort Ross Lodge are writing to fully support the proposed new Fort Ross Vineyard Tasting Room at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner.

The tasting room will be a wonderful addition to the area and will provide travelers with an additional place of interest to visit. We have many guests at our lodge who ask whether there is a place in the area where they can go to taste local wines but we have nowhere close to send them. The new tasting room will give visitors to the area the opportunity to taste wines made from grapes grown right here in the coastal area of Sonoma County and will create additional symbiotic support for other local businesses in the area. The tasting room will benefit the local economy as a whole. It will also generate additional and much needed taxes for the county.

We are very excited at the thought of the new Fort Ross Vineyard tasting room and all the benefits it will bring to the area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Star". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Steve Star
Fort Ross Lodge

Cc: Cynthia Demidovich, Planner

Supervisor Efren Carrillo
Supervisor District 5 - Board of Supervisors
County of Sonoma
575 Administration Dr. Room 100A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: Tasting Room Use Permit - 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner, California

Dear Supervisor Carrillo:

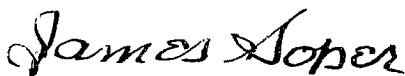
~~I am writing to express my support for the tasting room proposed by Lester and Linda Schwartz~~
(Fort Ross Vineyard) on their property at 15001 Meyers Grade Road, Jenner, California.

I am Vice-President of the Soper-Wheeler Company which owns property at 15610 Meyers Grade. The Soper-Wheeler Company is the oldest privately owned timber company in California and has remained dedicated to its founding principles of conservative forest management, sustained yield harvesting, and reforestation. Beginning a century ago with a few scattered small land holdings in north central California, the company now owns more than 97,000 acres in California,

I first became acquainted with our neighbor Lester Schwartz about 20 years ago when he was building a home on his property directly across the street from our property on Meyers Grade.

I think that the tasting room proposed by Lester and Linda Schwartz is a wonderful idea and will be a positive addition to the area and neighborhood. I fully support their endeavor and encourage you to approve it.

Sincerely,



James P. Soper III

✓ Cc: Cynthia Demidovich, Planner, Sonoma County PRMS File # UPE09-0027

