

Sierra Club: Environmental Sustainability Strategic Planning Meeting
September 26, 2018

The aspirations of the grouped into Habitats and Forests; Land Use and Growth; Surface Water/Creeks / Ground water; Climate Change and Adaptation;
and, Farmland/Ag

Solutions included: Make ecological preservation and restoration Napa County's next Strategic Plan Goal; Moratorium until solutions; Reclaimed water programs; Monitoring water usage (meters, verifiable monitoring of draws from surface and other sources, including ground and stream) ; Define "forests" as the highest and best us of land; Prioritizing reduced Climate Pollutants in County decision making; Allow tasting permits for small farms, without requiring building winery; Zoning restrictions to limit new wineries / vineyards

Aspiration: Habitats and Forrest		
Specific Challenge or Problem	Evidence this Challenge or Problem Exists	Impact of the Challenge or Problem on You?
Tree Removal - Vineyard on Bell Canyon	Vineyard landslide into Bell Canyon	Reduction in Reservoir capacity
Hillside/Hilltop development uses more water	Rector Reserve capacity reduced Increase cost and filter requirements for drinking	Water quality problems in St. Helena
Lack of recognition that tress (especially mature trees) are valuable -Highest and best use of the land - Carbon sequestration	Reports by vineyard managers	Aquifer and Stream impacts
Habitat loss - Lack of holistic impact Wildlife is not protected/ considered	Being removed, short sided Voluntary Oak Woodland Program not used	Mature Roots and Forests create better erosion control
Mitigations are not being followed	Algae blooms	New trees not as good for erosion control
Replanting not sufficient		Construction impact to replant
Performance bonds not sufficient		Infrastructure insufficient = construction requirement from existing conditions
		Natural water resources
		More susceptible to pesticides which impact water and soil quality
		Angry citizens
		Repair and regrowth replenish is going to take many years
		Extinctions

Solution			
Actions to Solve	Who Needs to Be Involved	Pros Cons	
Make ecological preservation and restoration Napa County's next Strategic Plan Goal	Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Ag Commissioner, UC Cooperative Extension, Registered Arborist, Resource Conservation District, the People	Healthier, wealthier, happier residents and animals	Cost
Sufficient resources (people) to enforce regs	Hydraulic Engineer	Improved water quality	Legacy industries suffer (Auto, oil, gas)
Educate and Market of Ag Preserve (Example Ag Respect Program and environment to tourists)	On Staff Biologist; proactive study		
Recognize wildlife corridors and flyways, bio diverse "hotspots" and area riparian area to be protected	Planning, Building and Environmental Services, Code Enforcers, District Attorney; County Certified Arborist		
Increase penalties on violators, base fine on value of tree itself, registered Arborist required to evaluate	K-12 Education; Community College		
5% rollover from			

Aspiration: Land Use / Growth		
Specific Challenge or Problem	Evidence this Challenge or Problem Exists	Impact of the Challenge or Problem on You?
Affordable Housing	Increasing rents / vacancy rates/ traffic from outside of the County due to the workforce	Quality of life for commuters, air pollution, gentrification
Planning staff lack of bio expertise; geo/hydro living systems or natural systems	Vineyard development projects with serious environmental impact, loss of habitats, impacts to wildlife, loss of surface water, impacts to springs	Seasonal creek and springs, habitat impacts, loss of citizen faith in the process and environmental protection
Amount of vineyard winery development - what are the limits / requirements?	Close windows at night - rural residences, exponential growth over decade, # of tourists, mitigation not followed	tourist/ traffic outside money (investment vs. community) increased hold and haul, fencing impacts wildlife corridors, tipping point to source grapes locally, water usage and groundwater consumption
Lack of agriculture diversity	Focus on wineries - cannabis? Every property sold is perceived for vineyard	
Traffic	29 + Silverado at 8:00 and 5:00	Dangerous to have an over reliance on one crop (all eggs in one basket) and no local food
		Air quality, CO2 emissions, less time with family, less travel, visitor experience in negative

Solution			
Actions to Solve	Who Needs to Be Involved	Pros Cons	
More density rather than sprawl Hotels build workforce housing Accessory dwelling unit incentives Tax on real estate sales for affordable housing	Developers, permitting agencies, land owners, employers, lenders, general public, tenants	Diversity, reduced traffic, available workforce, less commute, improved air quality	Impacts to neighborhood
TOT increase for affordable housing Limit on second homes by taxing restrict development, including Berryessa	Planning Directors, citizens and local experts, colleges and universities, contractors, BOS	Enviro protections, informed decisions, community confidence	Cost - who pays time, difficult to change
intergovernmental cooperation	Planning , winery owners	Showcase what we do best, protect Ag Preserve	Threaten Ag Preserve; may use more water
Hire Masters Degree biologist (NSO) protocol certified	Farmers, Local Government, Land Owners	Protect scenic for residents and visitors, maintain water supply	More water if cannabis
Communicate with experts that have been hired	Employers, Citizens - know options	Local food = reduced traffic	
Support continuing education			
Split AWOS from Ag			
Moratorium until solutions			
Study on parcels that can accommodate wineries and demand			
Evaluate systems of limits likely buy & sell licenses, cap on the number of licenses			
Ensure compliance with water supply to protect and COA			
Support right tot farm sustainably work with PUC for school farm and with orchards, row crops, etc.			
Employer ride sharing / carpool/ incentives worker proximity and affordable housing			
City centered growth			

Red indicates top vote getter(s).

Aspiration: Surface Water/Creeks / Ground water			
Specific Challenge or Problem	Evidence this Challenge or Problem Exists	Impact of the Challenge or Problem on You?	
Finite amount (of water) + seasonality	water deficient "zones" established	Increased cost rationing	
Cost of water	Phase 2 Water Rationing	Lack of growth	
Perceived lack of water used to deny housing and growth (politicizing water)	Reliance on Import	projects denied	
Complying with Groundwater Sustainability Act	The Napa River used to flow all year	Aquifer Depletion	
Lack of Community knowledge on how we are managing our water	Water bill increase		
Water quality	Planning Hearings		
Water conservation			
Solution			
Actions to Solve	Who Needs to Be Involved	Pros Cons	
Reclaimed water programs	Ag Industry involvement	Reclaimed Water: supply	Reclaimed Water: Expensive
Expanded conservation efforts	All water users and industries	Monitoring:	Monitoring:
Monitoring water usage (meters, verifiable monitoring of draws from surface and other sources, including ground and stream)	Public Works and Planning Weights and Measures (Ag) Meter Checks	Data for decision making	Privacy Property Rights Time to collect data
Determine evaporative rate between existing Oak Land vis a vis Vineyards (How much more water will be used if land converted to vineyard)	UC Cooperative Extension (for research) All Government Agencies involved (and Communicating)	BOS:	BOS: Sups may change or change positions on issues
BOS take a more practice role in water issues (they need to be more informed as to the evidence)			Liability for County if not properly data based
Coordination between all Agencies who have any contact with supply, distribution, re-use, disposal, etc. (Cities, Counties, and Districts)			

Red indicates top vote getter(s).

Aspiration: Climate Change and Adaptation			
Specific Challenge or Problem	Evidence this Challenge or Problem Exists	Impact of the Challenge or Problem on You?	
Loss of Carbon Sequestration (Forest and Ag.)	Expansion of vineyards	Increase greenhouse gas emissions	
disillusionment in re: Climate Action Plan (CAP)	approval of deforestation projects (Walt Ranch Aerial Photos)	Destruction of important habitat	
Underestimated pace of climate change in Napa Valley (and worldwide)	Ag practices => soil erosion and depletion Post fire tree cleaning (unnecessary)	Increase in temperatures, droughts, fires, climate disruption, etc.	
	Community comments ignored	No viable plan, no coordination with Cities	
	Lack of trust in the County	Threat of run away climate change.	
	Scope is arbitrary. Plan is incomplete	Detrimental to economy health (wine specifically)	
	Uneducated County Leadership on Science		
	Communication to public is inadequate / misleading		
Solution			
Actions to Solve	Who Needs to Be Involved	Pros Cons	
Cap Vineyard development	Community Stakeholders Public	Address impact of climate change	Cost \$
Define "forests" highest & best us of land	Industry	\$ redirected	Impact to tax revenue
Workshop for County Government (BOS, Planning Department and Staff) with respected scientists (e.g. Sierra Club, Union of Concerned Scientists, CBD)	Government - BOS, PBES, CEO, Ag Commissioner, UC Coop	Protect human health, environment and economy	
Prioritizing reduced Climate Pollutants in County decision making	Vineyard Developers	Caps vineyard development	
Actual, consistent, meaningful enforcement	NGO's	Support resiliency	
Prioritize: Climate, farming, better soil management practices, (e.g. requirements, regulations, education)	Scientists (esp. for prioritizing climate pollutions)	personal accomplishment	
		Reduced climate grief, depression & mental health	

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Aspiration: Farm Land and Agriculture			
Specific Challenge or Problem	Evidence this Challenge or Problem Exists	Impact of the Challenge or Problem on You?	
Wildlife	Fire	Building new wineries and converting farmland (see evidence)	
Forestry management re: fire	removal of farm land to build structures	cannot make a living on small farms	
Sediment into water	* parking	* corporations purchase	
less pesticide use	* run-offs	* next generation cannot sustain business	
save family farms	* water consumptions	Increase water costs	
water usage /availability	* septic's	temperature changes lead to inability to sustain the "Napa Brand" - cannot grow same quality product with climate change	
climate change	Increased temperature	future generations lack same opportunity / resources	
	precipitation changes	global warming (caused by farmland) tipping point upon us (understudy)	
	water security	Napa Valley being lost - sustainable, local, family run	
	ground water decrease		
Solution			
Actions to Solve	Who Needs to Be Involved	Pros Cons	
Streamline permit process			
Allow tasting permits for small farms, without requiring building winery			
increase water reclamation - expand area beyond septic			
Continue work on climate action plan			
clarify application to existing uses			
measurable			
feasible			
mandatory ("vs. encouraged")			
Forest safe wine certification			
Protect Napa Valley brand, prevent product coming in from outside			
Promote/encourage organic / sustainable vineyards require			
Zoning restrictions to limit new wineries / vineyards			

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