

Via Email (ty.peterson@kingcounty.gov)

Ty Peterson
Product Line Manager – Commercial
King County Department of Local Services Permitting Division
35030 SE Douglas Street, Suite 210
Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9266

RE: Friends of Sammamish Valley Comments Concerning SEPA DNS for
Proposed Ordinance 2018-0241.2 - Regulations for Wineries,
Breweries and Distilleries

Dear Mr. Peterson:

I am writing on behalf of Friends of Sammamish Valley to provide comments in response to the King County SEPA DNS dated April 26, 2019 issued in connection with proposed Ordinance 2018-0241.2 (the Ordinance). Friends of Sammamish Valley is a Washington nonprofit corporation comprised of citizens, businesses and organizations with the shared goals of protecting the Sammamish Valley Agricultural Production District (APD) and Sammamish Valley watershed, maintaining the character of the surrounding Rural Area, and preserving the rural lifestyle for local residents.

FoSV's members reside and do business in areas that will be directly affected by the zoning changes set out in the Ordinance. We have firsthand knowledge of negative environmental impacts that have arisen from illegal land uses and business activities in our community that the Ordinance would legalize and further expand. Our position is that, by electing to forgo preparation of an environmental impact statement (EIS), the County has failed to meet its obligations under SEPA. We ask that the DNS be withdrawn and that an EIS be prepared.

A primary function of SEPA is to ensure that decision makers and the public are informed of the environmental impacts that are likely to occur as the result of proposed governmental actions. The information provided by an EIS enables citizens to participate more effectively in the legislative process. An EIS enables decision makers to understand the consequences of adopting proposed legislation.

An EIS must include consideration of alternatives that would have lesser environmental impacts. The requirement to consider alternatives through preparation of an EIS is particularly important in this case where the primary objectives of the Sept 2016 Sammamish Valley Wine and Beverage Study were to develop policy and code recommendations for King County to consider in addressing the wine industry as it has evolved in the county based on the following guiding principles:

- Nurture the burgeoning wine and beverage industry in King County;
- Improve the interface of wine-related businesses with the surrounding communities;
- and

- Honor the requirements of the state Growth Management Act and the policies of the county's Comprehensive Plan as they relate to urban growth areas, farmland preservation, and to rural areas.

There are many approaches to achieving these objectives. While the Sammamish Valley's rare combination of natural resources and environmentally critical areas, surrounded by thriving urban areas, provides the cornerstone for the unique success of the Woodinville Wine Country experience and provides a showcase for successful applications of the principles of the GMA, these factors also render the Valley susceptible to impacts of high intensity land uses and to pressures to convert open space, farmlands and rural areas to more intense uses. An EIS would ask and answer the question: "what other areas in the County could serve to nurture the burgeoning wine and beverage industry in King County with lesser impacts to farmland and other environmentally critical areas throughout the County?"

FoSV has asked former City of Redmond Planning Director and Responsible SEPA Official, Roberta Lewandowski, to address the obligations SEPA places on King County in the context of the proposed Ordinance and to comment on whether those obligations have been fulfilled. We have asked Barbara Lau, an educator and environmental scientist, to discuss some of the likely environmental impacts of the proposed ordinance. And we have asked land use attorney, Peter Eglick, to provide his comments in response to the DNS. We have attached the responses provided by Ms. Lewandowski and Ms. Lau. Mr. Eglick will submit his comments by separate email. We incorporate the discussion and comments provided by each of these three representatives of FoSV into the comments submitted by FoSV in response to the DNS.

Sincerely,

Serena Glover
ED, Friends of Sammamish Valley
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