

Law Offices of
Frank G. Blundo, Jr.
A Professional Corporation
Wells Fargo Building
15760 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 700
Encino, California 91436
Phone (818) 986-9585 . Fax (818) 789-6817
E-Mail: fgbesq@blundolaw.com

Van Nuys Office
14518 Erwin Street
Suite 3
Van Nuys, CA 91411
(818) 781-7007

March 11, 2016

VIA EMAIL:

sbcob@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Re: Santa Rosa Road Winery
Before the Board on March 15, 2016

Dear Board:

It has come to my attention that your considering an appeal of the amount of visitation allowed at the winery, both daily wine tasting traffic and for events pertaining to the granting of a permit to operate a winery on Santa Rosa Road.

I have lived in the Santa Ynez Valley for 17 years, and have, from time to time, been involved with other winery issues, especially on Happy Canyon Road. During that time, I have worked with others to attempt to get County Staff to address public safety risk factors associated with wine tasting rooms and the holding of winery events on what can only be considered substandard rural roads.

As I understand it, in this particular appeal the Staff has either ignored, denied, evaded, or fudged data to keep accurate information from the decision makers.

Some of the factors that Appellants have tried to get considered, and which Staff have repeatedly refused to acknowledge or analyze include, but is not limited to:

1. That wine tasting rooms are the functional equivalent of Bars;
2. There is no difference in the amount of alcohol in a flight of wine tasting, a glass of wine, a bottle of beer or a mixed drink;
3. Alcohol obviously impairs the ability to drive a car. This is even stated on every wine bottle produced in the State;
4. Just one flight of wine tasting brings the average person to .04 BAC which, according to the most recent and reliable scientific studies, doubles the risk of an accident while operating a motor vehicle;

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
March 11, 2016
Page 2

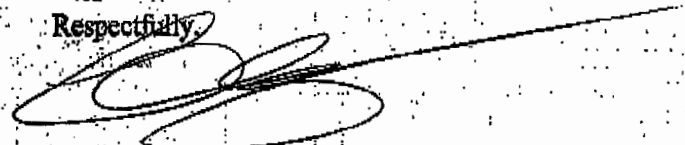
5. Two flights of wine tasting will bring the average person to .08 BAC which quadruples the risk of a car accident;
6. Rural roads have twice the collision rates of urban roads, and 2.4 times the fatality rates;
7. Tourists who are unfamiliar with local roads have significantly higher accident rates than drivers who are familiar with them;
8. Many of our rural roads have been proven to be significantly substandard in their design, and not in compliance with county requirements;
9. Many of our rural roads in the Santa Ynez Valley already have collision rates significantly worse than average. In some cases it is multiple times the average;
10. All of these factors when combined have a cumulative effect as a serious threat to public safety.

As has been pointed out in numerous prior proceedings, before Zoning Administrators and the Planning Commission, ignoring these factors presents an obvious liability risk to the County.

Some of you may be aware of what occurred in Dana Point in Orange County several years ago where the government agency in charge of the roads had been warned about safety risks and did absolutely nothing about it. It cost the City of Dana Point, and their insurers, almost \$50 Million to settle lawsuits brought by two women who were rendered quadriplegia as a result of the City's inaction.

I employ you to consider these issues and make a reasonable determination as to the wisdom of granting a permit including the excessive amount of visitation previously approved. In the application before you, accidents rates are severely understated, and the problems of impaired driving have been essentially ignored. It would be irresponsible not to mitigate the above public safety risks, which can readily be done by reducing the visitation to more reasonable levels.

Respectfully,



FRANK G. BLUNDO, JR.
Attorney at Law

FGB/keb