



Proposed Expansion of La Mesa Vineyards

2 messages

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To: planning@amadorgov.org

Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 9:25 AM

Good morning,

Please consider the comments below while considering the proposed expansion of La Mesa Vineyards.

La Mesa's website states:

"Côme Laguë never intended to buy a vineyard, let alone make wine and develop what would become La Mesa Vineyards. Laguë, along with his wife Charlene Li, were just looking for a getaway in Amador County, but when the perfect property became available with a vineyard planted on it, the entrepreneurs couldn't resist applying their startup and tech experience to the rural Shenandoah Valley wine region. "We just loved the area, we loved the wines," said Laguë, who explained they would often drive through Amador County from San Francisco couple on their way to a family camp in the Sierras."

So, by their own admission, La Mesa's owners moved to Amador to "getaway". And who could blame them? Amador is a beautiful county. While our vineyards do lend to that beauty, our beauty is also built on a respect for our other farming traditions, our forests, lakes, and rivers. This balance needs to be protected -- not only from a scenic perspective, but from an economic perspective. If you look at the most recent agricultural report for Amador (link included below), you can see that 4,883 acres of wine grapes are currently planted. Vegetables, i.e. FOOD, is barely mentioned. While it would be nice if we could live on wine alone, that is not our reality.

FRUIT AND NUT CROPS

	YEAR	HARVESTED ACRES	PROD. / ACRE	TOTAL UNITS	PRICE / UNIT	TOTAL VALUE
*WINE GRAPES	2019	4883	3.54	17,286	\$1,251	\$21,624,786
	2018	4906	3.71	18,201	\$1,362	\$24,789,762
WALNUTS	2019	218	1.75	382	\$1,480	\$565,360
	2018	228	1.50	342	\$900	\$307,800
**MISC	2019	10.0				\$115,118
	2018	252.5				\$1,830,323
TOTALS	2019					\$22,305,264
	2018					\$26,927,885

* Weighted Average Determination ** Apples, Strawberry, Kiwis, Pomegranates

MISCELLANEOUS

	YEAR	TOTAL VALUE
*FRESH VEGETABLES	2019	\$160,000
**NURSERY STOCK	2019	\$205,887
TOTALS	2019	\$365,887

La Mesa Vineyards is adjacent to Abbondanza Farms, one of Amador County's most well-established, regeneratively run FOOD farms. In addition to producing organic food for our county, Daniel hosts ongoing classes for Amador's youth to introduce them to agriculture and regenerative farming processes. Both of these actions are imperative to the agricultural balance of our county and need to be protected. Part of that protection is limiting the expansion of La Mesa Vineyards to retain both the environmental and social health of Abbondanza.

At what point will Amador recognize the need to increase its actual food production vs. its wine production?

At what point will feeding our community become as important as the expansion of tourism and the production of alcohol?

At what point will agricultural education, beyond wine, be recognized as imperative knowledge to pass down to our children?

Perhaps this is that point.

Thank you.

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Wed, Sep 29, 2021 at 9:40 AM

Received, thank you.

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