

Proposed Winery Ordinance/Tasting Room Criteria for 07-20-2023 Land Use Committee Discussion

Background - Changes would apply to all future wineries in the A and R1A zones, and to all wineries in future Williamson Act contract enrollments. Existing, legally operating winery and tasting room facilities are grandfathered under the current regulations and/or use permits.

- 200ft setback
 - Tasting room 7 days/week 10am-6pm
 - Participation in AVA events
 - Wine Club events (12/year, 125 people)
 - Social events (12/year, 125 people)
- 400ft setback
 - Tasting room 7 days/week 10am-6pm
 - Participation in AVA events
 - Wine Club events (12/year, 125 people)
 - Social events (12/year, 125 people)
 - Special Events (12/year, 125 – 400 people)
- Cannot meet 200ft setback and/or located on a minor road
 - Tasting room 7 days/week 10am-6pm
 - Participation in AVA events
 - Wine Club events (12/year, 125 people)
 - Social events (6/year, 60 people)

Glossary of Terms

- AVA events – Annual Amador Vintner Association events (i.e., Big Crush & Behind the Cellar Door)
- Wine Club events – gatherings, special tastings and dinners used to market a winery’s product
- Social events – catered social gatherings and dinners (small weddings)
- Special events – weddings, concerts, etc., with more than 125 people
- Major Road – A road that can or does handle a higher volume of traffic, traffic is capable of higher speeds, the roadway is relatively straight, or already has a number of existing wineries already on it.
 - Examples: State Routes, Shenandoah Rd., Shenandoah School Rd., Lower Ridge Rd., Latrobe Rd., Willow Creek Rd., Steiner Rd.
- Minor Roadway: A road that accommodates a lower volume of traffic, there are significant number of curves, traffic is subject to lower speeds, there exist fewer homes on it, currently does not have any or many existing wineries on it.
 - Examples: Ostrom Rd, Tyler Rd., Upton Rd., other County-maintained dead-end or gravel roads. Since 1993, County Code requires tasting rooms located on private roads to participate in a Road Maintenance Agreement with a majority of the owners of the road, or secure a use permit.