



Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

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## Land Use Committee agenda and Zoom link for Thursday, July 20th at 10:00 a.m.

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**Brian Jobson** <jobsonbrian@hotmail.com>

Mon, Jul 17, 2023 at 9:23 PM

To: Amador County Planning Department <planning@amadorgov.org>

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To: Amador County Land Use Committee

From: Foothill Conservancy

Subject: Winery Ordinance

As we at Foothill Conservancy and Amador Vintners Association have consistently pointed out, unwanted degradation of the rural character and agricultural integrity of our winery regions is being driven by commercial type activities that are not essential to our wineries' sustainability. Large events like weddings and concerts, as well as restaurants and lodging like disaggregated B&Bs, are the source of most disturbance of neighbors, traffic impacts, noise, lighting, visual impacts, and commercialization. These impacts detract from our winery region's unique beauty, historic significance and rural character that many other wine regions have lost. We don't want that to happen in Amador County, and your Committee's action is key to preserving these valuable attributes of our winery regions.

So our ordinance should limit those non-essential commercial-type activities, and use parcel size and setbacks as a valid criteria to tier limitations to, not an arbitrary classification of road categories. We also support AVA's recommendation to reduce attendance level limits at events to more reasonable levels that are more consistent with our small winery regions, the proximity of neighbors, agricultural land use designations and our limited road capacity.

As we build a consensus around new ordinance language, we should also work together to bring non-conforming uses into compliance with our existing ordinance, so that the non-compliance of a few doesn't punish those that follow the rules and don't take advantage of the situation.

Brian Jobson  
Board President  
Foothill Conservancy