

VESCO

Cultivated Lands Replanting Pathway and Replant Permit Extensions

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Proposed Ordinance

The proposed amended ordinance will:

- ☐ Recognize that cultivated lands of other specified crops have similar impacts to the land as vineyards or orchards.
- ☐ Allow the conversion of cultivated lands into vineyard or orchard to qualify for replant permitting within the VESCO ordinance.
- ☐ Clarify the Department's authority to issue a one-time five-year extension to VESCO replant permits.

Cultivated Lands replant pathway

What are cultivated lands?

- ☐ Land where a perennial crop, row crop, or any other crop that is plowed, tilled and harvested annually.
- ☐ Land that has been under active cultivation for at least five years preceding permit application.
- ☐ Land is being actively cultivated when VESCO replant application is submitted.
- ☐ Footprint of actively cultivated land may be eligible for the replant permitting pathway within VESCO.

Cultivated Lands Replant pathway

How does it work?

- ☐ Land being converted to vineyard or orchard is subject to standards for replanting permits included in Chapter 36 of Sonoma County Code.
- ☐ Footprint of cultivated land cannot be expanded within this replant pathway.
- ☐ Focused Species Assessments will be required in Critical Habitat areas.
- ☐ Setbacks will be applied to riparian features consistent with VESCO replant requirements.
- ☐ VESCO replant construction and winterization schedules will apply.

Replant Permit Extension

- ☐ Applicants will fill out and submit a simple form that may be downloaded as a writable PDF from our Department webpage.
- ☐ Form includes questions regarding permit to be extended and property owner contact information.
- ☐ Original permit must still be valid and not expired.
- ☐ Permit extension shall be valid for 5 years from date of issuance.
- ☐ Small at-cost fee to process and issue extension.

Chapter 36 Revisions

- ❑ Creates a pathway for cultivated lands conversion to vineyard or orchard to qualify for replant pathway within VESCO.
- ❑ Clarifies authority to issue one-time five-year extension to replant permits.

Staff Recommendation

Adopt a Resolution introducing, reading the title of, and waiving further reading of a proposed Ordinance **amending Chapter 36 of the Sonoma County Code** (Vineyard and Orchard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance) to:

amend the replant requirements to permit the conversion of cultivated lands to vineyard or orchard;

clarify the existence of a one-time, five-year extension for vineyard and orchard replanting permits;

and find the ordinance exempt from CEQA (*Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3), 15301, 15307, and 15308*).

Questions?

