

From: [Scott Orr](#)
To: [Katrina Braehmer](#); [Ross Markey](#); [Cecily Condon](#); [Katerina Mahdavi](#); [Jennifer Klein](#)
Subject: FW: Periodic Special Events Ordinance
Date: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:47:46 PM
Attachments: [Periodic Special Events 12.25.pdf](#)

Scott Orr

Permit Sonoma, Director

From: Wendy Krupnick <wlk@sonic.net>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 12:44 PM
To: Lynda Hopkins <Lynda.Hopkins@sonomacounty.gov>; district3 <district3@sonomacounty.gov>; Rebecca Hermosillo <Rebecca.Hermosillo@sonomacounty.gov>; David Rabbitt <David.Rabbitt@sonomacounty.gov>; district4 <district4@sonomacounty.gov>
Cc: Scott Orr <Scott.Orr@sonomacounty.gov>; KaterinaMahdavi@sonomacounty.gov
Subject: Periodic Special Events Ordinance

EXTERNAL

Dear Supervisors and Planners,

Please see the attached comments from the Sonoma County Chapter of Community Alliance with Family Farmers, (CAFF), regarding the proposed changes to the Periodic Special Events ordinance on your agenda tomorrow.

We ask that you reject this counter-productive proposal and request that staff do the required analysis to come up with appropriate standards for regulating events on private properties.

Thank you for considering our views.

Wendy Krupnick, President

CAFF Sonoma County

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December 8, 2025

To: Sonoma County Board of Supervisors

cc. Katerina Mahdavi, Planner, Permit Sonoma; Scott Orr, Director, Permit Sonoma

Re: Proposed changes to Periodic Special Events Ordinance Update

CAFF Sonoma County welcomes the County's intention of clarifying regulations for events and other visitor services on rural properties. We submitted comments and testimony at the September 4, 2025 Planning Commission hearing on this topic and were very disappointed by its approval, in spite of a divided vote and important concerns expressed by some of the Commissioners and the public.

Please reject this one size fits no one proposal which would only exacerbate the problems with events in rural areas. There are many roads in rural areas that would be seriously impacted by an event with 200 attendees; 2,000 + should be out of the question which would be impossible to stop with the ministerial permit proposed. Our rural roads are already clogged, impacting farms, farmers and rural residents alike. The County has committed to reducing VMT, so how can it justify facilitating large numbers of people attending events in far corners of the county?

Especially concerning is that the potentially lucrative festivals and other events will further exacerbate the cost of farm land, putting agriculture at an even greater disadvantage. **If approved as written, pastures and former vineyards are likely to become parking lots and concert grounds.**

And why did staff strike this very important section from the Ordinance?

~~"All periodic special events may be subject to requirements of sheriff, public health, fire services, building inspection, public works, or other permitting agencies not specified in this article. Event hosts are responsible for securing approvals from applicable agencies prior to zoning permit issuance."~~

It is essential that applicants be made aware of the many permits they may be required to obtain. The work and cost of these may make renting an existing event center more attractive.

We request that staff be directed to create a tiered structure for determining appropriate event size by analyzing parcels by zoning, road capacity, proximity to major arteries and other easy to access data. This would make it possible for staff to determine neighborhood and parcel specific criteria to base permit tiers on. This will make it easier for applicants and Planning staff to evaluate which tier of regulation regarding events is appropriate for each parcel. **In addition,**



there should be ag specific exemptions for educational, (not promotional), events such as school tours and workshops on ag topics.

To promote actual agricultural use, verified producers should not be burdened with requirements to obtain multiple permits if they want to hold three small seasonal festivals and one small wedding. **Creation of a small farm permitting tier allowing for one yearly permit that includes 2-4 small events is needed for this sector.**

The General Plan Update will offer an opportunity for further public input and discussion on this topic. However, the implementation of those discussions is quite a few years away. With increasing economic pressure on agriculture and other rural sectors, this issue must be addressed soon.

However, rushing through an over simplified, counter productive ordinance which has received almost no public notice or input would be a disservice to us all. Please send this proposal back to staff with directions to create a framework for determining appropriate standards on parcels not specifically zoned for events.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Wendy Krupnick

President, CAFF Sonoma County