



Sonoma Valley Fire District

Serving the communities of
Sonoma, Valley of the Moon, Glen Ellen, and Mayacamas

July 15, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

Re: Kenwood Ranch Winery Project

I am writing to express our strong support for the processes and measures undertaken by the applicant, which are crucial for enhancing the safety of our community, visitors, and first responders. After meeting with Retired Chief Losh and thoroughly reviewing the submitted documents, we firmly endorse the applicant's approach. These documents included the following:

1. Losh Evacuation Plan re operations, 6/22/22
2. Fehr & Peers (Ian)'s Memo 6/27/22 for evacuation traffic modeling
3. Flame Mapper Report 2/2/23
4. Project Description – excerpt the part re early evacuation
5. Losh Construction Letter 6/27/22
6. CAS Operations Letter 6/22/22
7. CAS Construction Letter 6/27/22
8. Shew letter 7/5/22 – Construction Notes and Building Standards
9. Shew letter 7/5/22- Emergency Shelters

The applicant's diligent process, which includes the development of project-specific evacuation protocols, structure-specific hardening techniques, evacuation traffic modeling, an evacuation plan prepared by a qualified professional, and wildfire modeling, has produced vital information and data. These efforts are essential for safeguarding our community by ensuring a higher level of preparedness and resilience. The detailed nature of these protocols, studies, and models will be invaluable to fire agencies if Sonoma County approves the Design Review application. They are instrumental in helping first responders assess the wildfire impacts of new developments and improving our overall readiness for emergency situations.

We fully support this thorough process and strongly encourage Sonoma County to require such robust levels of wildfire and evacuation studies for all development applications whenever appropriate.

Upon reviewing the documents related to the Kenwood Ranch Winery Design Review application, we have determined that the protocols, studies, models, and plans are



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sound and will not impair or interfere with approved evacuation or response plans in the Kenwood area. While each event is unique and cannot be precisely predicted, this type of rigorous project-level study and planning is highly beneficial and likely reduces the risk of significant loss or injury from wildland fires.

Thank you for considering our perspective. We firmly believe that these comprehensive measures will significantly contribute to the safety and resilience of our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "SAkre", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen Akre
Fire Chief
Sonoma Valley Fire District
stevea@sonomavalleyfire.org