

VESCO

Low Impact Vineyard Replanting and Registration

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Background

Consistent with the Board's direction given at the December 8, 2020, Board meeting, the purpose of this item is to bring forward Ordinance language and to explain low-impact replanting and the associated registration process.

The intent of this proposed amendment is to recognize that low-impact vineyard replanting produces far less ground disturbance than typical replanting and should be encouraged through expedited processing.

The registration process will reduce the burdens associated with the permit process, but allow the Department to maintain oversight over low-impact vineyard replanting and ensure compliance with VESCO standards.



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Low-Impact Vineyard Replanting

What is it?

- ☐ Farmers will replant vines by pulling out the old vines and simply planting the new vines in the same location. Commonly referred to as “Pluck and Plant”.
- ☐ Pulling of vines may be done by hand or mechanical means.
- ☐ No deep ripping takes place.
- ☐ Vine row spacing and orientation are not changed.
- ☐ All existing vineyard infrastructure is not modified (Vine trellising, endposts, drainage infrastructure, roads and avenues, etc.).
- ☐ Vineyard footprint does not change.



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Low-Impact Vineyard Replanting

Who qualifies?

- ☐ Low-impact replant project area must have gone through VESCO permit review at some point in the past.
- ☐ All vineyard infrastructure must have been lawfully installed (permitted).
- ☐ Any acreage, any soil type and any slope gradient qualifies.
- ☐ Must have completed the streamlined registration process.



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Low-Impact Vineyard Replanting

What is the registration process?

- ☐ Applicants will fill out a basic form about the project (ownership, location, replant acreage, etc.)
- ☐ Include a map of project area. Map can be created at www.sonomacounty.ca.gov/AWM-map
- ☐ Registration is good for 1 calendar year from time of registration issuance by AWM staff.



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Low-Impact Vineyard Replanting

What is the registration process? (continued)

- ☐ AWM staff will enter registration submittal into County system.
- ☐ AWM staff will quickly review submittal for accuracy and to ensure project meets registration requirements.
- ☐ Within **approximately 1 week** AWM staff will acknowledge the registration by emailing a registration confirmation to the applicant.
- ☐ Applicant will notify AWM within 30 days of project completion.
- ☐ AWM staff will conduct a site visit to ensure compliance with the registration requirements and VESCO standards.

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Chapter 36 Revisions

- ☐ Creates an alternate pathway to vineyard replant activities from standard vineyard redevelopment permitting.
- ☐ Establishes registration requirements for Low-Impact replanting.
- ☐ Adds a definition of Low-Impact replanting to glossary.



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Questions?



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