



To: Napa County Board of Supervisors
1195 Third Street
Napa, CA 94559
publiccomment@countyofnapa.org

Dear Chair Pedroza and Napa County Supervisors, copy CEO Tran and Director Morrison,

On behalf of Napa Valley Grapegrowers' 725 members with a mission to preserve and promote Napa Valley's world-class vineyards, we are writing to you to encourage a greater focus of County resources on wildfire prevention.

We understand that the Board will be taking up the discussion of wildfire mitigation and prevention at the April 6 Board of Supervisor's meeting. In advance of this, we would like to acknowledge our support for Napa Firewise's recent efforts to develop the Napa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). This type of plan is long overdue for our community and its success depends largely on the County committing to a dedicated funding stream to support the work outlined in the CWPP. We urge the County to fully fund fire prevention work to the best of its ability, as there is no greater priority for our community than mitigating future risk of severe wildfire.

Additionally, we hope the Board considers appointing a dedicated staff person to organize and lead all County fire mitigation and prevention efforts. Surveys of our membership make clear that landowners require additional support from Napa County to proactively reduce fire risks on their properties. Examples of the type of support that we encourage the County to provide include but are not limited to:

- Working with property owners wanting to fireproof their property to navigate ECP and conservation easement restrictions that may appear to conflict with fuel load management best practices
- Expanding the existing chipping program that is very effective but currently has a long waitlist
- Incentivizing forest management and strategies such as grazing to be more fire-wise
- Training and recruiting more community members to join volunteer fire departments to increase the ability to respond during the height of fire season

The wildfires and smoke events our community experienced over the last three years during harvest have caused unprecedented damage and mounting economic harm to Napa County. As an organization, we continue to collaborate with industry and community partners to aid growers and farmworkers in recovery, and consequently, have seen first-hand the devastating impacts that these events have had on individuals, companies, and Napa County at large. According to a recent report from Jon Moramarco of BW166, the Glass Fire alone could result in \$2 billion in losses to the wine industry. Some specific examples of losses we are aware of include:

- Crop damage from smoke started with the LNU Lightning Complex Fire and has cost growers and wineries hundreds of millions of dollars
- For those with crop insurance, coverage rarely equals full market price, and there currently is no disaster relief available for losses resulting from smoke damage
- No property insurance opportunities exist for growers without wineries, leaving them with little to no economic relief after disaster
- A preliminary analysis shows that vineyard workers lost an average of \$5,500 each during fire disasters which could equate to nearly \$50 million in lost wages
- Some wineries have reported that no 2020 vintage will be produced

We welcome all opportunities to continue working with the County to prevent and mitigate risk and losses due to future severe wildfires. Thank you for taking the time to consider these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Silacci".

Michael Silacci
President, Napa Valley Grapegrowers