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Sacramento County Amends Code to Promote Ag Tourism/Wineries

Sacramento, CA., - On December 14, the County Board of Supervisors voted to adopt new zoning code amendments designed to encourage Sacramento becoming a destination for wine tourism. The amendments set forth development standards for wineries that will grant grape producers of a certain size, the right to produce and bottle their own wine.

"We feel this is an important step to encourage economic growth, job creation and keep tourism dollars in our County," said Don Nottoli, Supervisor for District 5. "By reducing regulatory obstacles, we can help Sacramento County become an important part of the wine tourism industry."

By eliminating the need for Conditional Use Permits, these streamlined codes can save business thousands of dollars and up to two years in permitting time. They also support the Grow Local – Buy Local movement by expanding opportunities for growers to bring locally grown products to the community and create additional revenue streams that will help keep agricultural entities viable in Sacramento County.

About the Draft Zoning Code Amendment:

- Allows some agri-tourism uses by right in certain zones and allow others through the use permit process.
- Creates specific parking and signage development standards for wineries, farm stands and farm stay operations.
- Outlines additional permitting requirements from other County departments
- Provides four classifications for premises that sell produce that would be permitted by right in agricultural zones if the sales areas do not exceed 1,500 square feet.
- Allows small wineries by right in agricultural zones provided they have tasting rooms under 1,500 square feet.

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- Allows small wineries to host special events without a conditional use permit, with the size of events dependent on the size of the property.
- Allows Farm Stays (similar to Bed and Breakfast Inns with focus on farming activities) with five or fewer rooms in agricultural zones by right.

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