

SUMMARY OF EXISTING WINERY ORDINANCE REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO SPECIAL EVENTS AT A WINERY

Handout for Winery Ordinance Update Community Meeting #3 – Special Events

January 10, 2013 (1:00-3:00 pm);

County Public Works Conference Room, 620 W. Foster Rd, Santa Maria, CA

- **Definition of a “Winery Special Event”** - “An event of less than one day and occurring on a winery premises attended by 80 or more people including concerts with or without amplified sound, such as weddings, and advertised events, fund raising events, winemaker dinners open to the general public, etc. Winery special events do not include wine industry-wide events (e.g., Vintner’s Festival, Harvest Festival) including associated events held at individual wineries, the normal patronage of a tasting room, and private gatherings of the owner or employees where the general public does not attend.” (Section 35.110.020 - Definition of Winery Special Event).
- Generally speaking, the number of events and maximum number of attendees referenced in the Winery Ordinance are maximums. The individual permit will specify the number of Special Events allowed at the specific winery. The maximum number of Special Events and attendees allowed by the Ordinance are based on the tier (Section 35.42.280.C.):
 - Tier I – Maximum of 4 special events per year and 150 attendees per event.
 - Tier II – Maximum of 8 special events per year and 150 attendees per event.
 - Tier III – Maximum of 12 per special events per year and 200 attendees per event. A Tier III winery may apply for more special events not to exceed 40 days per year and may apply to have more than 200 attendees per event.
- There are standards for structures and outdoor use areas such as setbacks, access, street addressing, design, lighting, and screening (Section 35.42.280.D.1. through D.6.).
- The winery premises must be at least 20 acres if they are proposing a special event. This may be reduced by the review authority if certain criteria are met (35.42.280.D.8.).
- There are standards for outdoor amplified sound used during a special event including decibel levels and hours of operation based on where the winery is located (Section 35.42.280.D.8.b.).
- Special Events must meet County Fire Department and Public Health Department requirements (Section 35.42.280.D.8.b.).
- A parking plan including the use of a parking coordinator, dust control measures, and signage is required for Special Events (Section 35.42.280.D.8.b.)