



OFFICE OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

LEVEL I VINEYARD/ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT PERMIT

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date Received: _____
Fee Paid: _____ Ck# _____
Date Approved/Issued: * _____
Approved/Issued by (initials): _____
*Expires 5 years from date of approval

*NOTE: No incomplete notifications or faxed notifications will be accepted.
All lines must be filled in. Use N/A for all blank spaces.*

- NEW VINEYARD DEVELOPMENT REPLANT EXISTING VINEYARD
- NEW ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT REPLANT EXISTING ORCHARD

OWNER'S NAME _____
MAILING ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ FAX * _____ CELL _____
*EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

NAME OF ONSITE CONTACT PERSON (MANAGER, CONTRACTOR, ETC.): _____

ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ FAX * _____ CELL _____
*EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

****Please provide a fax number and an email address (owner, contact person/manager, and/or engineer) to expedite the approval notification process.***

SITE ADDRESS _____
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER(S) _____
TOTAL ACREAGE OF PARCEL _____
EXISTING VINEYARD/ORCHARD ACREAGE _____
EXISTING LAND USE AND VEGETATION (Check 1):
Ag Crop Pasture Rangeland Timberland Other: _____
PESTICIDE PERMIT/ID NUMBER _____ SITE NUMBER _____

NEW VINEYARD/ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT OR REPLANTING

PROPOSED ACREAGE _____
SOIL TYPE(S) _____
NATURAL SLOPE _____
METHOD USED TO DETERMINE SLOPE _____

Required: USGS 7 ½ minute Quadrangle Map showing the location of the site including parcel boundaries. Recent aerial photo (taken within the last two years) showing area to be planted or replanted.

Minimum Stream Setback from top of bank is 25 feet.

All site preparation work and winterization for new vineyards/orchards shall occur between April 1 and October 15. All site preparation and winterization for replanted vineyards/orchards shall be completed by November 15.

1. **Sensitive Areas:** Identify critical areas in a narrative within the vineyard/orchard site that may have serious erosion or sedimentation potential, or sensitive environmental areas (streams, wetlands, etc.) that may need to be protected from erosion or sedimentation. Please include setback requirements for creeks.

2. **Erosion Control:** List appropriate best management practices both temporary and final to be implemented and maintained to protect areas from erosion (cover crop, straw, mulching, vegetated filter strip, etc.)

3. **Drainage:** List appropriate best management practices both temporary and final to be implemented to manage storm water runoff on the vineyard site and minimize the discharge of sediment from the site (surface drainage, subsurface drainage, silt ponds, straw bales dikes, etc.)

4. **Timeline:** List implementation dates for both temporary and final erosion and sediment control measures. ***Permit will expire 5 years from date of approval.***

I certify that the information provided is correct and valid to the best of my knowledge:

***Signature** _____ **Owner/Contact Person/Engineer (Circle One)**
Print Name _____ **Date** _____

**Permit may be signed by the owner of the property, contact person, or engineer.*

PERMIT FEES

LEVEL I NEW VINEYARDS/ORCHARDS AND REPLANTS: (Fees valid July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010)

-	10 ACRES or less	=\$416.00
-	Greater than 10 ACRES and less than 50 ACRES	=\$944.00
-	50 ACRES or more	=\$1,276.00
	RIPARIAN SET BACK VARIANCE FEE	=\$800.00
	<i>(Requires Board of Supervisors' Approval)</i>	

DEFINITION OF LEVELS FOR VINEYARD/ORCHARD DEVELOPMENT:

NEW VINEYARDS/ORCHARDS

	<i>Highly Erodible Soils</i>	<i>Less Erodible Soils</i>
LEVEL I	Less than 10% natural slope	Less than 15% natural slope
LEVEL II	10% to less than 50% natural slope	15% to less than 50% natural slope

Planting on sites greater than 50% is prohibited.

VINEYARD/ORCHARD REPLANTS

	<i>Highly Erodible Soils</i>	<i>Less Erodible Soils</i>
LEVEL I	Less than 15% natural slope	Less than 30% natural slope
LEVEL II	15% or more natural slope	30% or more natural slope

Planting on sites greater than 50% is prohibited.

TYPES OF HIGHLY ERODIBLE SOILS:

Diablo
Los Osos
Goldridge
Dibble
Suther
Steinbeck
Laughlin

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING VINEYARD/ORCHARD
DEVELOPMENT PERMIT**

1. List the ownership of the site as it appears on the Sonoma County Assessor's parcel records.
2. Provide the mailing address, city, state, zip code, phone number(s), fax number(s), and email address of the responsible entity listed in # 1.
3. List the name of the individual (manager, contractor, etc) who is responsible for the overall on-site activities or is managing the development activity.
4. Provide the address, city, state, zip code, phone number(s), fax number(s), and email address of the responsible entity listed in # 3.
5. List the address of the vineyard/orchard development site.
6. List the assessor's parcel number(s) for the development site.
7. List the total acreage of the parcel(s).
8. If vineyard/orchard acreage already exists, list that acreage.
9. Choose an existing land use.
10. If there has been a restricted materials permit or a grower ID number issued by this office for the use of pesticides on existing vineyard/orchard at this site, list that number and the appropriate site number.
11. List the proposed acreage to be developed or replanted.
12. List the soil type(s) of the site. This information is available in the USDA Soil Survey for Sonoma County, which is available in this office, or in local libraries.
13. List the natural slope of the site. This may be accomplished using a USGS 7 ½ minute quad map taking clinometer readings at set distances perpendicular to the slope, professional survey, or computer generated slope percents.
14. List the method used to determine natural slope from # 13.

Required: USGS 7 ½ minute Quadrangle Map showing the location of the site including parcel boundaries. Recent aerial photo (taken within the last two years) showing area to be planted or replanted.

Things to consider:

No site clearing is allowed until your permit is approved.

Evaluate the site on which you are working. (For example: If the site is on a valley floor and less than 5% slope, the potential for erosion and movement of sediment offsite is much less than when the slopes start moving above 5%.) Look at conditions adjacent to the site that may have an impact on your site. (For example: Slopes that would drain storm water runoff directly to your site may create a potential for sediment to accumulate and move offsite.) As the slopes get steeper, be aware of how water moves off of the site. If not properly controlled, can problems like erosion and gulying occur?

When determining the best management practices to implement to protect disturbed areas, it is important to be aware of what the slope conditions are on the site. If it is on a valley floor with less than 5% slope, discing and rolling the site after ripping and planting a cover crop may be sufficient. As the slopes get steeper, cover crops and mulching or other recognized methods will come into play. Identify these practices, cover crop varieties, straw mulching, crimping the mulch, etc.

In determining the best management practices to manage storm water run off and minimize sediment movement from the vineyard site the percent slope is an important factor. As the slopes get steeper, a need for physical structures becomes necessary. (Examples would be straw bale dikes, silt fencing, drain pipes with sediment basins, etc.)

If you are unsure about any of the practices that may be necessary to prevent erosion and sedimentation movement from your site, the following references will be helpful:

- “Vineyard Management Practices”, available through the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District.
- “Fish Friendly Farming”, available through the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District.
- “Best Management Practices for Agriculture”, available at the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office or on our website: http://www.sonoma-county.org/agcomm/pdf/bmp_handbook3.pdf

The three Resource Conservation Districts in Sonoma County are valuable sources of information and guidance:

- Goldridge Resource Conservation District, (707) 823-3037
- Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, (707) 569-1448
- Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District (707) 794-1242

DEFINITIONS

“Site Clearing” Any removal of vegetative ground cover that results in disturbance of soils, or any removal of existing agricultural plants, vines, or trees.

“Slope” An inclined surface, the inclination of which is expressed as a ratio of horizontal distance to vertical distance (e.g., 2:1) or as a percentage (e.g., 50 percent).

“Natural Slope” The slope of the ground prior to any soil disturbance. Natural slope shall be determined by measuring the horizontal distance between adjacent contours on a USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle map or other topographic map acceptable to the county with a scale of not less than 1:24000 (1" = 2000') and contour intervals of not more than 20 feet, and then dividing the difference in elevation between the two contours by the measured horizontal distance. The horizontal distance shall be measured perpendicular to the contours.

“USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangle Map” The 7.5 Minute series United States Geological Survey quadrangle map most recently published.

“Vegetative Filter Strip” A land area seeded to close growing or sod forming grasses, designed to filter out soil and other pollutants carried in storm water or waste water.

“Stream” Any natural channel with bed and banks containing flowing water or showing evidence of having contained flowing water (e.g., deposit of rock, sand, gravel, or soil).

“Top of Bank” The points in a cross-section where the stream channel makes a transition to flood plain. Top of bank can be identified by a change in the slope of the land, a transition from terrestrial to riparian vegetation, and/or changed in the composition of substrate materials.

“Wetlands” Transitional between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have one or more of the following three attributes in the Coastal Zone, and two or more of the following three attributes in all other parts of the unincorporated area of the county:

1. The land supports predominantly hydrophytes during the normal wet portion of the growing season.
2. The substrate is predominantly undrained hydric soil.
3. The substrate is saturated with water or covered by shallow water at some time during the normal wet portion of the growing season of each year.

“Wetlands Biologist” A biologist experienced and knowledgeable in the delineation of wetlands in California using applicable federal, state, and local criteria.

CONFIDENTIAL

PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FOR ACREAGE STATISTICS. THIS INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL AND WILL NOT BE PART OF THE PUBLIC RECORD.

New Planting

1. Year to be planted _____
Variety: _____ Rootstock _____
Spacing _____ Acreage _____
2. Year to be planted _____
Variety: _____ Rootstock _____
Spacing _____ Acreage _____
-

Replants

1. Year to be planted _____
Variety: _____ Rootstock _____
Spacing _____ Acreage _____

Which blocks are to be replanted?

Variety: _____ Rootstock: _____
Spacing: _____ Acreage: _____

2. Year to be planted _____
Variety: _____ Rootstock: _____
Spacing: _____ Acreage: _____

Which blocks are to be replanted?

Variety: _____ Rootstock: _____
Spacing _____ Acreage: _____