



A watershed community
dedicated to preserving, protecting,
and restoring the Mark West Creek and its watershed
as a natural and community resource.

Friends of the Mark West Watershed
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November 12, 2009

Members, Board of Zoning Adjustments
Permit and Resource Management Department
Sonoma County
2550 Ventura Avenue
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Re: FMWW's opposition to the approval of the Cornell Winery, UPE07-0008, 100, 245
and 560 Wappo Rd, Santa Rosa, APN 028-250-007, 028-260-025 and -041

Dear Board of Zoning Adjustments Members,

The Friends of the Mark West Watershed (FMWW) is a community of neighbors, landowners and supporters working to protect, restore and sustain the Upper Mark West Watershed, a key tributary to the Russian River in Sonoma County, California. Our web site is: <http://www.markwestwatershed.org>. Our watershed continues to provide spawning and rearing habitat for Coho Salmon and Steelhead Trout. We make our decisions by consensus, and as a group we agree on the following statement: We request that the County deny the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and require an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The County's project approval process circumvents the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and its requirement to treat this project as a whole. The review process doesn't recognize the true nature of this watershed and its sensitivities and also fails to protect these resources (refer to the attached previously submitted letter from 11-13-08 for details on why this is such critical habitat). The environmental information used for a MND is far more general than the more specific information that might be obtained through the EIR process. We believe that an EIR is the only way to provide adequate information for an educated decision. We fear the inadequate implementation of CEQA on this project would add to the degradation of natural habitat in this water scarce area. We request that the County deny the MND and require an EIR.

Respectfully,

Harriet Buckwalter
Co-Chair

Linda Sartor
Co-Chair