

From: [Scott Thomason](#)
To: [Freeman, Brendon](#)
Subject: COMMENT TO COMMISSION - PLEASE READ
Date: Monday, June 6, 2022 9:23:29 AM

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Dear Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County:

Thank you for reading this statement into the LAFCO Meeting Agenda today. My name is Scott Thomason and I have lived in American Canyon for 14 years. I am writing as a private citizen about LAFCO Agenda Item 6a—Sphere of Influence Amendment Request Involving the City of American Canyon, American Canyon Fire Protection District and 1661 Green Island Road.

The owners have stated that the property can no longer be used for the production of wine grapes or any other agricultural use because the use of recycled water on the property has increased soil salinity to such a degree that the land can no longer sustain any type of agriculture. Other groups, including the Napa County Farm Bureau, Napa Valley Grapegrowers, Napa Valley Vintners, and Winegrowers of Napa County all strongly disagree with this assertion by the owners and have put their objections in writing to LAFCO.

In addition to the concerns raised by the above agricultural groups, my concern is that if approved, the SOI amendment would be used to: a) declare the property inappropriate for agricultural use (itself a false premise; land across the street from 1661 Green Island has been used, agriculturally, for decades to successfully raise and sell cattle); b) ask the City of American Canyon to annex the property; and c) subdivide and rezone this property to build winery warehouses.

The property in question is located near the Wetlands Trail, between Green Island Road and the American Canyon Waste Treatment Plant. Replacing this beautiful open space with winery warehouses would not only have an adverse impact on the surrounding environment, including plant and animal life, but it would also change the landscape of this area, which is part of the innate appeal that attracts thousands of people to this trail each year. Are there not enough winery warehouses already in American Canyon and adjacent lands? How does the City of American Canyon and LAFCO economically justify replacing open space so close to the Napa River Wetlands with buildings that may go empty as water use (vital for grape growing) restrictions continue to increase throughout Napa County?

The issue of soil salinity is also open for professional debate. It is also not clear that salt water intrusion is the cause of the soil salinity on the parcel of land at 1661 Green Island Road. I strongly urge that LAFCO table approving this agenda item until further research has been done regarding use of the land, current condition of the soil, and all possible causes of salinity.

Thank you,

Scott Thomason
American Canyon resident
171 Hearthstone Drive
American Canyon