



DEPARTMENT OF

AGRICULTURE, WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

Promoting and protecting agriculture, environmental quality, and ensuring equity in the marketplace.

July 25, 2017

Stacy K. Carlsen
AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER
DIRECTOR OF WEIGHTS AND
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Marin County Board of Supervisors
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**SUBJECT: INFORMATIONAL ITEM ON MARIN COUNTY'S VINEYARD
EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PROGRAM (VESCO)**

Dear Supervisors:

RECOMMENDATION: Receive an update on the value and effectiveness of the County's Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control program – Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO), Marin County Code Title 23 (Chapter 23.11).

SUMMARY: The Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures is requesting the Marin County Board of Supervisors to receive an update on the value and effectiveness of the County's Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control program.

The Vineyard Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance (VESCO) was approved by the Marin County Board of Supervisors on May 10, 2011. Since that time the department has received one application in 2015 to develop a new vineyard of five (5) acres, which was approved and completed in 2016. Marin County currently has approximately 182 total acres of vineyards, while Sonoma and Napa counties have about 62,000 and 45,000 acres respectively. It is highly unlikely Marin will ever see a significant increase in vineyard development, which is primarily due to its cooler climate and the scarcity of available water.

The five (5) acre vineyard developed in 2016 is an outstanding example of how a Level II vineyard project should be performed, and why the ordinance was approved. The erosion control work performed was excellent and the site looks great, especially after the significant rains in October 2016 and well above-average and very heavy rainfall we received in January and February 2017.

There was 100% cost recovery for the department to approve this vineyard development project (from Application Notice review to conducting a final inspection). See Attachment A which provides a summary of how program fees are determined.

HISTORY: In January 2015, your Board approved the Agricultural Commissioner/Director of Weights and Measures entering into a MOU with the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture to share expertise, resources, equipment, and other assets necessary to fulfill the requirements of this program. It was noted at the time that our Department did not have the staff expertise or resources to properly perform the required inspections. A MOU was formalized with Sonoma County in February 2015.

The VESCO ordinance safeguards the public health, safety, and welfare of Marin County's residents by minimizing erosion and sedimentation in connection with vineyard planting and re-planting in the county. This assists in the protection of the lands, streams, and riparian habitat of Marin County which are of vital interest to the citizens of Marin. This also helps to ensure the long-term economic viability of Marin County's viticulture, agricultural and natural resources.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ALTERNATIVE TO RECOMMENDED ACTION: N/A.

REVIEWED BY:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County Administrator	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> Department of Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> County Counsel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A
	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A

Respectfully submitted,



Stacy K. Carlsen
Agricultural Commissioner
Director of Weights and Measures