



December 3, 2021

Brendon Freeman
LAFCO Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission of Napa County
1754 Second Street, Suite C
Napa, CA 94559

Re: Comment to Commission – Please Read: Proposed Sphere of Influence Amendment to 1661 Green Island Road

Dear LAFCO Executive Officer Freeman and Members of the Commission,

On Behalf of the Napa Valley Grapegrowers' 700 members, with a mission to preserve and promote Napa Valley's world-class vineyards, I write to express our opposition to the proposed amendment to the sphere of influence (SOI) for 1661 Green Island Road, which would be a step in the direction of annexation. Preservation is one of the key foundations of who we are as an organization, and as such, NVG has continuously supported policies that protect land zoned for agriculture. This history of commitment to ag preservation has defined Napa County and distinguished us from other regions that have lost farmland at staggering rates to urban development and other pressures.

As such, NVG urges you to deny the SOI amendment. To allow this would set a risky precedent that could lead to more attempts to annex and convert ag land throughout Napa County. Furthermore, the purpose of protections such as the Ag Preserve and Ag Watershed zoning policies is to protect all kinds of agriculture—not only vineyard land; so, while this site may pose unique challenges for growing grapes, this does not mean that it is unsuitable for all forms of agriculture. To amend the SOI for this reason would also set a bad precedent for protecting all types of ag land moving forward. We believe this also against LAFCO's own stated policy "to promote the orderly expansion of cities, towns, and special districts in a manner that ensures the protection of the environment and agricultural and open space lands..."

We greatly appreciate LAFCO Commissioners and staff for taking these concerns into consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael Silacci, President, Napa Valley Grapegrowers