

VanSusteren, Jane@CALFIRE

From: Elizabeth Minor <bee_minor@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, October 13, 2023 3:18 PM
To: Public Comments@BOF
Subject: Re: 2023 Regulations and Priority Review

Warning: this message is from an external user and should be treated with caution.

To whom it may concern,

My name is Beth Minor and I grew up on Spring Mountain, an area in the mountains west of St. Helena. My family's winery is Ritchie Creek Vineyard.

The house and winery were burned to the ground in 2020. The width of our driveway had nothing to do with it. The truth is that firefighting personnel were already spread too thin to consider coming to save our home.

My father was the winemaker until his Alzheimer's got too serious and we've hoped to restart the family business in the next couple of years but, financially, this may not be attainable. If we are forced to put in a compliant driveway simply because we still have a business license, our hope for a new day for Ritchie Creek, plus our ability to stay on our family property, would completely disappear.

Not every wine business is a Gallo or Sutter Home. Some barely make it or, like us, operate in the red while we attempt to restart. My dad bought this property in 1963 and our family has lovingly cared for the forest and the land for 60 years now. I'm this generation's caretaker and, make it or don't, it falls on my shoulders.

Please, please, don't put me in a position to choose between our land and my financial survival, to choose between this beautiful place that holds my heart & soul and leaving so I can send my teen to college.

There has to be a better way. A way to work with businesses and families, a way to compromise so families like mine can financially afford to stay in the Napa Valley. Sixty years in a place is nothing to sneeze at and we celebrate every year we survive here.

Thank you for your time,
Beth Minor
707-975-7030