

April 4, 2016

Comment on Walt Ranch Vineyard Conversion

Chris Benz, 315 Greenbach St, Napa

It's important that we realize that conditions are changing as our climate changes due to global warming. In particular, the California Natural Resources Agency points out in their report "Safeguarding California", published in March of 2016, "Climate scientists have shown that climate change will cause more precipitation to fall in fewer but heavier events...making water management more difficult. Soil erosion often results during heavy precipitation events as the soil's ability to take in water is exhausted."

My concern is with the possibility of landslide due to heavy precipitation on the Walt Ranch property. Both Walt Ranch and Circle Oaks are on a Cretaceous period landslide. In Circle Oaks, a geotechnical report is required before a building permit is issued because of ground instability. Just recently a section of Highway 121 in this area was closed due to sliding during heavy rains.

As you evaluate the Erosion Control Plan, please keep in mind that what seems to work today may not be at all adequate in the future.