



Immediate Release
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Media Contact: Jo Diaz
(707) 620-0788
jo@diaz-communications.com

Suisun Valley Grape Growers Have a Vision of their Future

And it includes viticulture for their children's children...

Suisun Valley, CA: Growers in Suisun Valley are committed to protecting and preserving their farmlands; thereby, guarding their grandchildren's future ability to include grape growing and winemaking practices, if they so choose.

A new general plan is currently being crafted, as the last 30-year plan is nearing the end of its life cycle in 2010. Suisun Valley grape growers assert, "Who is better than the farmers themselves, to craft reasonable expectations in the next general growth strategy? From experiential learnings, we know best what will allow our families to continue farming in Suisun Valley."

Experts who are the best qualified for presenting historical hindsight and visionary intelligence (based on being stewards of the land with which they intimately work), Suisun Valley farmers continue to contend, "Who could possibly better understand the intricacies and nuances of not only our present circumstances, but also our future needs?"

The main points of consternation are the following:

- Currently, as farming parents we **cannot build another home on our property for our children.** They must move away and commute back to the vineyards to work the same land where they were raised.
- All costs are increasing, but grape **prices in Suisun Valley are not rising exponentially.** Property values, taxes, labor, all materials and equipment that concern



our land continue to mount. It's becoming increasingly more difficult to meet debt obligations. We currently have no solution, except to sell our vineyards and move away.

- We currently **cannot sell a piece of our vineyards to another grape grower**, in order to have more cash flow to meet our growing tax debt, as all parcels must be 40-acre lots. Suisun Valley grape growers would support a 20-acre lot minimum, as in today's global economy, this is more unrealistic. Thirty years ago, this 40-acre course met the needs of that era. Today, it's an antiquated, impractical expectation that needs revision to a more pragmatic 20-acres.

Suisun Valley must compete more equitably with all other California and global viticultural regions, if it is to survive. Interestingly, most other viticultural area do *not* have these very restrictive and outdated laws. Suisun Valley's grape growers need a more evenhanded playing field, and can provide valuable insight in the decision making process of what will work best for them, while maintaining the integrity of the Suisun Valley grape growing process.

If they cannot match what other regions are doing in a more fair approach, viticulture in Suisun Valley will not be an issue when the next growth plan is crafted, another 30 years from now, as it will have become extinct.

Their future depends on reasonable planning that involves the input of not only what they want, but more importantly... what they need in order for viticulture to survive in Suisun Valley. It is they, the grape growers, who are the most qualified to be setting forth their vision into a plan of action for their segment of future growth development on behalf of their grandchildren, and the history of grape growing in California's Suisun Valley AVA.

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