



June 16, 2016

Diane Carlson
King County Office of the Executive
401 5th Ave. Suite 800
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Ms. Carlson:

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on the Sammamish Valley Area Wine and Beverage Industry Study conducted by King County and focusing on nurturing the wine industry in King County, improving the interface between wine businesses and surrounding communities, and respecting/supporting the urban growth area, and King County farmland preservation and rural area policies. Our understanding is that King County's objective is to develop policy recommendations regarding economic development, transportation, land use, and agriculture as they relate to the furtherance of the wine industry. Tourism, and agri-tourism (that would include the blending of farms and tasting rooms) is a central theme of the study.

Although Kirkland is not part of the study area, we do have interests that align with the success of the wine industry and we would like to document them as part of the study. They are as follows:

- In conjunction with Kirkland's redevelopment of the BNSF rail line for the multi-modal Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC), we support King County's plan to remove the track on the connection between Kirkland and Woodinville. We would hope that in the near future bikers and pedestrians can enjoy a seamless experience between Kirkland and environs and Woodinville and area wineries.
- We already promote the proximity of our hotels and the Woodinville tasting rooms. Wine tourism is one more reason to visit Kirkland. Policies that support wine tourism also support Kirkland tourism assets.
- We also would like to take this opportunity to inform the study stakeholders and policy adopters of the code changes to the CKC in Totem Lake industrial areas that allow wineries and other retail. There are currently three tasting rooms in Totem Lake that back on to the CKC. If there is the need for more capacity as the industry grows, there are opportunities for growth on or near the CKC in Totem Lake and other locations in Kirkland.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Kurt Triplett
City Manager