



October 18, 2011

Assembly Member Jared Huffman, Chair, Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Assembly Member Roger Dickinson, Chair, Committee on Accountability & Administrative Review
Members of the Committees
P.O. Box 94249 Sacramento, CA 94249-00119

KEEP HENDY WOODS STATE PARK OPEN

Dear Chair Huffman, Chair Dickinson, and Members of the Committees:

The Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association represents 44 member wineries, 25 member vineyards, and 25 associate members – all of whom are asking for your assistance in keeping Hendy Woods State Park open. Our only local state park, Hendy Woods is located in Philo, in Mendocino County, and is currently planned to close on June 30, 2012.

Why do our members want the park to stay open?

Besides the obvious benefits to our community – allowing access to our only old-growth redwood grove, a swimming hole widely used by both residents and visitors, and the only public trails longer than ¼ mile in the area – closing Hendy Woods State Park would drastically affect local businesses.

In our small community, lodging is extremely limited. The few hotels and bed-and-breakfasts are often booked months in advance and are costly because of it. Most require two-night minimums. Hendy Woods State Park has 92 campsites and four cabins, used year-round and booked to capacity most weekends during the summer. It offers a great alternative to private lodging, especially for visitors with children, or those simply looking to explore the natural beauty of the region.

As the largest and most popular campground in the area, many of our winery customers stay at Hendy Woods State Park. They enjoy the park's facilities and venture out to taste wine during the day. Because they've spent less on a campsite, they often can spend more at local businesses.

Hendy Woods also attracts business to the area. Often, visitors discover Anderson Valley by camping at the park, and then find out about the many small, family wineries that populate our wine country.

By closing Hendy Woods State Park, a big portion of our business would simply go elsewhere. Our valley is isolated, and since 10% of the parks destined for closure are located in Mendocino County, there won't be many alternate options for camping in the local area.



As business owners, we understand and are sympathetic to the fiscal issues behind the park closures. However, in tough economic times like we're experiencing, we also ask you to consider the impact on our local businesses and local employment. Even future tax revenue would be put at risk by closing Hendy Woods State Park.

Please keep Hendy Woods State Park open!

Sincerely,

Kristy Charles, President

The Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association (AVWA)

We, as AVWA members, support this letter asking for your help to keep Hendy Woods State Park open:

Anderson Creek Vineyards	Knez Winery Corp	Romani Family Vineyard
Angel Camp Vineyards	Knights Electric Inc.	Roma's Vineyard
Ardzrooni Vineyard Management	Law Firm of Dickenson, Peatman & Fogarty	Run Dog Vineyard
Assagiare Mendocino	Law Office of Grady G Gauthier	Saintsbury
Balo Vineyards	Lazy Creek Vineyards	Scharffenberger Cellars
Baxter Winery	Leal Vineyard	Silicon Valley Bank
Berridge Wine	Lombard	Standish Wine Co.
Bink Wines	Londer Vineyards	Stella Cadente Olive Oil Co.
Breggo Cellars	Ici/La-Bas	Stewart Vineyards
Bruliam Wines	Jim Ball Vineyards	Stoney Bottom Cottage and Garden Whimsey Garden Shop
Brutocao Cellars	Kiser Vineyard	Toll House Inn/ Bell Valley Farm
Cakebread Properties	Knez Vineyards LLC	Toulouse Vineyards
Claudia Springs Winery	Lottig, Dale Arthur	Twomey Cellars
Copain Wines	LuLa Cellars	Waits-Mast Family Cellars
Couloir Wines	MacPhail Family Wines	Weir Vineyard
Donnelly Creek Vineyards	Maggy Hawk Vineyard	Whittaker, Bryant and Penny
Drew Family Cellars	Mendocino Hotel	Wiley Vineyards



Eaglehearth Vineyard	Navarro Mill Guesthouse	Williams Associates Engineering
Elke Vineyards	Navarro Vineyards	Wind Racer
Esterlina Vineyards	Nelson Hill Vineyards	Woodenhead Vintners
Expression Vineyards	Nimmons, Robert and Sandra	Zicherman-Roemer Vineyard
Ferrari-Carano Vineyards	Nordby Wines Caves	Zina Hyde Cunningham
Ferrington Vineyard	Ordway's Valley Foothill Vineyard	
Foursight Wines, Inc.	Pacific Coast Chemicals	
Francis Vineyards	Pennyroyal Vineyards	
Fulcrum Wines	Phillips Hill Estates	
Goldeneye Winery	Philo Ridge Vineyards	
Greenwood Ridge Vineyards	Pronsolino Family Farm	
Hacienda Secoya Vineyards	Raye's Hill Vineyards and Winery	
Handley Cellars	Rhys Vineyards	
Harmonique - Conzelman Vineyards	Ridley Vineyard	
Henneberg Vineyards	Roederer Estate	
Husch Vineyards	Roessler Cellars	
I&E Lath Mill Architectural Elements of Anderson Valley	Roman Vineyard	