SMALL WINERY WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR PROCESSING by Robert Steinhauer.

Mr. Steinhauer is the long time manager of Beringer Vineyards, a recipient of the Napa County Farm Bureau's honor as Agriculturist of the Year, an honoree in Congress and a leader in wise resource management in Napa County.

The Napa County Guidelines For Estimating Winery Water Use is 2.15 acre feet per 100,000 gal. That calculates to 7 gal. of water for 1 gal. wine. This is for processing only and does not include domestic or landscape.

I used a 5 acre parcel. If you take out driveways, turn space and winery (no residence) you would net out about 3 to 3.5 acres, net vine acres.

I arbitrarily used 3.75 tons/net vine acre. (3.5 acres X 3.75 tons=13.1 tons); I used 13 tons.

60 cases/ton = 780 cases. 780 cases X 2.40 gal./case = 1872 gal. total.

1872gal. wine X 7gal. water = 13,104 gal. of water used; this is 0.040 acre feet of water needed.

If they purchased 50% more grapes this would of course double the processing need for water.

For every increment of 1 net vine acre, on a given property, the processing water need would be 375 gal. of water.

Also what would happen to waste water for these new wineries? Does the city have a compliance officer to insure compliance with permits?

I would suggest that we discuss the Napa County requirement that the parcel size be 10 acres or more.