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# COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration  
Behavioral Health

Clinic Services  
Emergency Medical Services  
Environmental Health/Animal Services

Public Health  
Public Administrator/Public Guardian

10 April 2019

R.Craig Smith  
Associate Planner  
Monterey County Resource Management Agency  
1441 Schilling Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Salinas, CA 93901

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the alcohol on-sale license application from Ms Ashleigh Elizabeth Hutchison which would be for their wine bar located at 237 The Crossroads Blvd, Carmel, CA 93923 in Monterey County. This application has been submitted to my unit for consideration due to the number of permitted on-sale facilities already in this particular census tract.

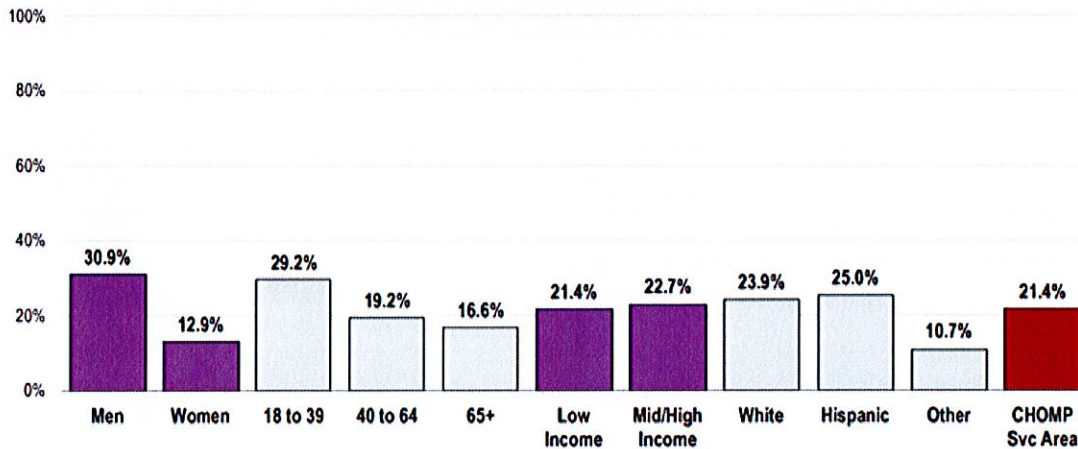
Our review is based on the public health considerations related to alcohol availability and consumption. "Overall, there are causal relationships between alcohol consumption and more than 60 types of disease, disability, and injury, including traffic fatalities." (*A Call for a Framework Convention on Alcohol Control*, American Public Health Association, Policy Statement).

Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention "Excessive alcohol use is responsible for 88,000 deaths annually in the United States, including 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults aged 20–64 years, costing the United States \$249 billion in 2010, or \$2.05 per drink. Binge drinking, or four or more drinks per occasion for women and five or more drinks per occasion for men, is responsible for more than half the deaths and three-quarters of the costs caused by excessive drinking. Yet, 9 in 10 adult excessive drinkers are not alcohol-dependent. High alcohol outlet density, defined as a high concentration of retail alcohol outlets in a small area, is known to be an environmental risk factor for excessive drinking." (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *Guide for Measuring Alcohol Outlet Density*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept of Health and Human Services; 2017).

In 2017 and 2018, there were 254 and 281 total collisions in Monterey County that were attributed to driving or biking under the influence of alcohol or drugs, an 8% or greater increase from 2013 (Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System [SWITRS]).

As income goes up, so does the number of individuals who are excessive drinkers. In the CHOMP Service Area, rates of excessive drinking were 21.4% and 22.7% for low and mid/high income surveyed individuals, respectively (2013 PRC Community Health Needs Assessment [CHOMP], see graph below).

**Excessive Drinkers**  
**(CHOMP Service Area, 2016)**  
 Healthy People 2020 Target = 25.4% or Lower



- Sources:
- 2016 PRC Community Health Survey, Professional Research Consultants, Inc. [Item 189]
  - US Department of Health and Human Services. Healthy People 2020. December 2010. <http://www.healthypeople.gov> [Objective SA-15]
- Notes:
- Asked of all respondents.
  - Hispanics can be of any race. Other race categories are non-Hispanic categorizations (e.g., "NH White" reflects non-Hispanic White respondents).
  - Income categories reflect respondent's household income as a ratio to the federal poverty level (FPL) for their household size. "Low Income" includes households with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level; "Mid/High Income" includes households with incomes at 200% or more of the federal poverty level.
  - Excessive drinking reflects the number of persons aged 18 years and over who drank more than two drinks per day on average (for men) or more than one drink per day on average (for women) OR who drank 5 or more drinks during a single occasion (for men) or 4 or more drinks during a single occasion (for women) during the past 30 days.

Source: CHOMP Community Health Needs Assessment, 2016. <https://www.chomp.org/app/files/public/6960/2016-PRC-CHNA-Report.pdf>

Given these public health outcomes associated with excessive drinking and the local data, there is a public health need to assess new alcohol outlet permit applications in relation to the density of alcohol outlets in Monterey County.

The application by Ms. Ashleigh Elizabeth Hutchison for a new on-site alcohol outlet located at 237 The Crossroads Boulevard, Carmel, CA 93923, is in census tract 116.04. This census tract is currently over saturated (over the number allowed by California Alcohol Beverage Control, CA ABC) for ABC licenses. The number of licenses allowed is 3 while the number of existing licenses in the census tract is 12. Thus, an addition of one more outlet to the number already licensed in census tract 116.04 creates an excessive density.

Monterey County Health Department (MCHD) cannot at this time support the issuance of this license as, from a public health perspective, this census tract is oversaturated for permitted on-sale alcohol outlets. Less permitted alcohol outlets in the county would likely be associated with improved health outcomes, including reductions in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide our input.

Sincerely,

Krista Hanni, MS, PhD  
 Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Manager