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COUNTY OF MONTEREY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Elsa Jimenez, Director of Health

Administration	Clinic Services	Public Health
Behavioral Health	Emergency Medical Services	Public Administrator/Public Guardian
	Environmental Health/Animal Services	

30 July 2018

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

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to consider the alcohol off-sale license application from Carmel Rancho General Store, Inc., which would be for their store located at 546 Carmel Rancho Blvd, Carmel, CA 93923 in Monterey County. This application has been submitted to my unit for consideration due to the number of permitted off-sale facilities already in this particular census tract.
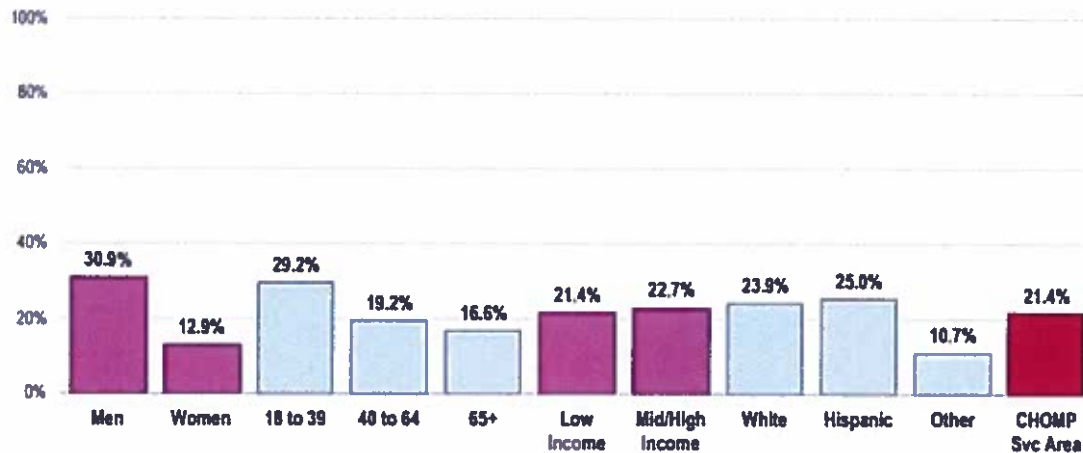
Our review is based on the public health considerations related to alcohol availability and consumption. "Overall, there are causal relationships between alcohol consumption and more than 60 types of disease, disability, and injury, including traffic fatalities." (*A Call for a Framework Convention on 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, there were 254 total collisions in Monterey County that were attributed to driving or biking under the influence of alcohol or drugs, an 8% 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

	Men	Women	18 to 39	40 to 64	65+	Low Income	Mid/High Income	White	Hispanic	Other	CHOMP Svc Area
%	30.9%	12.9%	29.2%	19.2%	16.6%	21.4%	22.7%	23.9%	25.0%	10.7%	21.4%

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 Carmel Rancho General Store, Inc., for a new off-site alcohol outlet located at 546 Carmel Rancho Boulevard, Carmel, CA 93923, is in census tract 116.02. This census tract is currently over saturated (over the number allowed by California Alcohol Beverage Control, CA ABC) for ABC licenses. Thus, an addition of one more outlet to the number already licensed in census tract 116.02 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 off- and 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

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