



GALWAY DOWNS DRAFT EIR

A Summary for Wine Country Neighbors

The main concern: The proposal could turn an equestrian property into a much larger commercial sports and event destination without fully measuring—or firmly limiting—the effects on nearby residents, horses, rural roads, and public safety. Neighbors believe this is far more intensive than an equestrian facility with occasional events.

What is being proposed?

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) reviews Galway Downs' request for expanded sports fields and tournaments, amplified events, larger gatherings, lodging, and RV-related uses.

Why are neighbors concerned?

- **It may change the purpose of the Equestrian District.** The Wine Country–Equestrian zone was created to protect equestrian, agricultural, and rural uses. The Draft EIR does not clearly explain how frequent soccer tournaments, amplified events, lodging, RV uses, and large gatherings fit that purpose.
- **The project may be described as smaller than it really is.** Calling Galway Downs mainly an equestrian facility may understate the traffic, noise, parking, dust, and safety effects of operating a major sports and event venue.
- **The noise analysis may not reflect real weekends.** Proposed Noise Exception No. 9 would permit amplified sound from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. that may be heard beyond 200 feet. Clean-up activities shall terminate no later than midnight. The analysis does not fully address the combined noise from games, cheering, music, traffic, and more.
- **Average traffic numbers can hide dangerous event surges.** The analysis does not adequately show what happens when tournaments and other events occur together: traffic jams, overflow parking, repeated drop-offs, blocked rural roads, or delayed emergency vehicles. Earlier Galway traffic reports and previously identified road improvements should also be addressed.
- **Wildfire evacuation can become more dangerous.** Wine Country residents often must evacuate horses and livestock. The report does not explain how residents and thousands of visitors could safely leave at the same time if a wildfire starts during a major event.
- **Dirt parking could create continuing dust.** The proposal does not clearly require paved parking even though thousands of vehicles may use dirt lots and drive aisles. Watering may not control dust when vehicles continually enter, leave, and return throughout the day.

- **The review looks at Galway too much by itself.** The County should consider the combined effects of Galway Downs together with expanding wineries, lodging, tourism, and other event venues.
- **Existing disputed or unpermitted activity should not set the starting point.** The environmental baseline should clearly distinguish legally permitted operations from disputed or unpermitted activities. Otherwise, current impacts may appear normal and Galway's share of needed road improvements could be understated.
- **The proposed zone amendment could affect more than Galway Downs.** Zone Change CZ2200010 appears to be designed around this project, but changing the WC-E rules could permanently allow more intense commercial development in the Equestrian District. That broader effect deserves its own transparent analysis.
- **The proposal needs firm, enforceable limits.** The County should set clear maximums for event size, number of events, operating hours, amplified sound, parking, traffic controls, and consequences for violations. Without measurable limits, activity and impacts may continue to grow.

What should the County do before approving anything?

- **Describe the full project honestly,** including all sports, events, lodging, RV, parking, and related commercial uses.
- **Use realistic worst-case conditions,** including overlapping tournaments and events—not only daily averages.
- **Correct the environmental baseline,** and separate permitted activities from disputed or unpermitted operations.
- **Analyze the entire community impact,** including traffic, noise, wildfire evacuation, dust, rural character, and cumulative Wine Country growth.
- **Explain the district-wide zoning consequences,** including what the new rules could allow on other WC-E properties.
- **Adopt enforceable limits and improvements,** with clear monitoring, funding responsibilities, and penalties for violations.

Why this matters

Temecula Wine Country's Equestrian District is a rare rural and horse-centered community. Decisions made now could change traffic, safety, noise, development rights, and the area's character for decades. SAVE TED urges Riverside County to revise the Draft EIR and provide a complete, accurate, and enforceable analysis before considering approval.

We encourage residents to submit comments to Riverside County before the public-review deadline: August 10, 2026 by 5 p.m.

You may send your comments to Russell Brady at rbrady@rivco.org