

## **AVWA Sustainability Statement**

*As of January 2023*

The Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association (AVWA) commits to helping advance environmental education and providing support for industry-wide sustainability efforts and requirements. This appellation is gifted geographically with the beautiful Navarro River and the only winegrowing region that co-exists with the endangered Coho salmon. Within its relatively small acreage, we value and strive to support its unique climate and soils, commitment to worker housing, advancing technology, and strong community.

We believe sustainability begins locally, with its members and partners working together to support one another by sharing ideas and resources and collaborating around explorative trials and new technologies. Many of our Valley's farmers choose to farm organically independent of certification, and a majority of vineyard managers source labor from within the county or provide worker housing.

With the development of the AVWA Environmental Committee in 2021, we now have a forum to actively discuss issues and opportunities around water and soil, farming and winemaking requirements, advances in solar technology and regenerative agriculture, and workforce sustainability and development.

By teaming up with environmentally focused partners like the Anderson Valley Land Trust, UC Davis Extension School, Mendocino Resource Conservation District, Navarro River Resource Center, The Nature Conservancy, Fish Friendly Farming, and Sonoma Clean Power, we hope to facilitate cross-collaboration and ensure the protection of our unique region for generations to come. This importance on environmental stewardship is woven into our vineyards' history as the very first Fish Friendly Farming (FFF) Certification occurred in 1999 at Navarro Vineyards, located in the 'Deep End' of Anderson Valley – one of the most robust sustainability certification in California and designed to support recovery of endangered salmon. Today more than 70% of AVWA member vineyards are certified by the program and we are actively working to increase that percentage.

Through partnerships with local beneficiaries like the Anderson Valley Housing Association, local Health Center, and Volunteer Fire Department, our fundraising efforts generate support for those who help to care for and serve our community.

Sustainability is a global endeavor and a collective responsibility that Anderson Valley Winegrowers are committed to helping support and renew.