

American Viticultural Area

Petition

For

High Valley

Lake County

Clearlake Oaks, California

Pursuant to the provisions of 27 CFR Section 4.25a (e) (2) the members of the High Valley Appellation Committee respectfully petitions the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) to establish a viticultural area (AVA) by the name of "High Valley".

Introduction:

High Valley is a hanging valley above the eastern shores of Clear Lake in Lake County, California. The proposed American Viticultural Area (AVA) is approximately nine miles long and three miles wide, and encompasses approximately 15,000 acres. High Valley Ridge and other adjoining ridges to the south, east, and west rise steeply above the valley floor of High Valley completely enclosing this small valley. High Valley Ridge rises above the floor of High Valley to heights greater than 3000 feet above sea level, and touches the southernmost border of the Mendocino National Forest. Round Mountain, a once active volcanic cinder cone, rises 400 feet above the eastern floor of High Valley, and is directly responsible for creating High Valley and its unique, distinctive viticultural area.

High Valley is prominently depicted on the USGA 7.5-minute Clearlake Oaks topographic quadrangle, and parts of the Lucerne and Benmore Canyon topographic quadrangles (see relief maps). High Valley Ridge and Round Mountain are also prominent features within the proposed AVA, however the name "High Valley" is the popular and historic reference that is most often used to describe this region. High Valley also best describes the common qualities among the microclimates within the entire viticultural area. The boundaries proposed are established on a 1600-foot minimum elevation in order to include viticultural areas that meet the criteria and distinct characteristics of this hillside / alpine viticultural area, and to exclude the surrounding areas, which do not.

The proposed viticultural area is a sub-appellation of both Clear Lake and North Coast Viticultural areas, however a small area of northeast section of High Valley Ridge falls outside of the North Coast Viticultural boundary. (A separate petition from this one will also be filed to include the entire High Valley Viticultural Area within the North Coast area boundaries.) The following sections will describe in detail the properties of the High Valley Viticultural Area in geography, soils, climate, elevation, and hydrogeology that are unique to this growing area and are significantly different from surrounding grape growing areas.

Historical Review:

The High Valley area was first settled by Native American Indian descendants of the Pomo tribes, the Elam and Kamdots. The peaceful tribes lived on opposite ends of High Valley and referred to it as "kas". Numerous sites found on steep rock ledges on the southern and western slopes of High Valley were winter high ground camps. This area was also an important transportation route between lake shore tribes and tribes in neighboring Long Valley to the north and Cache Creek to the east. An essential food supply of acorns, wild oats, wild game including deer, rabbit, bear, and quail could be found throughout the valley and surrounding hills.

High Valley remained Pomo territory until the arrival of European settlers in the 1850's. Henry L. Wildegrube was the first white man to settle in High Valley. In 1856 at the age of 21 he settled in what is now Upper Lake and established its first general store. Three years later in 1859 he purchased 160 acres in High Valley after selling his portion of what is now the town of Lucerne to his partner.

Soon after Wildegrube settled in High Valley other settlers began to arrive. At the peak of the 1850's about a dozen small ranches occupied the valley forcing most of the Pomo Indian tribes out of the valley and up into the hillsides and ridges. High Valley Ridge was once the dividing line between Lake and Colusa Counties until 1868 when Long Valley and Indian Valley were added to Lake County moving the boundary further north. Over the next several decades the valley contained a schoolhouse, post office and a stagecoach stop that provided essential supplies and rest to the many travelers utilizing High Valley as a transportation route between Upper Lake and Sacramento. Before their steep climb up High Valley Ridge horses were changed in High Valley at the "Foutch Stage Station" for visitors from San Francisco on there way to the mineral baths at Bartlett Springs.

Since the late 1800's the area has witnessed little change. Ranching still exists along the valley floor although vineyards now occupy a large portion of the moderate to steep slopes, and to a lesser degree, the valley floor to the west. There are nearly 1000 vineyard acres currently producing or are under development during the last six years. Many grape purchasing winery customers throughout the North Coast over the past several vintages have created wines displaying extraordinary qualities. As a result of the high quality wines coming from the High Valley area there are currently several local winery projects either under construction or in the planning phase.

The history of grape and wine production in Lake County is fairly dramatic. The County boasted one of the largest growing areas in California until Prohibition replaced the vineyards with pears, walnuts, prunes, green beans and other crops. However, a few of these old-vine vineyards still exist in a few locations throughout parts of the County. Testimony to this is a derelict vineyard of with about 25 "centennial vines" of perhaps Zinfandel variety on a southeast ridge above High Valley at the Ogulin Ranch.

High Valley Road, off of Highway 20 in Clearlake Oaks, is the only county road that enters High Valley and is the only thoroughfare that leads out of High Valley, up High Valley Ridge, and into the Mendocino Forest linking up with Bartlett Springs Road. Other businesses and entities that reference or use High Valley in their names include: High Valley Adventure Inc., High Valley Ranch, and High Valley Tile and Stone all located in the Clearlake Oaks area.

Topography and Geology:

High Valley is located approximately one mile north northwest of the town of Clear Lake Oaks and Highway 20. The floor of High Valley is at an elevation of 1700 – 1800 feet and 400 – 500 feet above Clear Lake (elevation of 1320). High Valley Ridge rises steeply 500 – 1500 feet above the valley floor, and encompasses High Valley forming an isolated basin with distinct watershed boundaries. The elevation of the ridge tops ranges from 1800 – 3400 feet and is approximately seven miles in length, and demonstrates a rare transverse valley in the California Coastal Range. (See attached geological maps).

High valley is an east-west depression that originally was a small fault basin or graben with all drainage flowing easterly into the North Fork of Cache Creek. However, during Lake County's active volcanic period (late-Pliocene to Holocene) Round Mountain formed out of the gorge on the easterly side of the trough. Over time the resulting lava flow from this volcanic outcropping built up the eastern side of High Valley, and eventually sealed off the preexisting creek flow to the east. With no outlet for hillside runoff a lake formed in the depression west of the volcano until it crested at the lowest point at what is now known as Schindler's Creek. Alluvial sediments and cache have washed down from the hills and filled the initial canyon over the last 10,000 years. Meanwhile, over time water through the small channel at Schindler's Creek eroded and drained the lake leaving behind the large basin plain of High Valley. Today, Tule Lake just west of Round Mountain is a small remnant of this early lake.

Local geology of the proposed High Valley AVA consists of two dominant rock types; (1) Jurassic metasedimentary rocks of the Franciscan Complex which include intercalated basalt flows and (2) Quaternary volcanic deposits consisting of andesitic flows. A large portion of the High Valley's floor is comprised of Quaternary alluvial deposits.

The Franciscan Complex is an assemblage of sandstone, shale, phyllites, radiolarian cherts, and serpentine, which forms the base material, and a majority of the exposed rock surrounding the western portion of High Valley, and southern ridges of the proposed AVA. Exposed Franciscan is commonly weathered in areas within High Valley and on the slopes and ridges with depth to bedrock varying from approximately six inches to at least ten feet. Outcrops of Franciscan are not uncommon on the ridge crests and slopes near the northwest end of the High Valley. These Franciscan Outcrops within the proposed AVA tend to be phyllites, sandstones, and shales, are typically light brown to tannish brown, and moderately to slightly weathered and moderately strong.

Intercalated within the Franciscan Complex are medium gray basalts of the Jurassic / Cretaceous age. The basalts are present throughout the eastern portion of High Valley east of Schindler Creek, and the basaltic flow is bounded to the east and west by north-south trending extensional faults.

Overlaying the Jurassic / Cretaceous basalts are Quaternary volcanics, of which the most prominent feature is Round Mountain. This symmetrical cinder cone rises approximately 400 feet above the eastern valley floor to an elevation of 2200 feet. The west base shows evidence of two flows, one partly buried by cinders from the cone, and a later flow devoid of a mantle of ejecta. The later flow is characterized by a number of craggy ridges, 20 – 30 feet high. The volcanics consist of both basalt and andesite. Both the basalt and andesites form blocky well-exposed ridges. The lavas are fresh, very hard, and commonly vesicular and amygdaloidal. Vesicles range in size from approximately 1/32 to 1/4 inch in diameter. General flow orientation is east west parallel to the valleys long axis.

Six miles south of the proposed High Valley AVA, on the southern slopes of Mt. Konocti, the historic vineyards of the Clear Lake AVA are abundant in rhyolites and dacites. A unique geology feature of High Valley AVA is that the igneous basalts and andesites are lower in magnesium and iron and lower in sodium and potassium than the rhyolites and dacites commonly found along the southern face of Mt. Konocti. Hence, the volcanic parent material within the High Valley basin differs from parent material in the North Coast and Clear Lake AVA's.

At approximately 1350 feet, Long Valley, which lies directly to the north of High Valley and is the headwaters for the North Fork of Cache Creek, is at an elevation much lower than High Valley's. Bordering the easternmost AVA boundary lays a large belt of the Tertiary Cache Formation. The Cache Formation is lacustrine in origin and overlies the Franciscan as well as the Chico and Martinez Formations. The Cache is tan to tannish brown, poorly sorted sandstone containing pebbles of chert and serpentine as well as shales and greenstone. Overall the Cache and Franciscan on the outside of the eastern boundary of the proposed AVA contain physical characteristic not found in High Valley.

Areas to the north and east of the proposed AVA, including some areas within the North Coast AVA, also consist mainly of Jurassic sediments of sandstones and shales with the general degree of metamorphism increasing eastward. However, the North Coast AVA also contains a fair amount of serpentine, an ultramafic rock commonly high in silica and magnesium minerals, but not found within the proposed High Valley AVA.

The distinct watershed boundaries, created by High Valley's surrounding and totally encompassing ridge tops, naturally prohibit the transportation and deposition of foreign material to the watershed. Soils found within the High Valley area are derived only from parent material found within the basin. Parent material is limited to sandstone, shales, and phyllites as well as basalts and andesites.

Soils:

The difference in mineral composition of the igneous rock types found within the proposed High Valley AVA provides a unique chemical composition of the soil derivatives. Soil types throughout the proposed AVA can be broken into two general types; (1) those derived primarily from residuum of weathered volcanics and (2) those derived from weathered sandstone, shale or phyllitic rocks of the Franciscan Complex.

In general, soils derived from volcanics such as dacites, tuffs, breccias, volcanic ash and basalts are quaternary to recent and are located along the eastern half of the proposed AVA; while those derived primarily from sedimentary and phyllitic source material are Jurassic to Cretaceous and are primarily found throughout the western portion of the proposed High Valley AVA.

The High Valley AVA has four basic soil formations: (refer to soil maps) (1) the Franciscan Hills that form the southern and western boundaries of the proposed AVA (Sanhedrin, Squawrock, and Mayacama), (2) Alluvial basin of High Valley (Lupoyoma), (3) Alluvial Terrace along southeastern boundary of the proposed AVA (Mayacama and Phipps), and (4) Volcanic ridges along the northeastern area of the AVA near Round Mountain (Konocti).

Millsholm, Bressa, Hopland, Estel and Maymen Series soils account for the majority of the soils throughout the western hills and ridges of the proposed AVA. The soils are shallow to moderately deep, loamy to gravelly clay loams. Typically these soils are well to excessively well drained and permeability is slow to moderate. Also, included are terrace deposits and alluvial fans primarily comprised of the Wappo Series. The Wappo loams are very deep, well drained and permeability is slow.

The majority of the High Valley floor consists of Wolfcreek loam, a very deep well drained, clay to sandy loam with moderately slow permeability.

A considerable amount of Maymen, Hopland, and Mayacama Series soils, which are primarily gravelly loams and gravelly sandy clay loams, are intermixed throughout the southeastern portion of the AVA. The loams are generally shallow to moderately deep, excessively drained and contain a moderate to moderately slow permeability.

The primary soils found throughout the eastern half of the proposed AVA include the Konocti Variant, Konocti, Hambright, Benridge and Sodabay Series. They are commonly rocky to cobbly loams with minor intermixed clayey loams, shallow to very deep and well drained. The permeability of these soils is generally moderate to slow.

These soils differ from soils contained within the historically planted vineyards of Big Valley, which is located south of Mt. Konocti within the Clear Lake AVA. Major soil types found throughout much of Big Valley include: Benridge, Forbesville, Bally, Phipps, Still, Sodabay, Konocti, Cole, and Clear Lake Series soils. Soils defining the Big

Valley floor consist of the Still, Clear Lake, Clear Lake Variant, and Cole Series soils. These silt and silty clay thermic loams are very deep and poorly drained with the exception of the Still loams, which are well drained soils. Permeabilities of the Clear Lake, Clear Lake Variant, and Cole Series are typically moderate to slow. Permeability and drainage characteristics of these soils are in part due to the fine sediments of which they are composed of, primarily silts and montmorillonitic clays. These soils are derived from alluvial to lacustrine deposits composed of mixed rock sources and are present on slopes of zero to two percent.

Forbesville, Bally, and Phipps Series soils are loamy to gravelly sandy loams generally formed on terrace deposits and head deposits of alluvial plains with slopes of 15 – 30 percent. The Forbesville, Bally, and Phipps Series soils are typically very deep, well drained and permeabilities are slow. These soils are generally mixed thermic silty to clayey loams derived from mixed rock sources of alluvial deposits.

In general soils within the proposed High Valley AVA contain adequate permeabilities covering both the mesic (mild) and thermic (moderately warm to warm) temperature regimes, whereas the soils found in the historically planted vineyards of Big Valley, and within the Clear Lake AVA, are only of the thermic category. Slopes vary from near flat to at least 75 percent with the majority of the planted slopes at approximately 30 percent in the High Valley area, whereas Big Valley vineyards are found primarily on slopes of zero to two percent. Soils within the proposed High Valley AVA do not share the poor drainage characteristics generally inherent in the basin soils found in the Big Valley growing areas. Not only do the soils on the slopes and ridges of the High Valley area display superlative drainage characteristics, but also this property can be found with the basin soils of High Valley itself. The Wolfcreek, Wappo, and Manzanita Series soils found in the High Valley basin possess above average drainage abilities. Although fertile, the majority of vineyards planted in Big Valley, and many other Clearlake AVA vineyards, are silty clay loams of the Still; Clear Lake, Clear Lake Variant, and Cole Series which display poor drainage characteristics.

Climatic Conditions:

The High Valley area also possesses unique weather conditions, which contributes to the qualities that make it a desirable grape growing region. Wines made from grapes from cooler climates, and hence slower, longer growing seasons, are known to have better acidities, improved tannin structure, possess darker color, have more concentration of fruit character, and are generally worldwide recognized to be of higher quality.

During the growing months of April through October high and low temperatures are accumulated and converted into degree-day summation units, which can therefore be expressed as wine grape growing regions. A system of Climatic Regions was developed by viticultural professors Amerine and Winkler at the University of California Davis:

Region 1:	0 – 2500 degree-days
Region 2:	2500 – 3000 degree-days
Region 3:	3000 – 3500 degree-days
Region 4:	3500 – 4000 degree-days
Region 5:	4000 + degree-days

Adcon weather station sites have collected temperature data for the 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002 growing seasons. Tables 1 – 4 show four growing seasons ('99 – '02) and the degree days calculated from weather stations located at various sites in the High Valley area, and for comparison, neighboring grape growing areas and distant growing areas in the North Coast appellation. There are a limited number of weather stations in the various viticultural areas throughout Lake County, and some areas lack comparable weather data, i.e. neighboring Clearlake Oaks.

The Terre Vermeille and Caldwell Ranch weather stations are located on the southeastern ridges, slopes, and eastern valleys of the High Valley area, and the Brassfield weather stations are located on the valley floor and benches of western High Valley. The data shows that the High Valley area displays mostly Region 3, and in certain vintages, can even possess Region 2 temperature criteria. Only the upper Terre Vermeille weather station displays above Region 3 and Region 2 tendencies in the proposed AVA.

Lake County, in general, demonstrates warmer grape growing regions when compared to neighboring North Coast Counties. Such is the case with the Amber Knolls viticultural area located on the southeastern slopes of Mt. Konocti. Traditionally this grape growing region, currently petitioning for its own AVA, demonstrates a Region 3 and 4 in the lowest lying areas, and as high as a Region 5 in numerous vintages for the upland areas. The viticultural area near the city of Clearlake at the eastern end of Clear Lake is traditionally a Region 4 and 5, and on rare occasion a high Region 3. Located less than five miles away this grape growing area, nearest to the proposed High Valley AVA, demonstrates a remarkably warmer climate. The data for the growing areas of Anderson Valley in Mendocino County, Potter Valley in Mendocino County, and the Carneros in

Napa County, known as some of the coolest viticultural areas in the North Coast AVA, is also given for comparison. The vintage of 2000 shows that certain locations of the High Valley AVA had degree-days at, near, or better than these notoriously colder growing regions.

Lake County is too far inland to have temperature influences from cooler marine air as in most other North Coast Regions. The mountain ridges of the Mayacamas surrounding the Clear Lake Basin to the west and Mount St. Helena to the south prevent any marine intrusion. The cooler climate found on the slopes and at the valley floor of High Valley can be traced to the orientation and topography of High Valley Ridge, and the steady wind and air movement in the Clear Lake Basin and surrounding Mountain ridges.

The Clear Lake Basin creates its own natural and perpetual “wind machine” from temperature contrasts over a daily period. The phenomenon that water warms more slowly than adjacent land during the day, and holds its heat longer at night, is the driving force that creates land-water winds. During the day the surrounding land warms much more quickly than the waters of Clear Lake creating land-heated up-valley winds that rise to the ridge tops. Evaporative transfer further cools these winds as they travel across Clear Lake.

Immediately rising above the eastern shores of Clear Lake lays High Valley whose transverse ridges receives and captures these cooled afternoon breezes trapping and retaining them in the basin. Nearly all valleys and ridgelines in the California Coastal Range run north and south in orientation blocking onshore winds to a greater extent. Conversely, the ridges surrounding High Valley have an east-west orientation creating a rare transverse valley allowing onshore winds a channel for less restricted flow. Another example of a transverse valley is the Santa Ynez Valley in Santa Barbara County whose reputation as a cooler viticultural area is world renown. In this case, however, the Pacific Ocean is due west of the Santa Ynez Valley and is the cooling force for this region, but it is the orientation of the valley that allows the least resistance of onshore airflow, and in turn, enhances the cooling effect.

The reverse of the land-water wind begins in late afternoon and early evening. Air in contact with land surfaces, cools and becomes denser creating downward winds from the slopes of High Valley down to the valley floor, which acts as a heat sink. Additional cooling mountain-valley winds can be traced to the cold airflows coming from the mountain slopes and higher elevations such as the Mendocino National Forest, which stated earlier, shares its southern boundary with High Valley Ridge. Colder air flowing down off these 5000 – 7000 foot peaks in the evening hours also finds its way into High Valley, and the bowl formed by the surrounding ridges, traps and contains this colder air as well. An example of similar climatic influences can be found in Potter Valley where cold air flows down from the Mendocino National Forest across Lake Pillsbury, and into the valley itself.

Another example of the unique climate of the proposed AVA is that on an annual basis the longer than average frost season in the High Valley basin can extend well into

the month of June. The High Valley area has proven to be one of if not the coolest viticultural regions currently in Lake County, and as a result, many of the varieties planted on the floor of High Valley are associated with cooler and shorter growing conditions. There are plantings of Pinot Grigio, Pinot Noir, Johannisberg Riesling, and Gewurtraminer currently that are producing as qualitatively as their equivalents in noted cooler viticultural regions such as the Alsace, Burgundy, Mosel, Rhein Gau, Austria, or Northern Italy.

Table 5 shows the temperature readings during the months of June and a portion of July (some of the hottest months of the grape growing season), which shows temperature swings of 40 – 50 degrees on an average daily basis. Warm days and cool nights with similar temperature swings has proven to be an essential growing condition in the Napa Valley, which is internationally recognized for creating world-class wines as a result of this climatic condition.

The only rainfall data on record is from the Terre Vermeille station in the southeastern portion of High Valley AVA. Annual rainfall totals for 2000 was 18 inches, 18 inches for 2001, 29 inches for 2002, and so far this rainfall season of 2003 has produced 35 inches. The proposed Red Hills District viticultural area ranges from 24 – 40 inches of rainfall a year. Kelseyville gauge averaged 46 inches between 1931 – 1970, and Putah Creek basin above Guenoc averaged 47 inches over the same period. At least in the last few years the High Valley AVA has shown to receive less than most other viticultural areas in Lake County.

Hydrogeology:

With lower than average rainfall totals, and as well drained rocky and gravelly soils are the norm, a huge demand for irrigation water is created in the proposed viticultural AVA. Fortunately, the High Valley area is blessed with a surplus of water aquifers and natural springs. This was the result of the eastern valley lava flow from a volcanic Round Mountain damming the preexisting flow to the North Fork of Cache Creek. The Schindler Creek / High Valley Watershed funnels all runoff to the east, and with only tiny Schindler Creek to take water out of the valley, the water table in High Valley is abnormally high. The Schindler Creek / High Valley Watershed is recognized as an important watershed supplying Clear Lake, California's largest natural body of water. The Schindler Creek / High Valley Coordinated Resource Management and Planning Group (CRMP) is made up of local property owners as well as representatives from county and watershed. The East Lake Resource Conservation District sponsors the CRMP.

Numerous springs and ponds can be found on the valley floor where the winter water table is only 2 – 4 feet deep and 12 – 15 feet deep in summer. There are also hillside and mountain springs on the western and eastern slopes and canyons. Here, thirsty conifers such as Ponderosas are found in abundance. Wells producing over 300 gallons per minute are attainable on the valley floor or on neighboring slopes at depths of 400 – 500 feet (side note: while drilling the Brassfield Estate agricultural well, at the western end of High Valley, a redwood tree was struck at 375 feet deep; testimony to a canyon with a decomposing forest deep under the valley basin). Water at this depth, although plentiful, is high in mineral content such as iron, and requires settling or filtering treatment before use. Domestic wells producing up to ten gallons per minute on average of high quality drinking water can be found easily at 30-50 feet on the valley floor.

Neighboring areas to the south and east are not as fortunate to find springs or water tables any thing close to what the proposed AVA experiences. However, water can be seen in rock outcrops at the far eastern cliffs of the proposed High Valley AVA originating from water seepage under Round Mountain.

Boundaries:

The carefully considered boundaries under proposal were derived from common and / or shared climactic, soil, geography, watershed, and historical criteria for inclusion into the proposed High Valley AVA. The northern boundary, and parts of the western and eastern boundaries, is created from High Valley Ridge. The hillsides that separate High Valley from Clear Lake form the southern boundary that completes High Valley's enclosure.

The geography of the High Valley AVA demonstrates a mountainous viticultural area that incorporates higher than average elevation and hillside terrain for alpine grape growing. Therefore, to distinguish the proposed AVA from the excluded surrounding area a minimal elevation of 1600 feet has been established. The 1600-foot elevation limit is set just below the lowest point in High Valley (approx. 1700 feet), and high enough above Clear Lake and Long Valley (approx. 1300 feet) to distinguish between higher elevation growing areas from the surrounding lower elevation growing areas. Areas below 1600 feet in elevation lose the common qualities shared by the proposed High Valley AVA. The boundary description is as follows:

1. The beginning point is the intersection of High Valley Road and the 3400 foot elevation contour in the northern portion of Section 16, Township 14 North / Range 8 West, on the Clearlake Oaks, CA quad map.
2. Proceed southwest in a straight line for approximately .12 miles to the intersection of an unnamed stream and the 3000-foot elevation contour.
3. Continue southwest following the stream through Pierce Canyon in Section 16 and the southeast corner of Section 17, to the intersection of this stream with the 1600 foot elevation contour in Section 20, T14N / R8W, on the Lucerne, CA quad.
4. Continue in a generally southeast direction following the 1600-foot elevation contour through Section 21 on the Lucerne, CA quad and through Sections 21, 28, 27, 34, 26, 35, and 36 in T14N / R8W on the Clearlake Oaks, CA quad; continuing east, northeast, then southeast through Sections 31, 30, 29, 33, and 34 of T14N / R7W on the Clearlake Oaks, CA quad; to the intersection of the 1600-foot elevation contour and Highway 20 in Section 3 of T13N / R7W on the Benmore Canyon, CA quad.
5. Follow Highway 20 southeast, east, then northeast to the intersection of Highway 20 and the 1600-foot elevation contour in the southwest corner of Section 35, T14N / R7W.
6. Follow the 1600-foot elevation contour north through Sections 35, 36, 26, 25, 24, and 23 to the intersection with Salt Canyon Creek.

7. Follow the stream to its end at a point slightly below the northwest corner of Section 23, T14N/R7W. Continue north and northwest through a high point marked 2200, then west to another highpoint below the 2000-foot elevation contour in Section 15, T14N/R7W.
8. Head southwest to the intersection of a 4WD road just below the northwest corner of Section 22, T14N/R7W on the Clearlake Oaks, CA quad
9. Follow the unimproved road to the highpoint labeled 2224 in the southeast portion of Section 17, T14N/R7W.
10. Follow the High Valley Ridge in a generally west-northwest direction to an unlabelled highpoint in the northeast portion of Section 13, T14N / R8W.
11. Follow the High Valley Ridge in a generally west-northwest direction for approximately .2 miles to the intersection of two unimproved roads in Section 13.
12. Head west in a straight line for approximately .15 miles to the unlabelled highpoint in Section 13.
13. Head northwest in a straight line to the highpoint marked 2511.
14. Head west in a straight line approximately 335 feet to the intersection of the 2480 contour line and the unimproved road in the northwest portion of Section 13.
15. Follow this unimproved road until it merges with High Valley Road in Section 14, T14N / R8W.
16. Follow High Valley Road slightly north and then west for approximately 2.2 miles to the point of beginning.

Conclusion:

The body of this petition has demonstrated how unique and different the High Valley AVA is between other neighboring viticultural areas within Lake County. It has also been evidenced, in regards to climate, topography, and soils, how the proposed AVA can be similar in ways to more distant recognized appellations within the North Coast growing regions such as Napa or Sonoma counties. The cooler climate, the volcanic soils, and Franciscan alluvial fans all of which contribute to creating a mountainous grape growing area the likes not experienced in most other notable viticultural areas, much less Lake County.

None of the unique differences of the High Valley AVA would be as fascinating or as significant if the quality of the grapes and resulting wines were just of average quality. Much of Lake County's reputation for growing grapes has been mired in mediocrity. Considering that the majority of viticulture has taken place in Big Valley on heavy, poorly drained soils, its not surprising that Lake County grapes, historically, get the lowest average price over any other North Coast County. The red wines from the Big Valley area generally tend to be lighter, simpler, lacking tannic structure and concentration of fruit when compared to the growing conditions in the higher, mountainous soils of Lake County. The vineyards of High Valley tend to yield lighter than average crops, and thus produce a red wine of higher intensity. Lower yields and better quality wines from shallow, well-drained hillsides, and cooler well-drained gravelly loams increases the average Lake County price for a particular red grape varietal in the proposed AVA by as much as 30% or more. Many large and small wineries throughout Napa and Sonoma North look to grapes from the High Valley area to improve their North Coast blends even over grape sources in their own appellation.

The incredible history and geography of High Valley tell a story of a violent volcanic period that created a hanging valley basin high above the Clear Lake Basin from what was once a steep canyon. For countless centuries the Pomo Indians revered and depended on High Valley as a hunting ground and transportation route between tribes. Homesteaders and pioneers of the past understood that the High Valley area was a special place to farm, raise livestock, and provide a beautiful area in which to live. The next chapter in the High Valley Story continues with agriculture and an appreciation for the gifts from a very special place.

High Valley AVA Committee:

Kevin Robinson
Brassfield Estate

Jonathan Dharmapalan
Monte Lago Vineyards

Jerry Brassfield
Brassfield Estate

Dustin Brassfield
High Valley Vineyards

Clay Shannon
Shannon Ridge Vineyards

Darryl Kuecker
Round Mountain Vineyards

References Consulted:

Anderson, C. A.

1936 *Volcanic History of the Clear Lake Area, California*, Geological Society of America, Bulletin 47, p. 629-664.

Barrett, Samuel A.

1908 *The Ethnogeography of the Pomo and Neighboring Indians*, University of California Publications in American Archaeology and Ethnology 6(1): 1 - 332. Berkeley.

Boer, Michael

2003 Adcon Weather Systems, weather data contributor, Ukiah, California

Boone, Virginia Gorton, and Herbert Milford Shaul

1992 *The Shaul Family History 1773-1993*, Genealogy Publishing Service, 448 Ruby Mine Road, Franklin, North Carolina.

Butler, Tom

1960 "High Valley Memories", Manuscripts on file at the Lake County Historical Courthouse Museum.

Crop Care Associates, Inc.

2000 *Baseline Soil Analysis for Vineyard Development: Brassfield Property Project #00-020*, Yountville, California.

Dunn, Dick

1998 "A Brief History of Lake County", Manuscript prepared for the Lake County Museum, Lakeport, California.

Fuqua, Jane

1958 Personal Manuscripts from the Mauldin Files, Clearlake Branch, Lake County Library, Clearlake, California.

Hellgren, Clifford

2002 Conversation with Kevin Robinson, High Serenity Ranch, Clearlake Oaks, California.

Jennings, Charles W.

1960 *Geologic Map of California, Ukiah Sheet*. Compiled by Charles W. Jennings and Rudolph G. Strand. State of California, Division of Mines and Geology, Sacramento, California.

Jones-Weger, Audrey

- 2001 Telephone interview between Bright Eastman and Audrey Jones-Weger on 23 October 2001.

Lake County Environmental Impact Report

- 1977 *Cobb Mountain Estates Geothermal Development Program*, Lake County Planning Division, Lake County Courthouse, Lakeport, California.

Lake County Museum

- 1998 "The Towns and Post Offices of Lake County", Lake County Museum, Lakeport, California.

Mauldin, Henry

- 1961 Manuscripts on file at the Lake County Historic Courthouse Museum, Lakeport, California.

McNitt, J. R.

- 1967 *Geology of the Lakeport Quadrangle, Lake County, California 1:62,500*, California Division of Mines and Geology.

McNitt, J. R.

- 1968 *Geology of the Clearlake Oaks 15-Minute Quadrangle, Lake County, California 1:24,000*, California Division of Mines and Geology.

Malone, Michael

- 2002 Geotechnical Consulting, Giblin Associates, Engineering Geologist #1437, Santa Rosa, California.

Palmer, Lyman L.

- 1881 *History of Napa and Lake Counties*, Slocum, Bowen and Co., Publishers, San Francisco, CA. Republished 1974 by Valley Publishers, Fresno, CA.

Penninou, Ernest P.

- 1955 *A History of the Lake County Early Grape and Wine Industry*, Personal Manuscript, 421 Walnut Street, San Francisco, California.

Pluth, Dennis

- 2002 Conversation with Kevin Robinson, Shoreline Realty, Inc., Clearlake Oaks, California.

Red Hills Viticultural Area Petition

- 2001 Draft for *American Viticultural Area*, Compliance Service of America, LLC, Gardiner, Oregon.

Rice, S.H.

- 1892 Official Map of Lake County, California: Compiled From the Government Surveys and From an Actual Survey of the County Roads by S. H. Rice, C. E. Map on file at the Lake County Historic Courthouse Museum, Lakeport, California.

Shannon, Clay

- 2002 Conversation with Kevin Robinson, Shannon Ranches, Clearlake Oaks, California.

Schindler Creek / High Valley Watershed

- 2001 "Coordinated Resource Management and Planning" (CRMP Group), East Lake Resource Conservation District, World Wide Web Site.

Shaul, Jerry

- 2001 Telephone interview between Bright Eastman and Jerry Shaul on 23 October 2001.

Shaul, Roland

- 2001 Telephone interview between Bright Eastman and Roland Shaul on 15 October 2001.

Shultz, Richard D., and Bright Eastman

- 2002 *A Cultural Resources Study of 5 acres of APN 006-004-11 for the Proposed Brassfield Estate Winery, Clearlake Oaks, Lake County, California*, Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University, Rohnert Park, California.

Smith, David W., and William D Broderson

- 1989 *Soil Survey of Lake County, California*, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, in cooperation with the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management; and the Regents of the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station.

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

- 1916 *Bartlett Springs, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
1944 *Bartlett Springs, Calif.*, 15-minute topographic quadrangle.
1975 *Clearlake Oaks, Calif.*, 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle (1958 base map, photo inspected 1975).

Vestra Resources Inc.

- 2002 "Lake County, American Viticultural Areas", & "Proposed High Valley Ridge AVA", Investigative Mapping Service, Redding, California.

Wood, Charles A. and Kienle

1990 *Volcanoes of North America: United States and Canada*, Cambridge University Press, p. 226-229. Contribution by Julie M. Donnelly-Nolan.

Zellman, Paul

2002 Investigation and Conversation with Kevin Robinson, Shannon Ranches Special Projects Manager, Clearlake Oaks, California.