

MANATT, PHELPS, ROTHENBERG & TUNNEY

A PARTNERSHIP INCLUDING PROFESSIONAL CORPORATIONS

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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TELEPHONE (202) 463-4300

RIP

July 30, 1981

G. R. Dickerson
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco &
Firearms
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20226

ALCOHOL, TOBACCO & FIREARMS
1981
LOS ANGELES OFFICE
1888 CENTURY PARK EAST
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90067
TELEPHONE (213) 556-1500
CABLE MANATOR LSA
TWX 910 490-5744

Re: Proposed Green Valley
Viticultural Area

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

Enclosed herewith is an application dated July 21, 1981 petitioning for the establishment of the above-referred viticultural area.

In order to facilitate a speedy response to any questions or requests for additional information which you might have in connection with this petition, we would appreciate your sending this office copies of any such requests. We would also be delighted if you believed it advantageous to meet with any members of your staff in Washington in order to expedite the processing of this petition.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]

David B. Jacobsohn *sls*
of Manatt, Phelps,
Rothenberg & Tunney

:sls

cc: B. Sterling

Iron Horse Ranch & Vineyard

9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-1909

July 21, 1981

Mr. G. R. Dickerson
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20266

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

The undersigned hereby petitions you to establish an American Viticultural Area to be designated "Green Valley". The following information is submitted in support of this petition.

I.

Designation of the proposed area. For many years, as documented in various 19th and early 20th Century atlases and histories of Sonoma County, the name Green Valley has covered the area specified in the application. In the History of Sonoma County, California, Alley, Bowen & Company, Publishers, San Francisco, 1880, Green Valley is described as follows: "This beautiful Valley is on a creek of the same name which flows north into the Russian River and lies west of the Santa Rosa plain." Green Valley and the creek by the same name is likewise indicated in the 1877 Atlas of Sonoma County, Thos. H. Thompson, and is described in The History of Sonoma County, 1911, Tom Gregory, Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California, and in The History of Sonoma County, 1937, California, Ernest Latimer Finley, Press Democrat Publishing Company, Santa Rosa, California.

II.

Historical evidence of the proposed boundaries of the Viticultural area. The atlas and histories referred to above

clearly distinguish the historic area of Green Valley together with its distinctive geographical features described below. The area is clearly designated by the creeks which run through it and by the hills which delineate its boundaries.

III.

Geographical features of the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area producing distinguishing growing conditions. The above-referred to histories of Sonoma County describe historically and geographically the unique characteristics of Green Valley. In the 1937 History of Sonoma County, Green Valley is described as ". . . an extremely rich and productive belt of country . . . This Valley, on account of its sheltered position has always been productive of fine fruit . . ." "This was one of the earliest settled valleys in the county . . ." In the 1880 History of Sonoma County, the area and the Analy township in which it is located is described as follows: "The climate . . . especially the northern end of it, is far different from that of the coast . . . The range of mountains lying along its western border breaks the fury of the ocean blast which sweeps up from the sea." In the 1911 History of Sonoma County, in describing this area, the author notes the distinctive soil of the area as being "Goldridge" and confirms that "The fruit development of Goldridge began about 1880." The author quotes earlier references as to the development of the western hills around Green Valley following the earlier development of the lower lands of Green Valley. The 1911 History further notes the existence of wineries in Green Valley at Forestville, Graton and Sebastopol, all in Green Valley and which ". . . crushed a heavy tonnage of grapes . . ."

Reference is made to the letter dated February 17, 1981 from Robert L. Sisson, County Director and Farm Advisor, Sonoma County, Cooperative Extension, University of California, Sonoma County attached as Schedule B to the Alexander Valley application to establish that Valley as a Viticultural area. In that letter, the area included in this application as part of the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area, is designated by Mr. Sisson

as "coastal cool". In particular your attention is called to three of his specific heat recording locations designated as being in the Graton area and therefore included in the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area. The proposed Green Valley Viticultural area is clearly established as a Region 1 growing region as that term is traditionally defined by Professors Winkler and Amerine, University of California, at Davis. The area is known to provide appropriate growing conditions for grapes which are best grown in cool climates, including Chardonnay and Pinot Noir.

The cool climate, predominant soil type and unique geographical characteristics distinguish the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area from its neighboring areas. The longer cool growing season, frequency requiring frost protection, and the resultant traditionally later harvest time, gave the wine produced from this area distinctive characteristics including customarily higher acidity.

IV.

Narrative description of the boundaries of the proposed Green Valley Viticultural Area.

The maps used are on a scale of 1:24000. The following maps are enclosed: Camp Meeker Quadrangle, N. W./4 Sebastopol 15' Quadrangle, and the Sebastopol Quadrangle, N. E./4 Sebastopol Quadrangle, California Sonoma Co. 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic).

T. 7 N. Begin with the Sebastopol Quadrangle Map, in township 9 North (T. 9 N.), at the point where River Road and Trenton Road intersects Mark West Creek, which becomes Laguna de Santa Rosa, and proceeding Southerly along the West Bank of Laguna de Santa Rosa until it intersects Highway 12 (East of the town of Sebastopol). Proceed Westerly on Highway 12 through the town of Sebastopol which road becomes Bodega Road, continuing on Bodega Road onto the Camp Meeker Quadrangle Map, until the intersection of Bodega Road with Jonive Road in township 6 North (T. 6 N.). Then proceed Northwesterly on Jonive Road until it intersects

Occidental Road in township 7 North (T. 7 N.). Proceed Northwesterly on Occidental Road until Occidental Road crosses the line separating Sections 34 and 35, T. 7 N. Proceed North on that line, continuing along the line separating Sections 27 and 26, T. 7 N., Sections 22 and 23, T. 7 N., Sections 15 and 14, T. 7 N. to the point on that line at the common corner of Sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, T. 7 N. Then proceed from that point East along the line separating Sections 11 and 14 of T. 7 N. to the common corner of Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14, T. 7 N. From that point proceed North along the line separating Sections 11 and 12, T. 7 N. and continuing along the line separating Sections 1 and 2, T. 7 N. to the point where the power transmission line bisects the said line separating Sections 1 and 2, T. 7 N. Proceed along the said power transmission line in an Easterly direction until that line intersects Trenton Road at a point in township 8 North (T. 8 N.) (this point being South of Mirabel Park and West of Mirabel Heights.) Proceed East on Trenton Road until it joins River Road then continue East on River Road on the Camp Meeker Quadrangle Map and continuing on River Road on the Sebastopol Quadrangle Map to the point of the beginning where River Road intersects with Trenton Road, Mark West Creek and Laguna de Santa Rosa.

V.

Copies of the appropriate U.S.G.S. maps with the boundaries of the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area appropriately marked.

Sincerely,

IRONHORSE VINEYARDS

By 

AUDREY M. STERLING
Partner

AMS:esr
Enclosures

Iron Horse Ranch & Vineyard

9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-1909

August 6, 1981

Mr. G. R. Dickerson
Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D. C. 20226

Dear Mr. Dickerson:

Reference is made to our application dated July 21, 1981 petitioning for the establishment of a viticultural area to be designated "Green Valley".

We have been notified that there is another petition for the designation of a "Green Valley" viticultural area located in Solano County.


Although, historically, as is evidenced by the information contained in our petition, our Valley has been known as Green Valley, we would not wish to create a situation which would mislead a consumer.

We would suggest, therefore, that the designation of a viticultural area under these circumstances require that the County name be included as a part of the viticultural designation. For example, if in fact there are two Green Valleys, one should be designated "Green Valley, Solano County" and the other be designated "Green Valley, Sonoma County".

Based upon the assumption that you have before you a petition for the designation of a "Green Valley" viticultural area in Solano County, we request that our petition be ammended to change the name of the proposed viticultural area to "Green Valley, Sonoma County". Although the above suggestion would be our preference, there are several other alternatives which would be acceptable such as "Sonoma-Green Valley" or "Green Creek Valley, Sonoma County".

Very truly yours, *AS*


AUDREY M. STERLING

BARRY H. STERLING *ky* 
IRON HORSE VINEYARDS

BHS:esr

Iron Horse Ranch & Vineyard

9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-1909

September 28, 1981

Mr. Robert L. White
Specialist, Research and
Regulations Branch
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

RE: R:R:R:RLW
5120

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to your letter of September 16, 1981, you will find enclosed herewith the Addendum containing the additional information you requested. If you require any additional information, please let us know. We are most desirous of having the application processed as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,


AUDREY (M) STERLING

AMS/psg

enclosure

cc: David Jacobsohn, Esq.

ADDENDUM TO PETITION DATED JULY 21, 1981

PROPOSED GREEN VALLEY VITICULTURAL AREA

- I. Additional Historical Information: As is documented in the 19th and early 20th Century Atlases and Histories of Sonoma County referred to in our original petition, grapes have been grown in Green Valley since the area was settled during the latter half of the 19th Century. Before prohibition, there were three wineries in Green Valley; at Forrestville, Graton and Sebastopol. Most of the vineyards were removed during the Prohibition era. In the late 1960's continuing through the 1970's and the beginning of the 1980's, substantial new planting and replanting of vineyards have taken place.

Green Valley as designated in our petition, covers an area of approximately 7.7 miles by 7.4 miles and includes approximately 36,467 acres in the total area. The principal wineries included in this area would be Iron Horse Vineyards, Domaine Laurier, Dehlinger, Joseph Swan, Russian River Vineyards, Ravenswood Vineyards and Martini & Prati. Although an exact count of the acres of vineyards under cultivation in the area included in our petition is not known, we estimate that there are approximately 1,200 acres of vineyards in the area currently under cultivation.

- II. Additional Viticultural Information: The proposed Green Valley Viticultural area is a region 1, "coastal cool," growing area. As a result, wines made from grapes grown in the area tend to have a higher natural acidity than are found in the warmer parts of Sonoma. The longer growing season resulting from the cool nights and early morning fogs are believed by many wine makers to make the wines fruitier and lighter in body. This condition also permits picking at lower sugars and the maintenance of higher acid levels. The generally hilly terrain and predominantly Goldridge soil provides good drainage. Traditionally, good vineyards require well drained locations. The availability of water from Green Creek and other neighboring creeks in the proposed Green Valley Viticultural area provides the source for frost protection which is essential for successful viticultural activities in a region 1 zone.

Iron Horse Ranch & Vineyard

9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-1909

May 31, 1983

Mr. Robert L. White
Specialist, Research and Regulations Branch
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Washington, D. C. 20226

Dear Mr. White:

Pursuant to our prior correspondence and conversations, enclosed herewith are a corrected Section IV, narrative description of the proposed Sonoma-Green Valley Viticultural Area, and the corrected related maps, appropriately marked. I am also enclosing a suggested new paragraph (e) under the section entitled "Geographical/Viticultural Features" which is based upon our having conferred with the wine makers for Domaine Laurier and with which description our wine maker is in agreement. I assume that this suggested modification could be included in the final file on this viticultural area.

With the modifications which have been made, we have met all of the boundary objections and suggestions made by vineyard owners included in both the original and the current proposed areas. It is my understanding, therefore, that the petition can now be processed without the necessity of a public hearing.

Mr. Robert Sessions, the Sonoma County Farm Advisor, has advised us that he has transmitted to you the pertinent weather information regarding the Southern Boundary area.

Thank you for your courtesy and helpfulness.


[Redacted signature area]
Barry H. Sterling

BHS:rkb
encl.

Narrative description of the boundaries of the proposed Green Valley Viticultural Area.

The Maps used are on a scale of 1:24000. The following maps are enclosed: Camp Meeker Quadrangle, N.W./4 Sebastopol 15' Quadrangle, the Sebastopol Quadrangle, N.E./4 Sebastopol Quadrangle, and the Guerneville Quadrangle, S.W./4, California Sonoma Co. 7.5 minute series (Topographic).

Begin with the Camp Meeker Quadrangle map at the point where the line separating Section 31 from Section 32, in township 8 North (T. 8N.) on said map intersects River Road and proceeding South along said line, continuing along Covey Road (shown on said map as an un-named road) South to the town of Forestville where said line intersects with Hwy. 116, indicated on said map as the "Gravenstein Highway", then proceeding along the line of the "Gravenstein Highway" East and then as such Highway turns, in a Southerly direction on said Camp Meeker Quadrangle map and continuing on the Sebastopol Quadrangle map until the point at which the "Gravenstein Highway" intersects Hwy, 12 (in the town of Sebastopol). Proceed Westerly on Hwy. 12 through the town of Sebastopol which road becomes Bodega Road until the intersection of Bodega Road with Pleasant Hill Road. At that point proceed Southerly on Pleasant Hill Road until the intersection of Pleasant Hill Road with Water Trough Road. At that point proceed Westerly and then Northerly on Water Trough Road until the intersection of Water Trough Road with Gold Ridge Road. At that point proceed Southwesterly, then Northwesterly and then Northeasterly along Gold Ridge Road to the intersection of Gold Ridge Road with Bodega Road. At that point, proceed in a Westerly direction on Bodega Road onto the Camp Meeker Quadrangle Map, until the intersection of Bodega Road with Jonive Road in township 6 North (T.6N.). Then proceed Northwesterly on Jonive Road until it intersects Occidental Road in township 7 North (T.7N.) Proceed Northwesterly on Occidental Road until Occidental Road crosses the line separating Sections 34 and 35, T.7N. Proceed North on that line, continuing along the line separating sections 27 and 26, T.7N., Sections 22 and 23, T.7N., Sections 15 and 14, T.7N. to the point on that line at the common corner of Sections 10, 11, 14 and 15, T.7N. Then proceed from that point East along the line separating Sections 11 and 14 of T.7N. to the common corner of Sections 11, 12, 13 and 14, T.7N. From that point proceed North along the line separating Sections 11 and 12, T.7N. and continuing along the line separating Sections 1 and 2, T.7N. and the line separating Sections 35 and 36, T.8N; continuing on said line on the Guerneville Quadrangle map, until said line intersects with the North boundary line of Section 36, T.8N. At that point proceed East on the North boundary line of Section 36, T.8N., until it intersects River Road. Proceed Southeasterly on River Road, continuing on the Camp Meeker Quadrangle map until the point of beginning.

GEOGRAPHICAL/VITICULTURAL FEATURES

(e) The climate and soil throughout the proposed viticultural area is excellent for growing cool weather varieties such as Pinot Noir and Chardonnay. The longer growing season resulting from the cool nights and early morning fog permits picking mature fruit at lower sugar levels and the maintenance of higher acid levels. On the slopes of the hills in Green Valley that provide enough sunlight, there can also be grown fully ripe high quality Cabernet Sauvignon and Zinfandel. These varieties will be typically harvested substantially later in Green Valley than in the warmer areas of Sonoma County. The cool weather delays the maturity of the Cabernet and Zinfandel and maintains the natural acidity of the fruit. Excellent exposures of the vines to sunlight on the valley slopes allows the photo-synthetic process to produce the sugar, flavor and color necessary for high quality wine made from later maturing black grape varieties.

Iron Horse Vineyards
9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-2913

July 26, 1983

Mr. Robert L. White
Research and Regulations Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Post Office Box 385
Washington D. C. 20044-0835

Re: Sonoma County-Green Valley

Dear Mr. White:

Confirming our recent conversation it would appear that the modified boundaries of the proposed viticultural area would satisfy all of the objections and requests received from affected vineyard and winery owners.

It would appear that the modified boundaries would result in a total included area of approximately 32,000 acres. We further estimate that it would include approximately 800 acres of vineyards currently under cultivation.

I hope that the above information will be satisfactory for your purposes. If any additional information is necessary, please let us know. Once again, thank you for your continued courtesy and, above all, your patience in dealing with all of the "wine grape growers" in Sonoma County.

Sincerely,


BARRY H. SWERLING

BHS/rs

Iron Horse Vineyards

9786 ROSS STATION ROAD
SEBASTOPOL, CALIFORNIA 95472
(707) 887-2913

December 15, 1982

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Post Office Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Re: Proposed "Sonoma County-Green Valley"
Viticultural Area
Attention: Notice 432

Gentlemen:

Supplementing my letter of December 14, 1982 in connection with the above viticultural area application, I have today been furnished copies of (i) the letter from Mr. Mark Weston, (ii) the letter dated December 12, 1982 from Mrs. Glenna Kormier and (iii) the letter from Mr. Lee P. Martinelli.

So far as Mr. Weston's letter is concerned, from the address given in his letter, he would apparently be exactly on the boundary of the viticultural area as originally proposed. It appears that Mr. Weston prefers to be excluded from the area. We will make an on-site study this next week and hopefully will be able to provide your division with a suggested boundary division that would meet Mr. Weston's goal.

So far as Mrs. Kormier's letter is concerned, to the best of our knowledge she has no vineyards and is not involved in the wine industry. Her home is located directly adjacent to our vineyards and is not operated in any way as an agricultural property. So far as the historical basis of the proposed name, the significant references and descriptions contained in atlases and history books of Sonoma County clearly refute Mrs. Kormier's contentions. Several of the letters you have received from other vineyard operators in the originally proposed area, although perhaps

disagreeing with the exact boundary lines, confirm the information furnished you in our petition as to the climate and agricultural conditions predominating in the major portion of the area. We believe that we should, therefore, concentrate our efforts on satisfying, to the extent possible, the suggestions of the actual vineyard owners in the proposed viticultural area.

Mr. Martinelli indicates that his vineyard is only partially within the originally suggested northern boundary of the proposed viticultural area. This result would clearly be an error in that boundary description which should be corrected. Mr. Martinelli further indicates that his property is in a warmer location than the rest of the proposed viticultural area and wishes to be excluded from the final description. He further suggests, however, that the proposed viticultural area be extended further to the south to include other land owned by him. At the time our petition was prepared, we did not know of vineyards south of Highway 12 which we thought could be included within the historic boundaries of the proposed viticultural area. From Mr. Martinelli's letter, however, it appears he is considering the development of a vineyard just south of our originally proposed southern boundary which he believes may qualify to be included within the proposed viticultural area. As indicated in Barry Sterling's conversation with Mr. Robert White of your bureau, we will attempt to study how the northern boundary could be described to meet Mr. Martinelli's request without inadvertently excluding other nearby vineyards which have expressed the desire of being included within the viticultural area. We will likewise attempt to obtain additional information as to the property Mr. Martinelli refers to south of Highway 12 to see if it could be appropriately included within the boundaries of the proposed viticultural area.

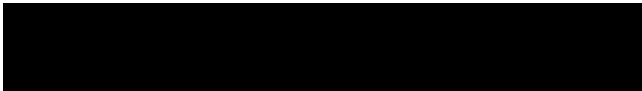
It would appear that those growers who have objected are all located on either the eastern or northern boundaries of the proposed viticultural area (with the exception of Mr. Martinelli's property which he may wish to have included, which lies to the south of the proposed boundary). Without changing the concept

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
December 15, 1982
Page 3

of the proposed viticultural area, we should be able to develop within a short time boundary adjustments which will meet these objections and which can be properly shown on the required Department of the Interior Geological Survey maps. Although many of these objectors requested public hearings, we believe that the actual growers involved have indicated that their requests for a hearing were only if their objections could not otherwise be satisfied. We will use our best efforts to meet such objections so as to avoid the necessity for any further delay.

Sincerely,

IRON HORSE VINEYARDS



Audrey M. Sterling, Partner

cc: Senator Alan Cranston
Congressman-elect Douglas Bosco
David B. Jacobsohn, Esq.
Manatt, Phelps, Rothenberg & Tunney
Washington, D.C.
Barry H. Sterling, Esq.
of counsel, Wyman, Bautzer, Rothman,
Kuchel & Silbert
Forrest Tancer, Partner, Iron Horse Vineyards
Robert L. White
Research and Regulations Branch
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Post Office Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SONOMA COUNTY

May 24, 1983

2604 VENTURA AVENUE—ROOM 100-P
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA 95401
TELEPHONE: (707) 527-2621
4-H (707) 527-2681

Mr. Robert L. White
Specialist, Research & Reg. Branch
Department of the Treasury
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Washington, D.C. 20226

Dear Mr. White:

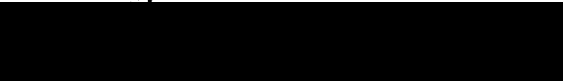
I have been asked by Mr. Forrest Tancer, on behalf of Mr. Barry Sterling of the Iron Horse Ranch and Vineyard, to provide you with the results of our micro-climate studies that were carried on at the Martinelli and McKechnie Ranches in the Sebastopol area of Sonoma County during 1982.

These two locations are approximately a mile apart, slightly south of Bodega Highway and about three to four miles west of Sebastopol. Both of the locations checked in with accumulated degree days totals that would identify them as Region I locations according to the definitions and procedures used by Winkler and Amerine. I choose to call their performance adequately "coastal cool" in nature and very similar to the kind of climate we are used to seeing in the area between Sebastopol, Forestville and Occidental. This area includes the geographical locations that some wish to have identified as Green Valley.

A third location is also included in this same series of studies and is located at the Harper Ranch on Thorn Road, about a mile and a half further south than the Martinelli and McKechnie Ranches. The data from the Harper Ranch also measured adequately "coastal cool" and mathematically Region I. If you are interested in the numerical accumulations, the data are as follows: the McKechnie Ranch had a total degree day accumulation of 2,399, the Martinelli Ranch 1,985, and the Harper Ranch 2,285.

I am inclined to pay more attention to the total hours of exposure between 70-90°F. This seems to be a more meaningful way of predicting behaviour since it reflects exposure to temperatures within the high portion of the photosynthesis curve. To look at the three locations in this manner we found that the McKechnie Ranch experienced 558 hours in this range while the Martinelli Ranch experienced 715 and the Harper Ranch 691. All of these are quite acceptable "coastal cool" readings and are comparable to those to be expected from many proven locations within the Russian River Valley and the proposed Green Valley areas of Sonoma County.

Sincerely,


Robert L. Sißson
County Director/Farm Advisor
Sonoma County

RLS/dmm

cc: F. Tancer
L. Martinelli
E. McKechnie