August 26, 1981
Amended April 30, 1982
Final Amendment December 17, 1982

Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Department of the Treasury
Washington, D.C. 20226

Subject: "MENDOCINO" VITICULTURE AREA PETITION

Gentlemen:

PETITION is hereby made by the below listed wineries, and wine grape growers for the establishment of a specific viticulture area located within the boundaries of Mendocino County, California to be called "MENDOCINO". All petitioners either grow grapes within the boundaries of the proposed viticulture area or crush and process such grapes for the production of wine.

INTRODUCTION

The name "MENDOCINO" has been chosen as the name of the proposed viticulture area because 1) historically, virtually all of the grapes from Mendocino County used in the production of wine have been grown within "MENDOCINO"; 2) the area encompasses eight valleys including Anderson Valley, Potter Valley, Redwood Valley, Calpella Valley, Ukiah Valley, Knights (McNab) Valley, Sanel Valley and McDowell Valley; and 3) the "MENDOCINO" name is synonymous with the excellent wines that are produced from grapes grown in this area which for many years has been known as the "MENDOCINO" appellation area.

Many comments have been written in prestigious wine volumes over the years about the unique and distinctive wines produced from grapes grown within the proposed viticulture area. Excerpts have been taken from two important books in order to demonstrate this praise.

The New York Times Book of Wine published in 1976 by the New York Times Book Co., New York:

"Excellent red wines, principally Cabernet, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel, have been made here over the past few years by producers such as Parducci, Weibel, Cresta Blanca, Fetzer and Husch Vineyards. Other vineyards are being established and many feel that the district of Mendocino is a comer - opening up to vineyards more and more in the future."

The Joys of Wine published in 1975 by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., New York:

"Mendocino is the northernmost of the great North Coast wine districts, but for many years the inland climate there was thought to be too warm for growing the best wine grapes. Now many of the vineyards on cooler hillsides have dramatically proved that Mendocino soil can yield fine fruit from the noble grape varieties; vineyard acreage has increased, and several top-quality wineries have been constructed or enlarged. The future for Mendocino wine is bright indeed."

HISTORY OF THE AREA

Cultivation of the "MENDOCINO" soil began with the first settlement of the area, between 1850 and 1860. Grapes have been growing in the area since the earliest settlement and, according to the Mendocino County Assessor's records, 25,000 grape vines (or about 40 acres) had been planted by 1871.

By 1910, grapes and wines from the area were listed as principal products of the county. At that time, there were 5,800 acres of grapes and 9 wineries that produced 90,000 gallons of wine in the proposed viticulture area. The most popular grape variety of the time was Zinfandel, and today it is still one of the top two grape varieties grown in the area. Mendocino wines did not gain a great deal of notoriety until the early 1970's when large acreages of new vineyards were planted within the proposed viticulture area and wineries were expanded.

DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

"MENDOCINO" encompasses cultivated/agricultural areas in the southernmost one-third of Mendocino County in California. "MENDOCINO" is shaped like the letter V with two forks because a great deal of non-agricultural land has not been included in the proposed area. The eastern fork, the area which encompasses the Russian River watershed in Mendocino County, starts at the headwaters of the Russian River, and extends approximately 30 miles south from there. At its widest point on the north end, the proposed viticultural area is about 12 miles wide, encompassing Redwood and Potter Valleys with a hilly outcropping separating them. Its narrowest point just south of the middle is six miles wide. The east fork is approximately 30 miles inland from the Pacific Ocean and runs almost parallel to the coast line.

The west fork, consisting of agricultural areas found in both the Navarro and Russian River watersheds, starts approximately 1 mile south of a fork in the Navarro River and extends southeast approximately 34 miles. At its widest point on the north end it is approximately 8 miles wide and in the middle at its narrowest point it is 4 miles wide. The west fork also runs parallel to the Pacific coastline, approximately 15 miles inland. At its south end the west fork bends sharply to the east, joining the east fork at its southwestern boundary.

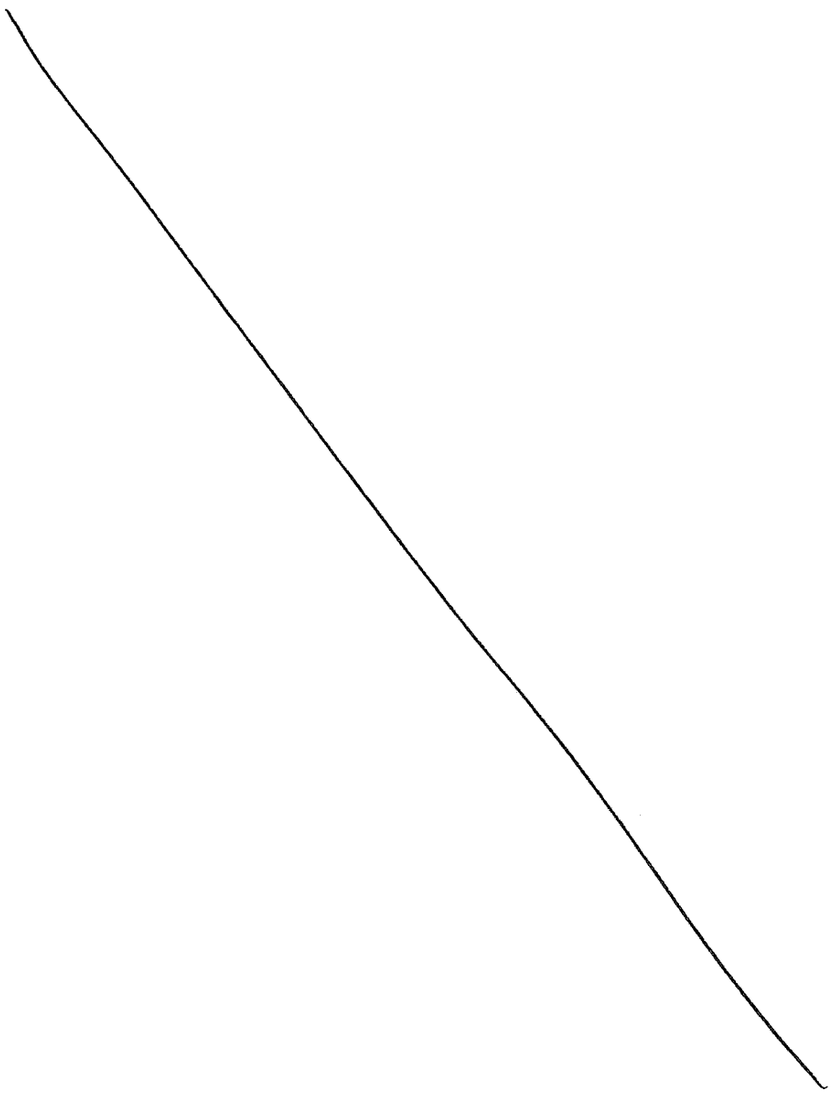
The majority of vineyards within the proposed viticulture area are at elevations ranging from 250 to 1,100 feet, with some vineyards as high as 1,600 feet on the hillsides in the area.

The mountain ridges surrounding the area define the Upper Russian River and Navarro River drainage basins. These ridges, some as high as 3,500 feet, are the natural boundaries of area climates and soil types referred to in this petition.

The area consists of about 275,200 acres or 430 square miles. Approximately 35,000 acres or 13 percent of the area is suitable for grape production.

GRAPE ACREAGE IN THE AREA

There presently are approximately 10,596 acres of grapes estimated to be growing within the boundaries of the proposed viticulture area, according to the 1981 California Grape Acreage Survey published by the California Crop and Livestock Reporting Service.



A recap of the 10,596 acres is shown below:

VARIETY	ACRES
Alicante	14
Barbera	26
Burger	11
Cabernet Sauvignon	928
Carignane	1,865
Charbono	3
Chardonnay	986
Chasselas Dore	14
Chenin Blanc	552
Early Burgundy	67
Emerald Riesling	2
Flora	48
Folle Blanche	4
French Colombard	1,156
Gamay	108
Gamay Beaujolais	688
Gewurtztraminer	270
Grey Riesling	197
Green Hungarian	114
Grenache	76
Malvasia Blanc	2
Merlot	62
Muscat Blanc	3
Palomino	196
Petite Sirah	529
Pinot Blanc	32
Pinot Noir	322
Refosco	3
Ruby Cabernet	16
Salvador	2
Sauvignon Blanc	509
Sauvignon Vert	19
Semillon	23
Sylvaner	26
White Riesling	382
Zinfandel	1,341
TOTAL	10,596

1981 AREA GRAPE CRUSH

During the 1981 harvest season, a total of 38,857 tons of grapes grown in the "MENDOCINO" area were crushed into wine by California wineries. A portion of this tonnage was crushed by wineries in grape growing districts other than "MENDOCINO". The balance was crushed by the following 23 bonded wineries located within the boundaries of the proposed viticulture area:

BRAREN & PAULI WINERY
12507 Hawn Creek Road
Potter Valley, CA 95469

CRESTA BLANCA WINERY
2399 N. State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

DOLAN VINEYARD
1482 Inez Way
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

EDMEADES VINEYARDS
5500 State Highway 128
Philo, CA 95466

FETZER VINEYARDS
1150 Bel Arbes Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

FREY VINEYARDS
14000 Tomki Road
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

GREENWOOD RIDGE VINEYARDS
Box 1090 Star Route
Philo, CA 95466

HIDDEN CELLARS WINERY
P.O. Box 1
Talmage, Ca 95481

HUSCH VINEYARDS
4900 Highway 128
Philo, CA 95466

LAZY CREEK VINEYARDS
P.O. Box 176
Philo, CA 95466

McDOWELL VALLEY VINEYARDS
3811 Highway 175
Hopland, CA 95449

MILANO WINERY
14594 South Highway 101
Hopland, CA 95449

MOUNTAIN HOUSE WINERY
38999 Highway 128
Cloverdale, CA 95425

NAVARRO VINEYARDS
5601 Highway 128
Philo, CA 95466

OLSON VINEYARDS
850 Laughlin Way
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

Parducci Wine Cellars
501 Parducci Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

LARRY PARSONS
P.O. Box 11
Philo, CA 95466

PARSONS CREEK WINERY
3001 South State Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

SCHARFFENBERGER CELLARS
3001 South State St., #22-24
Ukiah, CA 95482

TYLAND VINEYARDS WINERY
2200 McNab Ranch Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

VILLA BACALA
185 East Church Street
Ukiah, CA 95482

WEIBEL WINERY
7051 North State Street
Redwood Valley, CA 95470

WHALER VINEYARDS
6200 East Side Road
Ukiah, CA 95482

SOIL TYPES IN THE AREA

The soils within the "MENDOCINO" area were originally identified in Soil Survey of the Ukiah Area, California, a soil survey jointly conducted in 1914 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the University of California Agricultural Experiment Station. In 1973, the USDA Soil Conservation Service updated many of the soil names and re-classified some bottom land area in a special survey report entitled Soil Survey of the Mendocino County Bottomlands. A copy of both USDA publications are

on file in the office of the Mendocino County Farm Advisor in Ukiah, California.

"MENDOCINO" soils fall into three general groups: 1) residual soils found on surrounding hills; 2) soils derived from older valley-filling material forming terraces around the valleys; and 3) soils derived from recent alluvial deposits forming bottomlands of the valleys.

The residual soils of the area are used for range and wildlife production and are relatively unimportant viticulturally. They have been classed with the Mariposa, Hugo, Josephine, Mendocino, Aiken, Olympic and Climax series and are listed as follows:

Residual Soils

Mariposa Loam
Aiken Stoney Loam
Aiken Loam
Olympic Stoney Loam
Olympic Loam
Climax Clay Adobe
Hugo Gravelly Loam
Josephine Loam
Mendocino Loam

Soils derived from old valley-filling material occupy benches and terraces where grapes have traditionally been grown within the proposed viticulture area and have been classed with the Newtown, Pinole, San Ysidro, Noyo Manzanita and Talmage series as follows:

Soils Derived from Old Valley-Filling Material

Newtown Clay Loam
Pinole Loam
Pinole Gravelly Loam
Pinole Clay Loam
San Ysidro Loam
Talmage Gravelly Sandy Loam
Noyo Loam
Manzanita Clay Loam

The recent alluvial soils occupy fans and stream flood plains and were classed with the Cole, Maywood, Botella, Conejo and Esparto series as follows:

Soils Derived From Recent Alluvial Deposits

Cole Loam
Cole Clay Loam
Maywood Very Fine Sandy Loam
Maywood Gravelly Very Fine Sandy Loam
Maywood Sandy Loam
Maywood Sandy Clay Loam
Esparto Silt Loam
Botella Gravelly Clay Loam
Conejo Gravelly Clay Loam

CLIMATE IN THE AREA

The "MENDOCINO" area generally separates the coastal and interior climate areas and has a very unusual climate pattern. It lies in a climate area called "Transistional".

The area is unusual in climate because either the coastal or the interior climates can dominate the "MENDOCINO" climate for either short or long periods of time. Generally this is reflected by a warmer winter and a cooler summer than the interior climate area east of the proposed viticulture area. Also, it provides a grape growing season that has many warm, dry days and generally cool nights.

The north end of the west fork, the Philo area, has a very unique microclimate. The weather data from this small area is so incomplete, however, that it is not possible to compile complete facts about the area, except that it is classified as Region I on the University of California heat accumulation scale.

The "MENDOCINO" area has a rainy season of moderate temperature and a dry season with high temperatures. The rainy season occurs in the winter months from October through April and the rainfall is greater than the Central Valley area of the state. The five months from May through September constitute the summer or dry season. The average annual temperature for the area is about 59° F., and the annual precepitation varies from about 44 inches in the northern area of the westerly fork to about 37 inches in the south.

The difference in climates for adjacent growing regions is striking and is presented below.

Reference will be made in this section of the petition to the following exhibits:

EXHIBIT B - Table of Cumulative Degree Days.
EXHIBIT C - Table of Rainfall Per Year.
EXHIBIT D - Frost Data - Length of Growing Season.

SONOMA COUNTY

Sonoma County is a major growing region to the south of "MENDOCINO" and displays a profound marine influence. This is apparent in the distribution of heat summation (cumulative degree days) for the area. Winter is mild, resulting in an average growing season of 308 days (see Exhibit D) with the marine influence providing a slightly warmer spring (see Exhibit B) which promotes a bud break

up to 10 days earlier than in the "MENDOCINO" area or in Lake County. The marine air influence in Sonoma County extends throughout the summer, holding cumulative degree days at an average of 541 for June, July, and August, compared to an average of 602 days for the same period in "MENDOCINO".

The total average heat summation for Sonoma County in Table B is 3,046 cumulative degree days, placing it just at the lower range of Region III for grape growing as defined by the University of California.

Average rainfall across Sonoma County is the lowest of the four areas being compared with a range of from 40.50 inches to 24.10 inches and an average of 32.32 inches per year (see Exhibit C).

LAKE COUNTY

Lake County is east of "MENDOCINO" and represents a more harsh continental influence, with some moderation occurring due to the location of Clear Lake. The average growing season in Lake County is shorter (223 days) and cumulative degree days for June, July and August are much higher than all the other regions. Averages are 491, 771 and 771 degree days for these three months with the average summation of cumulative degree days for the area being 3,380. The beginning of the Lake County growing season is cooler than Sonoma, with a more rapid drop (comparatively) to winter temperatures.

Rainfall is more variable throughout Lake County, ranging from 30.65 to 62.16 inches with an average of 45.21 inches.

"MENDOCINO"

"MENDOCINO" lies climatologically in the middle of Sonoma County and Lake County. The average "MENDOCINO" growing season is 268 days and rainfall averages 39.42 inches per year. The distribution of heat for June, July and August averages 602 degree days and falls between Lake County (678) and Sonoma County (541).

These differences demonstrate the unique climate of "MENDOCINO" for viticulture.

BOUNDARY LINES OF THE AREA

The proposed viticulture area and boundary lines may be found on the following U. S. Department of the Interior Geological Survey 15-minute quadrangle maps:

Willits, California
Potter Valley, California
Ukiah, California
Hopland, California
Boonville, California
Navarro, California
Ornbaun Valley, California

A copy of these seven maps (attached together with the boundary lines indicated on each) is enclosed as Exhibit A to this petition. These boundary lines are described as follows with each intersection identified on the attached map by the corresponding letter within the following description. The boundary description starts in the southeast corner and moves counter clockwise from points A through R around the proposed viticulture area.

A. The southeast corner of the proposed viticulture area is at the intersection of the Mendocino

County/Sonoma County line and the center of Sections 29, 30, 31 and 32 of Township 12 north and Range 10 west. From that point the boundary moves north to a point labeled "Jake's Creek" at the northern common corner of Sections 5 and 6 of T12N, R10W.

B. From that point, the boundary moves in a straight, northwest line to a point labeled Bedford Rock in Section 3, T13N, R10W.

C. From that point, the boundary continues in a straight, Northwest line to a point labeled Red Mtn., in Section 17, T13N, R11W.

D. From that point, the boundary continues in a straight, northwest line to a point labeled as the center of Sections 25 and 30 of T16N, R11W and Sections 31 and 36 of T16N, R12W.

E. From that point, the boundary moves in a straight, northeast line to the intersection of the Mendocino County/Lake County line with Range Line R11W-R10W and Township line 16-17 north..

F. From that intersection, the boundary continues in a straight, northwest line to the intersection of Township Line T18N/T17N with the south corner common to Sections 32 and 33 of T18N, R11W.

G. From that intersection, the boundary continues in a westerly direction along T18N/T17N to the intersection of T18N/T17N with Range Line R13W/R12W.

H. From that intersection the boundary moves in a straight line south to a point labeled Eagle Rock in Section 16, T15N, R13W.

I. From that point the boundary continues in a straight southeast line to a point labeled Bus McGall Peak, in Section 4, T13N, R12W.

J. From that point the boundary continues in a westerly direction to an unnamed hilltop, elevation 2015 ft., in the northeast corner of Section 9, T13N, R13W.

K. From that point the boundary moves in a northwest line to the junction of Bailey Gulch and the south branch, north fork of the Navarro River, in Section 8, T15N, R15W.

L. From that point the boundary continues in a southwest line to Benchmark 1057 in Section 28, T15N, R16W.

M. From that point the boundary moves directly south to the intersection of that due south line with Greenwood Creek at the point at which Greenwood Creek crosses the common boundary of Section 33, T15N, R16W and Section 4, R16W, T14N.

N. From that point the boundary follows Greenwood Creek in a southeasterly direction to the intersection of Greenwood Creek and the south section line of Section 16, T14N, R15W.

O. From that point the boundary follows the south section line of Sections 16, 15 and 14; T14N,

R15W, in an eastern direction to the intersection of the south section line of Section 14 with an unnamed creek in Section 14, T14N, R15W.

P. From that point the boundary continues in a southeast direction to Benchmark 680 in Section 30, T13N, R13W.

Q. From that point the boundary continues in a straight southeast line to the intersection of the southwest corner of Section 32, in Township 12 North Range 11 ~~East~~, and the Mendocino County, Sonoma County line.

R. From that intersection the boundary follows the Mendocino County, Sonoma County line to the east, returning to Range Line R10W, which is the southeast corner of the proposed Viticulture area and the point at which this boundary description began.

NOTE: All township and range descriptions refer to the Mt. Diablo base and meridian.

CONCLUSION

The petitioners recognize that several of the smaller areas within the proposed "MENDOCINO" viticulture area either have been or will eventually be designated and stand alone as separate viticulture areas. The proposed area may also someday be part of a larger viticulture area. We feel it is important, however, to preserve, as one viticulture district, the area from which grapes used for so many years in producing "MENDOCINO" wines have grown. To do otherwise would be a disservice to the consumer.

We hereby respectfully request that "MENDOCINO", as defined in this petition, be designated as a separate viticulture area.

NOTE: Original signature pages were attached to the "MENDOCINO" petition dated April 30, 1982, mailed to B.A.T.F. on June 7, 1982, and on file in the Washington, D.C. office of B.A.T.F.

Attached is an additional original signature page of grape growers and winery principals in Anderson Valley, the area that has been added to the proposed Mendocino Viticulture area.

Wineries located within proposed "Mendocino" Appellation.

Greenwood Ridge

Navarro Vineyards & Winery

Husch Vineyards & Winery

Edmeades Vineyards & Winery

Larry Parsons Vineyards & Winery

Lazy Creek Vineyards & Winery

Vineyards located within proposed "Mendocino" Appellation.

Anderson Valley Vineyards

Goodhue Vineyards

Balverne Vineyards

Big Tree Vineyards

B.J. Carney Co. Vineyards

Dennison Brothers Vineyards

Edmeades Vineyards

Ordway Vineyards

Husch Vineyards

Lazy Creek Vineyards

Parsons Vineyards

Pullman Vineyards

Navarro Vineyards

Wiley Vineyards

EXHIBIT B

TABLE OF CUMULATIVE DEGREE DAYS

SONOMA COUNTY	7-MO. TOTALS	RANGE OF CUM DEGREE DAYS APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
Cloverdale	3,654.0	249.0	419.5	582.0	710.0	673.0	609.0	412.0
Healdsburg	3,202.0	222.0	381.0	516.0	582.0	586.0	540.0	375.0
Santa Rosa	2,757.9	180.0	306.9	435.0	504.0	508.0	483.0	341.0
Sonoma	2,888.0	177.0	301.0	471.0	570.0	552.0	498.0	319.0
Petaluma	2,731.3	168.0	294.5	423.0	495.0	505.3	489.0	356.5
High to Low Range	2,731.3	168.0	294.0	423.0	495.0	505.0	483.0	319.0
	3,654.0	249.0	419.0	582.0	710.0	673.0	609.0	412.0
Average	3,046.0	199.0	340.6	485.5	572.2	564.0	523.8	360.6

MENDOCINO	7-MO. TOTALS	RANGE OF CUM DEGREE DAYS APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
Ukiah (2)	2,819.0	60.0	254.0	450.0	623.0	632.0	453.0	347.0
Redwood Valley	2,914.0	81.0	295.0	453.0	645.0	645.0	501.0	295.0
Coyote Dam	3,084.0	93.0	264.0	492.0	663.0	682.0	561.0	329.0
Hopland U.C.	3,113.0	90.0	341.0	489.0	679.0	676.0	528.0	310.0
Potter Valley	3,353.0	177.0	341.0	510.0	735.0	691.0	567.0	332.0
Ukiah (1)	3,490.0	219.0	372.0	528.0	735.0	701.0	582.0	353.0
Boonville	2,906.0	141.0	267.0	438.0	580.0	595.0	522.0	363.0
High to Low Range	2,819.0	60.0	254.0	450.0	623.0	632.0	453.0	295.0
	3,490.0	219.0	372.0	528.0	735.0	701.0	582.0	353.0
Average	3,097.0	123.0	305.0	480.0	666.0	660.0	531.0	333.0

LAKE COUNTY	7-MO. TOTALS	RANGE OF CUM DEGREE DAYS APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
Upper Lake	2,967.0	123.0	304.0	457.0	702.0	702.0	626.0	337.0
Scotts Valley	3,447.0	114.0	317.0	476.0	791.0	792.0	622.0	335.0
Kelseyville	3,365.0	110.0	325.0	487.0	766.0	766.0	593.0	319.0
Middletwon	3,742.0	153.0	362.0	544.0	824.0	825.0	673.0	363.0
High to Low Range	2,967.0	110.0	304.0	457.0	702.0	702.0	593.0	319.0
	3,742.0	153.0	362.0	544.0	824.0	825.0	673.0	363.0
Average	3,380.0	125.0	327.0	491.0	771.0	771.0	629.0	339.0

WILLITS	7-MO. TOTALS	RANGE OF CUM DEGREE DAYS APR.	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG.	SEPT.	OCT.
	2,224.0	21.0	192.0	363.0	508.0	515.0	396.0	229.0
High to Low Range	N.A.							
Average	2,224.0	21.0	192.0	363.0	508.0	515.0	396.0	229.0

All data in this exhibit is from climate studies done by the University of California Agricultural Extension Service offices in Lake, Mendocino and Sonoma Counties and is available from them on request.

EXHIBIT C

TABLE OF RAINFALL PER YEAR SHOWN IN INCHES

GROWING AND REGION STATIONS	RAINFALL IN INCHES 0 3 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36 39 42 45 48 51 54 57 60 63
LAKE COUNTY	
Upper Lake	42.83
Kelseyville	30.65
Middletown	62.16
(Data from 66 to 69 - Lake County Climate Study)	
LAKE COUNTY AVG. = 45.21	
SONOMA COUNTY	
Cloverdale	40.50
Healdsburg	39.81
Santa Rosa	29.25
Sonoma	27.96
Petaluma	24.10
SONOMA COUNTY AVG. = 32.32	
MENDOCINO	
Potter Valley	44.05
Ukiah	35.94
*Hopland (U.C.)	37.00
***Anderson Valley	40.68
MENDOCINO AVG. = 39.00	
WILLITS	
Howard Forestery	57.45
**Station	
5 YR. AVG. = 57.45 (1978 - 1982)	

*From University of California Field Station Records
**From California State Forestry Records
***From "The Climate of Mendocino County" as recorded by the Boonville Department of Highways
Other Data from: "Climatography of The United States No. 81-4, Decennial Census of U.S. Climate"

EXHIBIT D

FROST DATA - LENGTH OF GROWING SEASON

GROWING REGION/STATION	GROWING SEASON (ASSUMING FROST AT 28°)	
	NO. OF DAYS	AVERAGE
LAKE COUNTY		
Upper Lake Clearlake Park	246	223
Upper Lake Ranger Station	200	
MENDOCINO		
Ukiah	290	268
Potter Valley	246	
FT. BRAGG - (MARINE)	365	365
SONOMA COUNTY		
Cloverdale	343	
Healdsburg	339	
Santa Rosa	290	308
Sonoma	263	
Petaluma	307	

Data from:

"Climatography of The United States No. 81-4, Decennial Census of U.S. Climate"

Climate of Sonoma County, C. Robert Elford, Sonoma County and University of California Agricultural Extension Service Office