



## **Overview**

We respectfully submit this petition to annex property to the existing boundary of the American Viticultural Area known as the Russian River Valley. This petition is based upon the premise that the property proposed to be annexed falls within the geographical features described for the Russian River Valley and follows the coastal cool fog incursion line that historically settles in the area, which affects the climate and character of the grapes produced in this region (see Map No. 12 for boundary map of proposed annex area).

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**Item 1 – Evidence that the name of the Viticultural area is locally and/or nationally known as referring to the area specified in the application**

We propose to extend the current boundary of the American Viticultural Area known as the Russian River Valley by following the intersection of Fulton Road and River Road at the Town of Fulton, proceeding south along Fulton Road to its intersection with Francisco Avenue, then east and south along Francisco Avenue until it intersects the line separating Section 5 and Section 4 (on attached boundary Map #6) to a point just east of the intersection of Barnes Road and Dennis Lane, then east along Dennis Lane to U.S. Highway #101, and then northwest along Highway #101, returning to River Road, proceeding west on River Road to its intersection with Fulton Road at the Town of Fulton, thereby amending the Russian River Valley Appellation to include an additional 767 acres. Approximately 365 of these acres are dedicated to vineyards. We believe this region to be completely within the climate of Russian River Valley. Grapes grown in this area and labeled as such will serve to support consumer clarification regarding the appellation of origin (see Map No. 1 – existing boundaries and Map No. 2 – existing boundaries, along with proposed area for annexation).

In years past wines in the proposed region were inadvertently privately labeled Russian River Valley, as the winegrape growers believed themselves to be in the Russian River Valley. The following list indicates those who are within the area proposed for annexation as holding various membership types as currently posted on the Russian River Valley Wine Grape Growers Association's website (See Attachment A for supporting documentation):

Bisordi Vineyards, Grower Member  
Dry Creek Vineyards, Associate Member  
LeCarrefour Vineyards, Grower Member  
Sonoma Grapevines, Retail & Commercial Member  
Topolos @ Russian River Vineyards, Winery Member

Marcucci Vineyards, located in the proposed area for annexation, has been approached for membership by the Russian River Valley Winegrape Growers Association. Even today, on land that falls within the proposed annexation area, there are those who believe they are a part of the Russian River Valley.

The following attachments are offered as support of our belief that the area proposed for annexation is perceived by the public and media alike to presently be a part of the Russian River Valley Appellation:

**Attachment A** Membership information from Russian River Valley Winegrape Growers Association's website.

**Attachment B** Russian River Wine Road Internet Site noting Vintners Inn as a travel destination situated in *Russian River Valley*. Vintners Inn (LeCarrefour Vineyards) is located at 4350 Barnes Road, Santa Rosa, where Barnes Road intersects with River Road. (The north side of River Road is a boundary for the Russian River Valley Appellation).

**Attachment C** Wine Spectator Online – article dated June 15, 2001, noting that Vintners Inn is located in the *Russian River Valley*.

**Attachment D** Wine Country Living Magazine (formerly Appellation) – pull-out map of appellations defined by color. Area shown as *Russian River Valley* includes property proposed for annexation.

**Item 2 – Historical or current evidence that the boundaries of the Viticultural area are as specified in the application**

The area proposed for annexation falls within the Russian River Valley watershed (See Map No. 5). The Russian River watershed is primarily an agricultural area with the greatest emphasis on vineyard and orchard crops.

The term “Russian River,” in viticultural and winemaker parlance, is a distinct, identifiable climate characterized by historical year-round cool temperatures and a definitive coastal cool fog incursion line, with the close proximity of the Pacific Ocean designating this area as “coastal cool”.

A portion of the land proposed for annexation was an abandoned vineyard and prune tree orchard when originally purchased (Vintners Inn/LeCarrefour Vineyards) in the year 2000. This area has since been replanted with Chardonnay, which is consistent with the varieties being grown in the established Russian River Valley Viticultural Area. Fog is a frequent intruder in July and August which makes the area suited most notably to Chardonnay as well as Pinot Noir.

Information garnered from locals, among them Messrs. John Marcucci and Henry Bisordi, lifelong residents of the area, revealed that the proposed area is a mix of parcels, with some acreage originally planted in prune orchards. Years ago, prune orchards were more profitable than vineyards, but when the market turned, some of the orchards were extracted to make way for grape planting. Mr. Marcucci’s four-generation family ownership of 30-acres, located within the proposed annexation area, dates back to 1918, a time when the planting of this land was both orchards and vineyards. Prior to 1918 his family’s property was all vineyards – if memory serves him correctly, Mr. Marcucci believes the early vineyards were planted in Petite Syrah, Zinfandel and Pinot Noir.

Recollections of the previous owner of Vintners Inn is that approximately 50 acres was devoted to French Colombard and orchards. Roughly 25 years ago, the orchards were extracted and Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc and Savignon Blanc were planted.

**Item 3 – Evidence relating to the geographical features (climate, soil, elevation, physical features, and the like) which distinguish the Viticultural features of the proposed area from surrounding areas**

**Climate:**

The most compelling evidence that the boundaries of the viticultural area are as specified in this application is based on scientific observation of fog incursion and temperature. It is these climatic conditions, as well as topographical and soil composition features, that define the “Russian River Valley” as an AVA appellation.

Map No. 3 identifies fog intrusion lines in Sonoma County and clearly depicts that this distinctive fog intrusion more than covers the area proposed for annexation.

The Russian River Valley is classified as a “coastal cool” zone by the Sonoma County Farm Advisor from the University of California. It is this unique “Coastal Cool” climate that is the single most defining factor in Russian River Valley, and fog is the unifying influence.

Since the 1940’s and the completion of the study of California vineyard climatic regions by Professor A. J. Winkler, degree-day modeling has been used as a criteria in determining various regions and appellations. Per the Winkler study, temperatures are measured and accumulated between the beginning of April and the end of October for any given year. Using an Adcon Weather Station, we monitored air temperature, precipitation, humidity and wind speed from the beginning of April 2001 to end of October 2001 to achieve a reading expressed in degree days. This information is recorded and downloaded on a daily basis.

We have used the standard Winkler degree-day modeling system to determine the average temperatures in our vineyards within the area which we are petitioning to have included in the Russian River Valley appellation, with the following results:

Vino Farms Vineyard Russian River Valley Apellation	2477 Degree Days
Vintners Inn (LeCarrefour Vineyards) Sited within proposed boundary changes	2636 Degree Days
Storey Creek Vineyard Russian River Valley Appellation	2736 Degree Days

Note that all three vineyards are within the range of 2500-3000 Degree Days that constitute a Region II growing area, also called "Coastal Cool," which defines the Russian River Valley Appellation.

In short, 2500-3000 Degree Days = Region II = Coastal Cool = Russian River Valley.

See Tab No. 8 for supporting documents – Degree Day Analyses and excerpts of daily degree day readings for April and May, 2001 and excerpt from A. J. Winkler's text describing Region II

**Soil:**

In reviewing the Russian River Valley Viticultural Area (\*Map Nos.4, 4a 4b and 4c), we observed the following:

Vintners Inn (also known as LeCarrefour Vineyards) was planted many years ago in Carignan, has since been replaced with Chardonnay and is approximately 6 miles from the Russian River. The southernmost boundary is approximately 9 miles in distance. As the map illustrates, elevations within the appellation range from less than 200' to 1652', with approximately 50 percent of the appellation being less than 200'. Elevations of the area proposed for annexation range from 140' to 150' (See Map No. 6 located under Tabs 4 and 5).

As shown on Map No. 4, the predominant soils found in the proposed area to be annexed are HuB Huichica Loam, YtA Yolo Clay Loam, and YsA Yolo Silt Loam (see Tab No. 7 soil description).

These soils are consistent with those found in various areas of the existing Russian River Valley Appellation as noted on Map Nos. 7 through No. 11. These maps identify the soil as being the same consistency as that found at wineries who are part of the Russian River Valley Appellation.

Map No. 7 presents an overview of locations of Russian River Valley wineries as they appear in proximity to the proposed area for annexation.

Following are soil types and supporting maps of wineries highlighted on Map No. 7:

Kendall-Jackson Wine Center, Fulton	Map 8	YsA soils
Sonoma-Cutrer, East Shiloh Road, Windsor	Map 9	HuB soils
Rodney Strong, River East-Redwood Highway	Map 10	YsA soils
De Loach, Piner Road, Santa Rosa	Map 11	HuB soils
Battagalini, Santa Rosa	Map 11	HuB soils

The vineyards listed above contain fractions of soils similar to those found at Vintners Inn/LeCarrefour and the extended properties. Sites were cross-referenced using the Sonoma County Soils Survey and the Russian River Valley Viticultural Area Map, dated 12/93.

\*Map 4 USDA Soils Survey Map; Map 4a Index to Sonoma County Map Sheets; Map 4b USDA Soils Survey Map area overview; Map 4c Overlay Annex Boundary for Soils Map

**Item 4 – The specific boundaries of the Viticultural area, based on features which can be found on United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) maps of the largest applicable scale; and**

The Russian River Appellation Annex Area is located in Sonoma County, California. The boundaries are as follows (see Map No. 6, under)

- 1) Beginning on the Sebastopol, CA Quadrangle map at the intersection of Fulton Road and River Road at the Town of Fulton.
- 2) Proceed south along Fulton Road to its intersection with Francisco Avenue.
- 3) Proceed east and south along Francisco Avenue until it intersects the line separating Section 5 and Section 4.
- 4) Proceed north on the line separating Section 5 and Section 4 to a point just east of the intersection of Barnes Road and Dennis Lane at elevation 139 feet.
- 5) Proceed east along Dennis Lane through the Sebastopol, CA Quadrangle map and onto the Santa Rosa Quadrangle map and continue east along an extension of Dennis Lane to its intersection with California Highway 101.
- 6) Proceed northwesterly along California Highway 101 through the Santa Rosa, CA Quadrangle map and onto the Sebastopol, CA Quadrangle map to where it intersects River Road and Mark West Springs Road.
- 7) Proceed west along River Road to its intersection with Fulton Road at the Town of Fulton being the Point of Beginning.

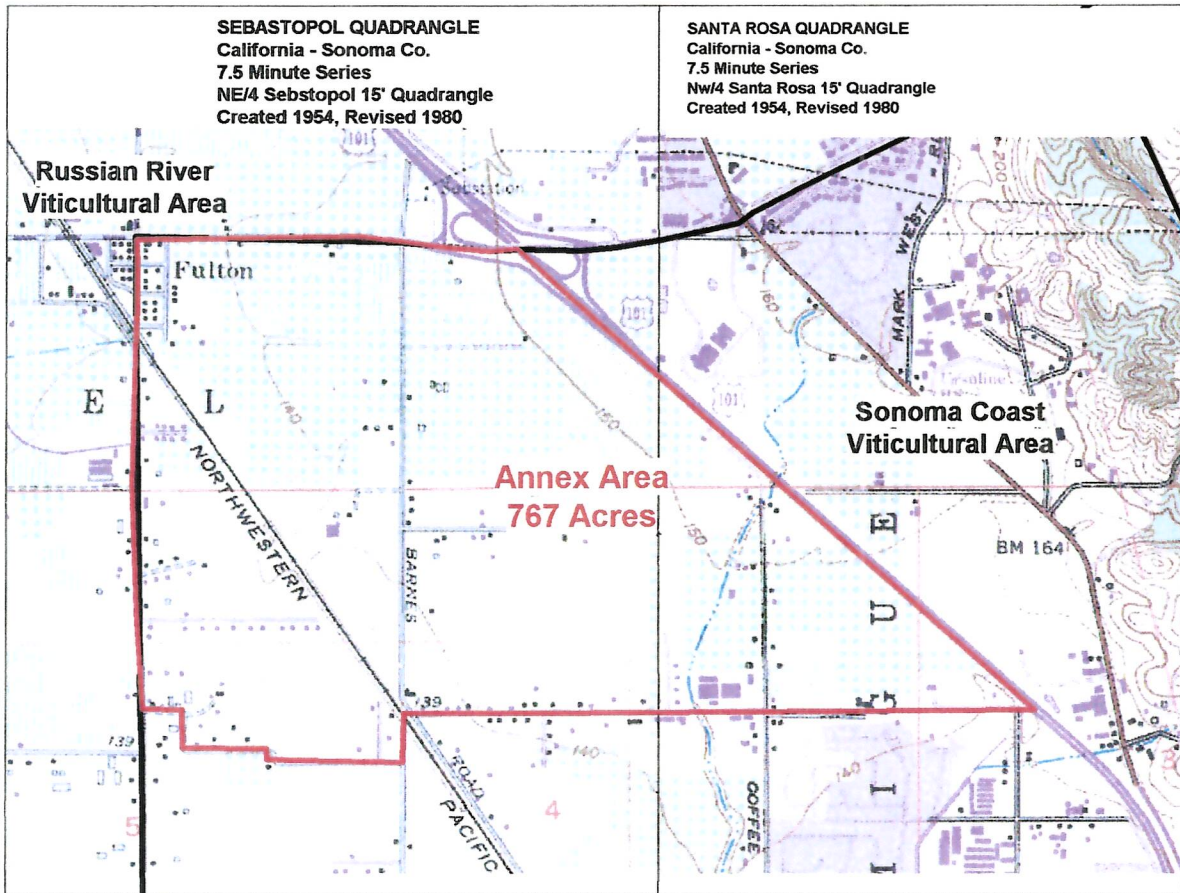
**Item 5 – A copy of the appropriate U.S.G.S. map(s) with the boundaries prominently marked**

Attached Map No. 6

USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles (Sebastopol & Santa Rosa)

(See map on previous page.)

Don Carano Russian River Appellation Annex  
USGS 7.5 Minute Quadrangles (Sebastopol & Santa Rosa)



Note: This map was created by Ray Carlson & Associates, Inc.  
USGS quadrangle maps were scanned from Maptech Software.  
Viticultural area boundaries are the product of a Sonoma County  
Grape Grower Mapping Project.

Any boundary or acreage shown is approximate and strictly for  
reference purposes only.



Scale: 1:24,000

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