

Climate

The petitioner states that the term "Russian River," as it applies to viticulture, refers to that portion of the Russian River valley influenced by cool temperatures and coastal fog. The proposed expansion area has heavy fog, according to an undated map included in the petition and titled "Lines of Heaviest and Average Maximum Fog Intrusion for Sonoma County."

The current petitioner and Treasury Decision ATF-159, which established the Russian River Valley viticultural area, both refer to the Winkler degree-day (accumulated heat units) system, which is used to classify grape-growing climatic regions (See "General Viticulture," Albert J. Winkler, University of California Press, 1975). As noted in Treasury Decision ATF-159, "The Russian River Valley viticultural area is termed 'coastal cool' with a range of 2000 to 2800 accumulated heat units."

The petitioner conducted a degree-day study of three vineyards from April 2001 through October 2001, which coincides with Winkler's growing season. Two of these vineyards are within the established Russian River Valley viticultural area, while the other is in the proposed expansion area. This study measured air temperature, wind speed, precipitation, and humidity at the three area vineyards. The petitioner provided the degree-day (accumulated heat units) results shown in the following table:

Vineyard	Degree-days (accumulated heat units)
In the <i>established</i> viticultural area:	
Vino Farms Vineyard	2,477
Storey Creek Vineyard	2,736
In the <i>proposed expansion</i> area:	
LeCarrefour Vineyards	2,636

The results from the three vineyards studied show that all three are within the 2,000 to 2,800 accumulated heat units range found in the Russian River Valley viticultural area, as stated in Treasury Decision ATF-159. ATF independently confirmed that LeCarrefour Vineyards, at 4350 Barnes Road, Santa Rosa, California, is within the petitioned expansion area.

Elevation

Elevations within the proposed expansion area range from 130 feet to 160 feet, with a gentle rise from southwest to northeast, according to the two USGS topographic maps covering

the expansion area. These elevations are similar to those found in the portion of the established Russian River Valley viticultural area immediately adjacent to the proposed expansion.

Soil

The predominant soils of the proposed expansion of the Russian River Valley viticultural area are Huichica Loam, Yolo Clay Loam, and Yolo Silt Loam, as depicted on the Sonoma County Soil Survey map (USDA, 1972), sheet 74. These soils are also found within the established Russian River Valley viticultural area in vineyards to the north of the proposed area, as depicted on pages 57 and 66 of the maps developed by the USDA's Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service in May 1972. Treasury Decision ATF-159, which established the Russian River Valley viticultural area, does not identify the predominant soils of the area or indicate any uniqueness in the soils of the viticultural area.

Watershed

The established Russian River Valley viticultural area and the proposed expansion area are in the large Russian River Valley watershed, as noted on the (California) Department of Fish and Game Inland Fisheries Division's "Russian River Watershed" map of April 1, 1997. This watershed includes the Russian River and the tributaries noted in Treasury Decision ATF-159.

Boundary Description

The proposed expansion area is along the current eastern boundary line of the Russian River Valley viticultural area in a 90° angle at the village of Fulton, just northwest of the city of Santa Rosa, California. The proposed expansion area boundary has four irregular sides and is wider along its southern side than at its northern side. Its overall size is 767 acres, or about 1.2 square miles. The general road boundaries are Fulton Road to the west, River Road to the north, U.S. Highway 101 to the east, and Dennis Lane and Francisco Avenue to the south. Fulton Road on the west and River Road on the north form a portion of the current Russian River Valley viticultural area's eastern boundary.

Maps

The proposed expansion of the Russian River Valley viticultural area is shown on two USGS maps: the Santa Rosa Quadrangle, California—Sonoma Co., 7.5 Minute Series, edition of 1994; and the Sebastopol Quadrangle, California, 7.5 Minute Series, edition of 1954, photorevised 1980.

Public Participation

We request comments from anyone interested. Please support your comments with historical data or data concerning the growing conditions or boundaries of the area. We will consider your comments if we receive them on or before the closing date. We will consider comments received after the closing date if we can. We will not acknowledge receipt of any comments. All comments received will be considered as originals.

You may submit comments in any of five ways:

- *By Mail:* You may send written comments to ATF at the address listed in the **ADDRESSES** section.

- *By Facsimile:* You may submit comments by facsimile transmission to 202-927-8525. Comments transmitted as facsimiles must—

- (1) Be legible;
- (2) Reference this notice number;
- (3) Be on 8½ x 11-inch paper,
- (4) Contain a legible, written signature; and
- (5) Be five or less pages long. This limitation assures electronic access to our equipment. We will not accept faxed comments that exceed five pages.

- *By E-mail:* You may e-mail comments to nprm@atfhq.atf.treas.gov. Comments transmitted as electronic-mail must—

- (1) Contain your name, mailing address, and e-mail address;
- (2) Reference this notice number on the subject line; and
- (3) Be legible when printed on 8½ x 11-inch paper.

- *Online:* We provide a comment form with the online copy of this proposed rule. See the "Regulations" section of the ATF Internet Web site at <http://www.atf.treas.gov>.

- *In Person:* You may write to the Director to ask for a public hearing. The Director reserves the right to determine, in light of all circumstances, whether a public hearing will be held.

Disclosure

You may inspect copies of the petition, the proposed regulations, the appropriate maps, and any written comments received by appointment at the ATF Reference Library, Room 6480, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226. You may also obtain copies of documents and comments related to this notice at 20 cents per page. If you want to view or request copies of comments, call the ATF librarian at 202-927-7890.

For your convenience, we will post comments received in response to this notice on the ATF Web site. All