

viticultural area, create a common boundary line between the two areas, and avoid overlapping of the viticultural areas. Claude Hoover of Delicato Family Vineyards, Monterey, California, filed both petitions.

What Name Evidence Related to San Bernabe Has Been Provided?

According to the 1991 publication of "Monterey County Place Names, A Geographical Dictionary," by Donald Thomas Clark, Father Pedro Font, a member of the California expedition of Spanish explorer DeAnza, documented the initial reference to San Bernabe on March 8, 1776. He wrote in his diary, "we had passed a spur of the Sierra de Santa Lucia * * * The road at first runs through a spur of mountains, until it descends to a wide valley called the Cañada de San Bernabe." Eventually the area became known as "Rancho San Bernabe."

The Thompson Canyon and San Lucas USGS quadrangle maps prominently identify the area as San Bernabe. The relevant Thomas Guide labels this area Rancho San Bernabe. The TopoZone map Web site identifies this rural area as San Bernabe.

The 13,000-acre San Bernabe vineyard, with 7,636 acres planted to grapes, sits almost entirely within the proposed new and realignment viticultural areas. The petitioner explains that the small portion of the vineyard estate outside these proposed boundaries is unplanted and unsuitable for grape cultivation. The San Bernabe vineyard estate is recognized as the largest continuous vineyard estate under a single ownership in the free world, according to the petitioner.

What Historical/Current Evidence Supports the Boundaries as Specified?

According to the 1991 "Monterey County Place Names, A Geographical Dictionary," the San Bernabe area land grants were given to Jesus Molina in 1841 and in 1842 to Petronillo Rios. In 1842 Rios bought the Molina land grant and the Rios family began raising cattle and crops on this land and producing wine from their own grapes. The Rios ranch, known as Rancho San Bernabe, eventually became a successful vineyard and wine producing property.

According to the petitioner, in the 1970s Prudential-Southdown purchased the San Bernabe acreage for vineyard development. The petitioner explains that in 1988 the Delicato family bought the San Bernabe vineyard for its premium and super-premium wine market potential. The San Bernabe vineyard estate occupies 52 percent of

the proposed viticultural area of the same name.

The petitioner defines the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area boundaries on USGS maps by connecting benchmarks, mountain peaks, and other geographical features with straight lines and by using several existing roads that follow the hilly terrain and soil changes.

The proposed San Bernabe viticultural area shares portions of its west and southwest boundary lines with the surrounding Monterey viticultural area, which is also surrounded by the Central Coast viticultural area. If the petitioned realignment is approved, the proposed San Bernabe area will share its southeast boundary with the San Lucas viticultural area. According to the petitioner, the transfer of 1,281 acres of the San Lucas viticultural area to the San Bernabe proposed viticultural area would better define the geographical differences between the established San Lucas and the proposed San Bernabe viticultural areas and avoid splitting an existing vineyard between viticultural areas.

What Geographical Features Distinguish San Bernabe From Other Areas?

The proposed San Bernabe viticultural area is located immediately south of King City in the long Salinas Valley. The approximately 9-mile-long and 7-mile-wide proposed viticultural area occupies the valley floor and rolling foothills from the Salinas River west to the Santa Lucia Mountains. The petitioner explains the unique qualities of the San Bernabe area include its climate, water quality, wind-produced eolian soils, and rolling hills. The petitioner claims that the 1,281 acres proposed for realignment possess the similar eolian soils, rolling hills topography, and the same irrigation water quality of the petitioned San Bernabe viticultural area.

Soil

Grapes grow below the 700-foot elevation level on rolling hills in wind-produced eolian soils, according to the petition. The Oceano, Garey, and Garey-Oceano complex eolian soil types, which are well to excessively well-drained, dominate the petitioned San Bernabe viticultural area. The petitioner states that small niches of alluvial soils, derived from the shale-based Santa Lucia Mountains, lie within the petitioned area and immediately to the north and south of the proposed boundary lines.

The surrounding, larger Monterey viticultural area consists of only 1.6 percent eolian soils, and the alluvial

Lockwood series soils dominate the adjacent San Lucas viticultural area, according to the petitioner. The proposed realignment area possesses a predominance of the wind-produced eolian soils that contrast to the alluvial type soils of the San Lucas area. Above and west of the 700-foot contour line, the soils are derived from the shale-based Santa Lucia Mountains. The bench soils along the east boundary are common to the Salinas River area. East of the proposed viticultural area, the Gabilan Mountain Range includes calcareous sandstone, shale, and siltstone, which come from a different source material, according to the petitioner.

Climate

The petitioner explains that the Salinas Valley forms a broad funnel for the strong, cool, afternoon marine winds coming off Monterey Bay during the warm months. The winds are drawn inland and south through the Salinas Valley by rising, warm air and moderate the valley's high and low temperatures to varying degrees, which produces a graduated effect within the Salinas Valley. As a result, the proposed San Bernabe area is warmer than viticultural areas to the north and that are closer to Monterey Bay and cooler than the adjoining San Lucas viticultural area to the immediate south, according to the petition.

The moderating effect dissipates as the winds travel inland, creating a series of temperature-unique, grape-growing areas within the long Salinas Valley. San Bernabe, at 60 miles south of the Monterey Bay, averages a 30-degree daily temperature variation, while Salinas, at 17 miles from the Monterey Bay, averages an 18-degree daily temperature variation, according to the petition.

The cool night air helps retain the grapes' acid and color, while the daily heat encourages ripeness and flavor. The petition states that the San Bernabe area averages 30 frost-days annually, while Salinas, closer to Monterey Bay, averages only four frost-days.

According to the petitioner, most rain falls at the Salinas Valley's extreme north and south ends. Less rain falls in between, including the proposed viticultural area. The petition states that the San Bernabe area averages 13 inches annual rainfall, while Salinas at the north end averages 17.5 inches, and Paso Robles at the south end averages 19 inches.

Water Resources

The petitioner explains that irrigation water is used extensively in the