

vineyards. The water comes from area reservoirs and contains small amounts of carbonates and nitrates, which benefits the grapevines and soil. Toward the Monterey Bay, water quality declines as nitrate and carbonate levels increase, according to the petitioner.

#### *What San Lucas Boundary Descriptions Have Been Provided?*

We are considering the San Bernabe petition and a revision of the north boundary of the San Lucas viticultural area as defined in 27 CFR 9.56 at the same time. The proposed revision would reduce the San Lucas viticultural area from 34,642 to 33,361 acres, a loss of 3.5 percent, or 1,281 acres, which would be incorporated into the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area. A series of high elevation boundary points establishes the San Lucas area north border and currently overlaps the south boundary line of the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area. The San Lucas north boundary line bisects seven of the petitioner's vineyard blocks. Ninety percent of the large San Bernabe vineyard estate is within the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area, and ten percent is within the San Lucas viticultural area, according to the petitioner. Approval of the San Lucas realignment would avoid a division of this vineyard.

In support of the San Lucas boundary revision, the petitioner indicates that the soils in this area closely reflect the sandy loam soils of the San Bernabe area. The 1972 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of Monterey County map documents a change from the Oceano loamy sand and Garey sandy loam soils that dominate the San Bernabe area to the Greenfield, Lockwood, and Metz soils that dominate the San Lucas area. The petitioner explains that the same climate and irrigation factors exist in the proposed 1,281-acre realignment area and the proposed new San Bernabe viticultural area, as is demonstrated by the petitioner's uniform viticulture practices within the 13,000-acre vineyard estate.

#### *What Maps Reflect the Boundaries of the Proposed San Bernabe Viticultural Area and the Boundary Revision of the San Lucas Viticultural Area?*

The petitioned new San Bernabe viticultural area and the established San Lucas viticultural area are located in Monterey County, California. Four USGS-published, 1:24,000 scale topographic maps define the boundaries of the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area. The maps are—

(1) Thompson Canyon Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1984);

(2) San Lucas Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1984);

(3) Espinosa Canyon Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1979); and

(4) Cosio Knob Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1984).

The USGS publishes the two maps used to mark the boundaries of the San Lucas viticultural area's proposed realignment. The scale is 1:24,000, and the maps are—

(1) Espinosa Canyon Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1979); and

(2) San Lucas Quadrangle, California-Monterey County, 7.5 Minute Series, 1949 edition (photorevised 1984).

This proposed realignment area is an angular strip of land in the northwest San Lucas viticultural area, adjacent to the proposed San Bernabe viticultural area.

### **Public Participation**

#### *Who May Comment on This Notice?*

We request comments from anyone interested. TTB is particularly interested in whether the adjustment of the San Lucas viticultural area boundaries will impact other vineyards or wineries. Please support your comments with specific information about the proposed area's name, growing conditions, or boundaries. All comments must include your name and mailing address, reference this notice number, and be legible and written in language acceptable for public disclosure.

Although we do not acknowledge receipt, 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 regard all comments as originals.

#### *Will TTB Keep My Comments Confidential?*

We do not recognize any submitted material as confidential. All comments are part of the public record and subject to disclosure. Do not enclose in your comments any material you consider confidential or inappropriate for disclosure.

#### *How Can I Get Information About This Notice?*

You may view copies of the petition, the proposed regulation, the appropriate maps, and any comments received by appointment at the ATF Reference Library, 650 Massachusetts Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20226. You may also obtain copies at 20 cents per 8.5 11-inch page. Contact the ATF Librarian at the above address or telephone 202-927-7890 to schedule an appointment or to request copies of comments.

For your convenience, we will post this notice and the comments received on the TTB Web site. All posted comments will show the names of commenters but not street addresses, telephone numbers, or e-mail addresses. We may also omit voluminous attachments or material that we consider unsuitable for posting. In all cases, the full comment will be available in the ATF Reference Library. To access the online copy of this notice, visit <http://www.ttb.gov> and select "Alcohol," then "Rules and Regulations," then "Notices of proposed rulemaking (Alcohol)." Select the "View Comments" link under this notice number to view the posted comments.

#### *How Should I Submit Comments?*

You may submit comments in any of four ways.

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

- *By facsimile:* You may submit comments by facsimile transmission to 202-927-8525. Faxed comments must—

- (1) Be on 8.5-by 11-inch paper;

- (2) Contain a legible, written signature; and

- (3) 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@ttb.gov](mailto:nprm@ttb.gov). Comments transmitted by electronic-mail must—

- (1) Contain your e-mail address;

- (2) Reference this notice number on the subject line; and

- (3) Be legible when printed on 8.5-by 11-inch paper.

- *By online form:* We provide a comment form with the online copy of this notice on our Web site at <http://www.ttb.gov>. Select "Alcohol," then "Rules and Regulations," then Notices of proposed rulemaking (Alcohol)." Select the "Send comments via email" link under this notice number.

You may also write to the Administrator before the comment closing date to ask for a public hearing. The Administrator reserves the right to