



April 9, 2007

Director, Regulations and Rulings Division
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
Attention: Notice NO. 71
P.O. Box 14412 Washington, D.C.20044-4412

Subject: **Withdrawal of Paso Robles Westside Petition**

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Justin Baldwin and I am the proprietor of JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery in Paso Robles, California. I have owned and operated my vineyard and winery in the far western portion of the Paso Robles AVA since 1981 and currently sell my wine in all 50 states and over 20 countries outside the U. S. I am one of 21 individual petitioners originally asking for your consideration of the establishment of a Paso Robles Westside AVA. I am also Vice Chairman of the Paso Robles AVA Committee. After careful and thorough review of our Paso Robles Westside AVA petition I respectfully request that you **officially withdraw my name as petitioner in this matter.**

The basis for my reversal of position is that:

- 1) The geographic scope of the petition covers too large and diverse of an area encompassing non-cohesive topographic and climatic extremes. Specifically, the northern boundaries of the proposed region are in general hotter and dryer than those in the middle and the southern boundaries which experience higher rainfalls and more moderate temperatures. The southern areas in the petition can be generally characterized by as valley, the central part is mountainous and the north a high plain.
- 2) The soil scientist contracted to provide the "soils" information for our petition, Thomas J. Rice Ph.D. C.P.S.S.hhb, has asked that the Paso Westside AVA petition be rejected due to "inaccurate representation of information related to soil diversity" within the petition. Thus my confidence in the basis for the overall accuracy of the petition is diminished.
- 3) The delineation of the eastern boundary line of the proposed Westside AVA being the Salinas River is arbitrary as the soil and weather patterns used to define

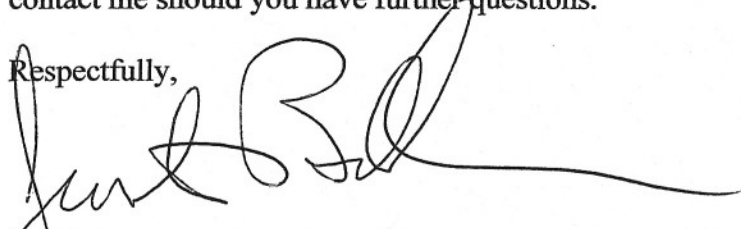


the proposed AVA don't just stop at the Salinas River and extend in an eastward direction beyond the river bed.

- 4) The historic use of the Westside name has been confined to a much smaller area immediately west and south of the City of Paso Robles generally referred to as Adelaida and Templeton Gap, not the northern area surrounding the city of San Miguel or the southern- most portion of the Paso Robles AVA near the town of Santa Margarita.
- 5) The proposal being put forth by the Paso Robles AVA Committee to petition for the establishment of 12 separate AVA's within the existing Paso Robles AVA is more comprehensive and is based on more sound and substantial scientific, historic, and climatic data.
- 6) Approval of the Paso Robles Westside AVA, as presently drafted, followed by the subsequent approval of the proposed 12 AVA's submitted by the Paso Robles AVA Committee, some of which wholly or partially lie within the proposed Paso Robles Westside boundaries (San Miguel District, Adelaida District, Willow Creek District, Templeton Gap District and Santa Margarita District) will lead to confusion in the mind of the public as their boundaries do not compliment each other.
- 7) If there was to be a Paso Robles Westside AVA it should be confined to an area that **exactly** overlaps the boundaries of some of the AVA's proposed by the Paso Robles AVA Committee. Specifically this should include **only** the proposed Adelaida District and Templeton Gap Districts. Doing so would eliminate future "muddle" caused by overlapping boundaries and assure consistent "science" and historic accuracy in support of the "nesting" of these smaller multiple AVA's within a larger more encompassing AVA.

Thank you for your consideration of my request that you withdraw my name as a petitioner of the presently proposed Paso Robles Westside AVA. I urge you to reject that proposal in favor of the Paso Robles AVA Committee's proposal. I encourage you to contact me should you have further questions.

Respectfully,



Justin Baldwin
JUSTIN Vineyards & Winery
11680 Chimney Rock Road
Paso Robles, California
93446
805 238 6932 Ext. 101