

THIS WAS SCANNED + E-MAILED TO YOU ON YOUR
WEBSITE ON 4/18 BUT WAS NOT YET POSTED
R Haas

Mr. Frank Foote, Director Regulations and Rulings Division 4/18/2007
Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau
1310 G Street, NW Room 200 East
Washington, D.C. 20220

Re: Proposed Paso Robles Westside Viticultural Area – Notice No. 71

Dear Mr. Foote:

I am writing to correct another improper use of a statement by a Tablas Creek Vineyard associate, in this case me, by Mr. Beckett in his comment number 128. I am quoted as follows,
"There has been some criticism of the soils on the Westside yet many growers and producers came to the region looking for specific qualities. Take Las Tablas Creek (sic) for example. In an article in The Tribune, San Luis Obispo County, April 13, 2007, "A new milestone for Paso's Rhone ranger" the founder of Las Tablas Vineyard (sic) turns 80 next week; he and his partners were among the pioneers who chose the chalky hills of west Paso to make a home for Rhone". "After a long search, Haas discovered the area west of Paso Robles, where the rocky, calcareous soil was almost identical to that of the Rhone valley and where climatic conditions were ideal for Rhone varieties". "It took us almost five years to zero in here," Haas (sic) recalls. "We looked all over the state, and one day we noticed the chalky soil when we were driving up Peachy Canyon (Westside)* and that was really what we were looking for".

As Francois Perrin and Neil Collins and I, whose words were also used, have written in our prior comments to you regarding our supposed advocacy of the proposed Paso Robles Westside AVA, our words have been distorted and taken out of context. Never did any of us consider "The Westside" to be anything else but the vineyard locations directly west of the city of Paso Robles, e.g. Adelaida, certainly not the whole proposed Paso Robles Westside AVA as implied.

The petition has consistently used distorted, incorrect and totally unsubstantiated statements, without consulting or even notifying their authors, as arguments in favor of its adoption.

Among those unsubstantiated statements are the claims that the Paso Robles Westside has been a well-known [viticultural] area for 100 to 150 years. Those claims have been written by apparent friends of the petitioner to the TTB in comments 17,19,22,23,29,32,33,38,41,42,46,50,70,76,77,and 78 (100 years), and 7,18,36,43,and 55 (150 years).

In fact, There was no "well known" commercial Paso Robles vineyard area at all before the mid nineteen seventies and the Paso Robles AVA was only established in 1985. Before that the wine industry in Paso Robles consisted of small wineries and vineyards that sold their products locally.

Because of the inadequacy of real evidence of a viticulturally distinct Paso Robles AVA, and the continued outrageous use of incorrect, misquoted, and misused statements of others, even those of its principal expert, I urge you to reject the proposed Paso Robles Westside AVA petition.

Respectfully submitted, Robert Haas, owner of Tablas Creek Vineyard

*w/westside inserted by the petition