

STONEY CREEK VINEYARDS
Vernon & Marcia Gerwer
8221 Stoney Creek Road
Somerset, CA. 95684

January 24, 1983

Chief of Regulation and Procedures
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
PO Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0365

Regarding Notice #439

Dear Sir

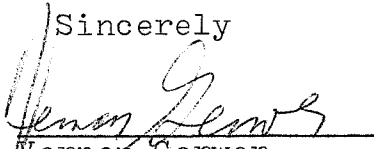
We as Grape Growers and Wine Makers urge you to adopt "El Dorado" as the Appellation for this area. The name depicts the area well. The many thousands of acres of grapes grown in this area soon after the Gold Rush, we believe, ties the name to the area.

The boundaries of El Dorado cover many micro-climates of the area but are above the heat of the great Sacramento Valley, this makes El Dorado a distinct area in climate.

We believe El Dorado to be the best name choice.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely


Vernon Gerwer

DAVIS²

Consultants in Earth Science

P.O. Box 724 • Georgetown, CA 95634 • (916) 333-1405



January 25, 1993

Chief of Registration and Procedures
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
PO Box 385
Washington D.C., 20044 - 0385

Re: notice #434

Dear Sirs:

As an agricultural consultant and a grape grower in the proposed viticultural district entitled "El Dorado", El Dorado County, California, I strongly support approval of the district and name.

Such an appellation of origin will allow consumers assurance of quality at the market place. The name "El Dorado" identifies the area in the Sierra Foothills where quality is premium.

Approval of the appellation "El Dorado" by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms will enhance the overall quality of the wine industry.

Respectfully,

Aed Davis
consultant/grower

GRANITE SPRINGS WINERY & VINEYARDS

6060 GRANITE SPRINGS ROAD, SOMERSET, CALIFORNIA 95684 (209) 245-6395

January 23, 1983

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
Post Office Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Reference: Notice No. 439

Gentlemen:

We are writing to strongly urge that you approve the proposed viticultural area to be known as "El Dorado" in El Dorado County, California.

As grape growers and owners of an El Dorado County winery we feel it is essential to produce Estate Bottled wines. Our vineyards will, in time, provide a major portion of our crush. Any other grapes purchased will be from the El Dorado area.

We feel this area is unique and very much deserves its own identity and recognition.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Les and Lynne Russell". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Les and Lynne Russell

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division

BATF

PO BOX 385

WASHINGTON, DC 20044-0385

NOTICE NO 439

DEAR SIR:

THE EL DORADO WINE GROWING REGION IS APPROPRIATE SINCE IT WAS THE LARGEST WINE GROWING REGION ^{IN CALIF.} AT ONE TIME. THE NUMBER OF WINE BRANDS HAS INCREASED 33% SINCE THIS APPLICATION WAS MADE. THE AMOUNT OF PLANTED AVERAGE HAS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 25%.

The total area has similar climates with many varied microclimates which are and should be included.

WITH RESPECT TO THE EL DORADO NATIONAL FOREST. NO VINEYARDS ARE PLANNED OR PLANTED THERE. IT IS A VERY HIGH ELEVATION AND MOST IS PROBABLY NOT SUITED FOR WINE GRAPES. THE QUESTION MAY NEVER SURFACE. HOWEVER, IF IT CAN BE USED FOR OTHER AGRICULTURAL ENDEAVORS, (TIMBER, CATTLE) WHY NOT GRAPES?

I encourage your approval of the EL DORADO Appellation.

Sincerely
John W. Maclean



January 25, 1983

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms
P.O. Box 385
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

Re: 47 FR 55954
Notice No. 439
"EL DORADO" Viticultural Area

Dear Chief,

We are writing in support of the petition to establish "El Dorado" as a viticultural area designation. We have been producing wine here since 1972, and have spent those ten years educating our consumers and resellers about the "El Dorado" region as distinguished from other foothill areas. We produce Estate Bottle wines, and therefore must have approval of a viticultural area in order to continue using the designation. It would be unfair to force us to use some other name, than the words "El Dorado", in which we have invested so much promotional and educational effort over a period of ten years. It does not make sense to make up a new name now which would have no consumer recognition. We urge approval of the name "El Dorado".

The notice of proposed rulemaking (No.439) solicited comments about "whether a grapegrower has permission from the Department of Agriculture to grow winegrapes in the El Dorado (sic) National Forest". All winegrapes are produced on privately owned land in this area. If ATF suspects a conflict because of names, let us point out that the National Forest is named "Eldorado", not "El Dorado"; one word, not two.

Very truly yours,
Susan Boeger
Susan L. Boeger

January 24, 1983

Chief, Regulation and Procedures Div.

BATF

Ref. Notice no. 439

Dear Sir,

I am writing to support and urge the approval of the El Dorado appellation of origin. I feel that the name is particularly appropriate in view of the history of the area. The El Dorado grape growing region lies within El Dorado county and is in the heart of the California Mother Lode and gold rush region. Grapes have been grown here since shortly after the gold rush and at one time the area was a bigger producer of grapes and wine than the Napa valley. The region was known as El Dorado at that time and El Dorado remains a common name in the area even now. There is for example a town of El Dorado within the area. A variety of other names were considered but El Dorado is the traditional name and avoids confusion.

The boundaries of the area are based on historical reasons and on the local climate. The region is particularly well suited to the production of premium wine varieties due to the special weather conditions which exist. Warm days combined with cool nights and a high winter rainfall contribute to the special climate and make the area quite different from the nearby Sacramento valley and lower elevations. The grape growing region is clearly identified with the native vegetation in what is called the Sonoran transition zone which marks the transition from oak forest and grass lands to pine and cedar forest. This ranges from about 1600ft elev. to about 3000 ft although it varies with the local topography. These facts support the proposed boundaries as being logical and explain why this region is unique as a wine producing area.

The appellation of origin would be of real value to local growers and wineries in helping to promote what we feel are unique and different wines. In addition it would be of real value to the County of El Dorado and the local communities. The area has a higher than average unemployment and agriculture as a whole has done very poorly in the last ten years. The only exceptions being apples and the grape growing areas. Although small the production of grapes and wine continues to expand and contributes a large and growing share of the agricultural income for the county. In addition the growth of the wineries contributes to the local tourism industry as well.

For all these reasons I urge you to adopt and approve the El Dorado appellation of origin.

Sincerely,


Joe Harralson

Spanish Creek Ranch



Mt. Aukum, California 95656

John and Katherine Hosley

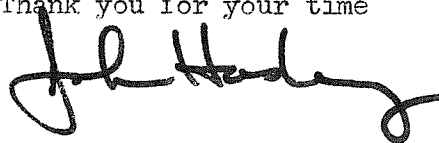
████████████████████
Placerville, Ca. 95667

Chief, Regulations and Procedures
B.A.T.F.

Dear Sirs,

We as grape growers in El Dorado County, support the appellation petition. Vineyards in this county parallel the dates of gold discovery. this geographic area is becoming synonymous with its premium wines, and in our opinion should be designated as a separate viticulture area.

Thank you for your time

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Hosley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Thank you for your time".

January 25, 1983

Chief, Regulations and Procedures Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
Post Office Box 385
Washington, D. C. 20033-0385

Re: Notice # 439

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

In regard to the aforementioned notice # 439, concerning the appellation EL DORADO versus EL DORADO COUNTY, we are writing to voice our opinion in this matter.

We feel that the appellation EL DORADO should be approved for this area, not only because of its historical significance, but also because EL DORADO in its translation most certainly signifies our grape growing area; rich in its land and opportunity.

Using EL DORADO COUNTY, on the other hand, would seemingly limit our grape growing area to the county itself. Since the grape growing area extends beyond this boundary, we feel that the use of EL DORADO COUNTY would be most inappropriate.

Sincerely,



Karen and Rick Crose
Crose Family Vineyards

Placerville, Ca. 95667



HERBERT VINEYARDS



Jan 29 1983

Dear Mr. Hascollo

Re planting grapes on government
forest land:

I talked to the forestry people and learned that there is no prohibition against leasing government land to plant grapes. However, none is planted (or leased) in Orinda County now, and considering the forest land and the topography it is highly unlikely that any requests would be approved.

Sincerely

Frank Herbert



HERBERT VINEYARDS



Jan 24, 1983

Chief: Regulations and Procedures Division

Dear Sir / Madam :

I am writing to support the request
for the appellation "El Dorado" (notice #439).

We have a distinct and discrete grape
growing area within the proposed boundaries,
and produce premium wines.

In discussions with individuals I
have encountered no confusion with the
name El Dorado and the governmental
boundaries El Dorado County. People
recognize the words El Dorado relate
to the historical grape growing region
dating back to gold rush days.

Yours truly

Frank Herbert



FITZPATRICK, BERTRAM & FITZPATRICK

6881 FAIRPLAY ROAD, SOMERSET, CALIFORNIA 95684 WINERY (209) 245-3248 OFFICE (916) 626-1988

Chief
of Regulations & Procedures Division
B.A.T.F.
P.O. Box 385
Washington D.C. 20044-0365
Notice #439

Dear Sirs,

This letter is written in support of the proposed appellation EL DORADO. Much work and discussion did pass to arrive at the boundaries that best fit the significance of our unique wine growing region. Our historical past is rich in wine history as is our present expanding wine industry. The name EL DORADO is undisputedly the most appropriate name for this region. Again I support the confirmation of the appellation EL DORADO.

Sincerely,

Brian Fitzpatrick
General Manager & Vineyard Manager
F.B.F. WINERY & FITZPATRICK VINEYARDS

EL DORADO COUNTY

311 Fair Lane, Placerville, California 95667
Phone 916/626-2468

January 26, 1983

Chief, Regulations and Product Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P. O. Box 385
Washington, D.C. 2004-Code 385

Dear Chief:

This letter supports the El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association's application for the appellation name of El Dorado (Notice No. 439).

The growers chose the name El Dorado rather than El Dorado County as experience has shown premium table wine grapes perform distinctively at elevations ranging from 1200 to 3500 feet in our County which geographically ranges from 500 feet in the west to 10,000 feet elevation in the east.

The name El Dorado stands well by itself, both historically as the gold discovery area of California and currently to describe the locale and its activities. Statewide agricultural organizations use El Dorado as a district name. I call my grower newsletter "El Dorado Trees and Vines". This agricultural identification has emerged from the gravitation of a number of crops to the favorable climate and soils encompassed by the 1200 to 3500 foot zone within El Dorado County.

For optimum quality, varietal wine grapes must be grown in cool climates that frequently are marginal for crop and vine survival during periods of excessive coldness. The El Dorado vineyards are grown on mountain ridgetops that are characterized by several climate components desirable for most table wine grape varieties. These are:

1. Warm sunny days for producing fruit sugars, acids and flavor constituents.
2. Nights that cool quickly, thereby preventing respiration of these products.
3. Early onset of cold fall nights in September providing ideal conditions for the vitally important final ripening period.
4. Mitigation of crop and vine destroying freezing temperatures by the slippage of excessively cold air into the deep river canyons located between mountain ridges.

This climate is remarkably stable from year to year and is the most important factor influencing El Dorado wine grape quality.

The soils of the El Dorado region also provide an important contribution. The rainfall in this zone as created loam soils 30 to 60 inches deep, but with most soils around 4 feet deep. The ideal grape soil is a four foot loam.

Soils below 1200 feet are shallow due to insufficient rainfall. Good soils are found above 3500 feet, but the season is too short for most grape varieties to mature their crops.

I encourage your favorable consideration of the El Dorado appellation. With the qualifications described herein, El Dorado wines may soon be expected to command the attention of all wine connoisseurs. Indeed the process is well started. Even some of my counterparts in other California grape districts confidentially admit El Dorado someday will be undisputedly known as the best.

Sincerely submitted,



Dick Bethell
Farm Advisor

DB/wm



EL DORADO COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

542 MAIN STREET • PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667 • PHONE AREA 916-626-2344

January 27, 1983

Chief: Regulations and Procedures Division
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

RE: Notice No. 139

Dear Sir:

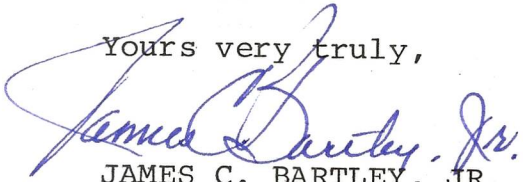
Our letter of December 11, 1981 supported the request of the appellation "El Dorado" by the El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association. We understand that the request for approval is actively being considered, and wish to reaffirm our original support.

The boundaries of the proposed appellation encompass our premium grape growing area. To expand the area to the west would bring in lower elevation land, which would not produce the quality of grapes associated with the higher foothill territory. The county land to the east is generally either too high to support vine growth, or is otherwise unsuited to agricultural endeavors.

The name "El Dorado" was chosen after very careful study of all historical references to our grape growing industry. It is the one best name to fit the appellation territory.

At the meeting of our Board of Directors this date, our strong support of this "El Dorado" appellation was reaffirmed and your approval of this request is urged.

Yours very truly,


JAMES C. BARTLEY, JR.
President

EL DORADO COUNTY
Department of Agriculture
PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667

January 27, 1983

Chief, Regulations and Product Division
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
P.O. Box 385
Washington, D.C. 2004-Code 385

Dear Sir:

The area in El Dorado County under consideration for area of appellation is composed of three main ridges that run from the High Sierra to almost the Sacramento Valley floor. The area identified as prime for grape growing spans an elevation range of 1200' to 3500'. It is bordered on the north by the middle fork of the American River, on the south by the south fork of the Consumnes River, on the east by the Sierra Nevada mountain range, and on the west by the great Sacramento Valley.

There is U.S. Forest Service and B.L.M. lands in the area; however, it is anticipated that none of these lands will ever be utilized for grape production.

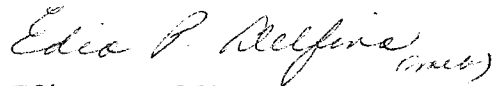
Coloma, the gold discovery site that began the great California gold rush is located in this area. Due to the gold rush, El Dorado County, during the late 1800's, began one of the largest grape growing areas in the State. The depression, prohibition, and a serious disease completely removed all commercial grapes growing in the County. In the 1960's wine produced from varietal grape test plots growing in El Dorado County proved to be of exceptionally high quality. As a result of these grape test plots, varietal grapes were planted and wineries constructed.

Within the last 12 years varietal wines from El Dorado County have received many awards for quality -- both nationwide and international. The most encouraging indicator of fine quality wines is the wide acceptance of the buying public towards wines produced from grapes grown in El Dorado County.

It is my opinion, and that of many grape and wine experts, that the reason premium wines are produced from grapes grown in El Dorado County at elevations ranging from 1200' to 3500' is due to warm days and cool nights during the time that the varietal grapes are maturing. Cool air originating in the snows of the High Sierra Nevada quickly lowers temperatures in this area at sundown. Lack of fog and smog, that effectively block sunlight, may be another contributing factor.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you desire further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edio P. Delfino". To the right of the signature, there is a small, faint handwritten note that appears to say "(11/16/64)".

Edio P. Delfino
Agricultural Commissioner

EPD:mlb



EL DORADO COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

542 MAIN STREET • PLACERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95667 • PHONE AREA 916-626-2344

January 27, 1983

Chief: Regulations and Procedures Division
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TABACCO AND FIREARMS
Washington, D.C. 20044-0385

RE: Notice No. 139

Dear Sir:

The Agriculture Council of the El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce totally supports the request by the El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association for the appellation "El Dorado".

We understand that during the review process at B.A.T.F. a suggestion was made to add a word to be appended to the term "EL Dorado". This request was carefully considered. Unfortunately, there was no word that "fits". El Dorado Hills is a real estate development, and is outside the boundaries. The territory is not in a valley, nor is there a name other than "El Dorado" that from either a present day or historical point of view better describes the area.

Grapes for the appellation produce premium wines. We believe this is due to the following:

- The climate, because of the elevation, tends to be a little cooler during the day, and the back breezes from the Sierras make for cool nights.
- Vineyards are planted on foothill land, which throughout the world is recognized to produce wines of strength and substance.
- The soil is such as to permit the growth of distinctive grapes.

We respectfully request that you approve the appellation "El Dorado".

Yours very truly,

FRANK HERBERT
Chairman
Agriculture Council