

FAIR PLAY WINERY ASSOCIATION

P0 Box 318

Fair Play, California 95684

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
ATF Regulations Division
650 Massachusetts Avenue Room 5000
Washington, D.C. 20226
Attn: Richard A. Mascolo

re: Proposed **“FAIR PLAY”** Viticultural Area, El Dorado County, California

The proposed “FAIR PLAY” appellation of origin encompasses an approximate 33 sq mi area of deep, well-drained granitic soils in southern El Dorado County, California, entirely within the existing “El Dorado” and “Sierra Foothills” viticultural areas (27 CFR Sec 9.61).

The general boundaries are the canyon of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River to the north; rugged terrain and higher elevation to the east; volcanic soils to the southeast and south; Cedar Creek running through a deep canyon between two areas of non—granitic soils to the southwest; Cedar Creek flowing into a short section of Scott Creek and into a mile long section of the South Fork of the Cosumnes (near River Pines) thence northerly cross country to the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes. The proposed name derives from the old gold mining camp of Fair Play, now a small country crossroads, and Fair Play Road, which bisects the proposed viticultural area. The Fair Play area now boasts ten bonded wineries and a number of vineyards ranging in size from less than five acres to over seventy acres.

We enclose the following information, per 27 CFR 4.25a(e)(2):

- (a) Evidence that the proposed name is locally or nationally known as “Fair Play”, referring to the proposed area;
- (b) Historical and current evidence of proposed boundaries;
- (c) Evidence of geographical features which distinguish the proposed area from surrounding areas (climate, soil, etc.)
- (d) A description of the specific proposed boundaries, based on features shown on U.S. Geological Survey maps; and,
- (e) The appropriate USGS maps, showing the proposed boundaries.

Also included are a bibliography of the published sources; photocopies of relevant extracts (copyright permitting); local maps, publicity brochures, and labels cited in the text; and a list of interested parties.

Please contact us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick President - Fair Play Winery Association

Fitzpatrick Winery / 530-620-3248 / fax 620-6838 / brian@fitzpatrickwinery.com

FAIR PLAY WINERIES AND VINEYARDS:

Fitzpatrick Winery and Lodge, 7740 Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Granite Springs Winery 6060 Granite Springs Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Windwalker Vineyards 7360 Perry Creek Road., Fair Play CA 95684
Latcham Vineyards PO Box 80, Mt. Aukum, CA 95656
Single Leaf Vineyards 7480 Fair Play Road., Fair Play CA 95684
Perry Creek Vineyards 7400 Perry Creek Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Oakstone Winery 6440 Slug Gulch Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Charles B. Mitchell Vineyards 8221 Stoney Creek Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Van de Vijver Estate Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Firefall Vineyards 5951 Mt. Aukum Road, Somerset CA 95684

Oliver Vineyards P.O. Box 512 I/ 6140 Granite Springs Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Spanish Creek Vineyard P.O. Box 131, Mt. Aukum CA 95656
Naylor Vineyards 7700 Shenandoah Lane, Fair Play CA 95684
Suttey Vineyards Vineyard View Drive, Somerset CA 95684
Herbert Vineyards P.O. Box 438, Somerset CA 95684
Breece Franks 7351 Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Merle London 7449 Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Mike O'Brien 7301 Ranch Camp Road, Mt. Aukum CA 96656
David Smiley P.O. Box 838, Somerset CA 95684
Al Limbertos 316 Mt. Sierra Place, Clayton CA 94317
Rick Wickham 6340 Grizzly Flat Road, Somerset CA 95684
Hal Lamb 7440 Dorado Canyon Road, Somerset CA 95684
Robert Lejoy 2440 Myrick Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Gerald Felice 4040 Ron Tree Lane, Fair Play CA 95684
John Verbitsky Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Dave Pratt 4054 Sayoma Lane, Placerville CA 95667
Joel Sklar 7660 Perry Creek, Fair Play CA 95684
Karen Wood P.O. Box 727, Mt. Aukum CA 95656
Tom Chiu 6881 Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Steve Edmunds 4059 Emery Street, Emeryville CA 94608
Tracy Hinton 2861 Carmine, Carson City NV 89706
Jonathan Lacks & Susan Marks P.O. Box Somerset CA 95684
Stan Van Spanje 7460 Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684
Jim Brown 3900 Twanka Road, Somerset CA 95684
Marion Smith P.O. Box 26, Mt. Aukum CA 95656
Ruggero Mastroserio P.O. Box 338, Somerset CA 95684



OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES:

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, 542 Main Street, Placerville CA 95667

El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association, PO Box 248, Placerville CA 95667

El Dorado Winery Association, PO Box 1614, Placerville CA 95667

Fair Play Store (Dennis & Doris King), Fair Play Road, Fair Play CA 95684

El Dorado County Agricultural Commissioner Bill Snodgrass, 311 Fair Lane, CA 95667

University of California Cooperative Extension 311 Fair Lane, Placerville CA 95667

“FAIR PLAY” VITICULTURAL AREA, EL DORADO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

(a) EVIDENCE OF NAME OF “FAIR PLAY”

- Summary
- History of Fair Play
- Origin and Variations of Name
- Viticultural History of Fair Play
- Current Use of “Fair Play” Appellation
- Local and National Recognition

(b) EVIDENCE OF BOUNDARIES OF “FAIR PLAY”

- Summary
- Examples of Use of Name Throughout Proposed Viticultural Area
- Cultural Distinctions Between “Fair Play” and Surrounding Areas
- Post Office Names

(c) EVIDENCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND VITICULTURAL FEATURES

- Summary
- Soils
- Terrain and Topography
- Elevation
- Growing Season and Rainfall
- Climatic Zones
- Viticultural Impact

(d) DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED SPECIFIC BOUNDARIES OF “FAIR PLAY”

- Name
- Approved Map
- Boundaries

(e) APPENDICES

-USGS 7.5' Maps "Aukum Quadrangle", "Camino Quadrangle" and "Omo Ranch Quadrangle" marked with proposed boundaries

-FAIR PLAY Vineyards, Wineries, and Other Interested Parties

(f) References

Summary: The "FAIR PLAY" viticultural area takes its name from an old mining camp and school, and an existing crossroads store and farm road located within the proposed boundaries. "Fair Play" is gaining recognition as a wine growing area, and is featured in the petitioners promotional materials, in the media and on some wine labels.

(a) EVIDENCE OF NAME OF “FAIR PLAY”

History of Fair Play: Fair Play originated as a gold mining camp in the Sierra Foothills during the California gold rush. The first recorded settlers at Fair Play, as it was originally spelled, were N. Sisson and Charles Staples, in 1853. The Alta Californian newspaper for December 21, 1853 mentions Fair Play as a prosperous little mining town with several stores and hotels. Fair Play is listed as a Post Office in 1862. In October 1863, when a fire destroyed the Odd Fellows Lodge in Indian Diggings, another mining camp five miles southeast, the hall was rebuilt at Fair Play. Fair Play appears on Doolittle’s 1868 map of California.

Although Fair Play was at first only a mining camp, the town later became a trading center and post office for drift and hydraulic mines in the area. Provisions were shipped to Fair Play, and to Slug Gulch to the east, over steep mountain roads.

In the 1880’s agriculture was the principle economic activity, although a stamp mill still operated. The California gold rush came to an end when the State Legislature restricted hydraulic mining in the 1880’s. Only a few hardrock mines survived. Most mining camps like Fair Play dwindled and all but disappeared, except for the occasional store and school to serve the remaining farmers and ranchers after the miners drifted on.

However, Fair Play was described as late as 1890 as a neat little village prettily situated on a sort of table-land shelving from the slope of a large mountain to the southeast.” Also, as late as 1899, the Cosumnes Copper Mine, near Fair Play, was noted as a valuable copper deposit whose ores contained considerable gold. Later, several small sawmills operated in the area. Eventually the town dwindled and most of the buildings disappeared.

Only two businesses (the grocery and the hardware), the former schoolhouse, (now a residence), and the old cemetery remain.. (Local children now attend the modern Pioneer Elementary School and Mountain Creek Middle School on Mt. Aukum Road, southwest of the intersection of Fair Play Road known as (Melsons) Grays Corner.)

*attached is an article written for the Mt. Democrat by Doug Noble 1998

Origin and Variations of the Name: According to local tradition, the name arose from an incident in which an appeal to “fair play” forestalled a fight between two miners. However, Fair Play was a fairly popular place name before the Civil War. Lippincott’s Gazetteer of 1854 lists eight towns of that name in several states. There was one other California mining camp known as Fair Play, in Sierra County about ten miles northwest of Downieville, but it is now gone. The 1999 U.S. Postal Service Directory lists six “Fairplay” and “Fair Play” post offices - in Missouri, Maryland, South Carolina, Colorado and Kentucky and California.

The original spelling of the name in California appears to have been “Fair Play,” two words. By 1883, when Paolo Sioli published his History of El Dorado County, the one-word name of “Fairplay” was beginning to be used. Some maps (including those published by the USGS) preserve the old, two-word spelling.

In 1998 residents of Fair Play petitioned the US Postal Service to acknowledge once again Fair Play as a postal address. Acknowledgement was granted and Fair Play now shares the Zip Code 95684 with Somerset (one post office serving both areas)

Because it is now the form most commonly used in El Dorado County, the proposed viticultural area is to be called “Fair Play.”

Viticultural History of Fair Play: “All was well in Fair Play until July of 1856, when the boom came to a fiery end. By the time the ashes cooled, essentially the entire “business district” was in ruins. The fire destroyed the town’s two stores, a butcher shop, and the Ohio and Washington Hotels. A half mile south of Fair Play, at Cedarville, the gold deposits had started to give out. Most of the Chilean miners who had worked them had left for better diggin’s. While the mining may have been on a down turn, agriculturally, things were beginning to look pretty good. Several ranches in the vicinity were gaining local acclaim for the quantity and quality of the vegetables that they produced. By 1869, a vineyard and orchard had been planted. (The vineyard was located about a mile and a half west of Latcham Vineyards)

The first commercial vineyard and winery in Fair Play was established in 1887 by a Civil War veteran, and Wisconsin native, by the name of Horace Bigelow. Near where today’s Seven-Up-Ranch is located, Bigelow planted 2,000 fruit trees and 4,000 grape vines. According to the 50th Anniversary Souvenir Edition of the *Mountain Democrat*, Bigelow’s “Magnolia Fruit Farm” as the property had come to be known, by 1898 was producing between 600 and 1,000 gallons of wine each year.

As far as viticulture is concerned, for most of the 20th century it was pretty quiet around Fair Play. A declining population, coupled with difficulty of transporting fruit and wine to distant markets had taken toll on the farmers and ranchers in the more remote portions of El Dorado County. The reawakening of Fair Play as a wine growing region didn’t really occur until the planting of an experimental vineyard on Ben Simms’ Diamond Bar Ranch in 1967. (This vineyard is now owned by

Charles B. Mitchell). Under the guidance of U. C. Davis, and the El Dorado County Agricultural Extension, Simms established a test planting that included about a dozen red, and a dozen white wine grape varieties. By studying the trial vineyard, it was determined, that among others, but most notable, Cabernet Sauvignon, Petite Sirah, Zinfandel, Sauvignon Blanc and Chardonnay could be expected to produce excellent dry table wines in the Fair Play region.” The preceding was quoted from a book in progress by historian Eric Costa called *Gold and Wine, A History of Winemaking in El Dorado County, California*.

Currently, the total acreage of wine grapes in the proposed viticultural area is approximately 350 acres, of which about 250 acres are currently in production.

The proposed viticultural area also contains nine operating commercial wineries, nine of which also own or control their own vineyards, at least two more now under construction, and, in addition, two more beginning their filings.

The oldest winery in the area was founded in May 1980 as “Somerset Vineyards” by the Fitzpatrick and Bertram families along Fair Play Road in the northwest portion of the proposed viticultural area, near Grays (Melsons) Corner. The name was taken from the post office now serving most of the area, located a few miles to the north. Because of a prior claim to the name ‘Somerset’ by a firm of wine importers, the winery’s name was changed to “FBF” (for Brian Fitzpatrick, Bill Bertram, and Michael Fitzpatrick) with the wine distributed under the “Fitzpatrick” label. Then in 1983, with Bill Bertram’s departure, the winery had been renamed “Fitzpatrick.” (BW 4978). The Fitzpatrick Winery is still owned and operated by Brian and Diana Fitzpatrick. In 1981 the Fitzpatricks bought another 40 acre parcel up Fair Play Road on the south side about a half a mile before downtown Fair Play. After the 1987 crush, the entire operation was moved up to this new hilltop property. Here today exists the Fitzpatrick Winery & Lodge with 20+ acres of wine grapes.

The area’s second winery, “Granite Springs,” was founded by Les and Lynn Russell in 1981. It is located to the north of Fair Play Road, about midway between Grays (Melsons) Corner and the Fair Play store. Its wines are bottled under the “Granite Springs” label. It was the largest of the Fair Play wineries during the 1980s and most of the 1990s. (BW 5073). In 1994 the Latcham family purchased Granite Springs Winery and operate both Granite Springs and Latcham Vineyards as alternating proprietors.

The third winery was founded as “Stoney Creek” by Vernon and Marcia Gerwer in 1982. It is located to the east of the former Fair Play School, on the north side of Stoney Creek. The land was originally part of the Diamond Bar Ranch owned by Ben Simms, Marcia Gerwer’s father, who planted the first experimental vineyard in Fair Play. To avoid possible confusion with several existing California wineries using “Stone” or “Stony” as part of their trade name, the winery changed its name to “Gerwer Vineyard and Winery.” (BW 5084). Then in 1993 the winery was sold to and became known as Charles B. Mitchell Vineyards (BW5574) by 1994. Charles B. Mitchell is owner/winemaker.

A fourth winery was constructed by Lionel and Anne Richards on their Diamond 'R' Ranch on Perry Creek Road, where they already have a vineyard. The "Lionel W. Richards" winery opened in 1986. In 1991 the winery changed ownership (the Baileys) and was renamed to Windwalker Vineyards. Then in 1994 Arnie & Paige Gilpin became the current owners. The Gilpin's son Richard is the winemaker for Windwalker Vineyards (BW 5298).

The fifth winery which actually began as a vineyard in 1981. In 1992 with grapes custom crushed by Granite Springs, Latcham Vineyards opened a tasting room to sell wines made under the Latcham label. Latcham Vineyards is now an alternating proprietorship operating within the Granite Springs Winery. Latcham Vineyards is located on the south side of Omo Ranch Road and owned by Frank and Patty Latcham. The Latcham family has controlling interest of Granite Springs Winery as of 1994.

The sixth winery, Perry Creek Vineyards, is also the largest vineyard and winery in the Fair Play area. Bonded in 1999 Perry Creek Vineyards consists of 72 acres of vineyard and a winery facility capable of producing X# of cases annually. Michael Chazen is the owner/operator. Perry Creek Vineyards predominantly have south facing slopes located on the north side of Perry Creek Road.

The seventh winery also rose from an earlier planted vineyard. Single Leaf Winery & Vineyard was bonded (BW 5672) in 1992 and continues to this day with the same owners, Pam and Scott Miller. Single Leaf is located on the south side of Fair Play Road with their vineyard slope facing north.

The eighth winery, Oakstone Winery, is located up Slug Gulch Road on the south side. The original vineyards were planted in 1981 by Ron Mansfield and later sold to John and Susan Smith. The winery was bonded (BW 5941) in 1996. Owner/winemaker John Smith continues to develop additional vineyards.

The ninth winery is the Van de Vijver Estate located across from Single Leaf on the north side of Fair Play Road. Recently opened as a bonded winery (BW 6094) in 1998, the Van der Vijver Estate is owned by Robert and Shannon Van der Vijver.

The tenth winery is Firefall Vineyards whose tasting room is located on the south side of Mt. Aukum Road(5951) 1/4 mile west of Somerset corner. Their vineyards are located on 6210 Meyers Lane (a private road) off Grizzly Flat Road, one mile south of Somerset. Bonded CA WA 2473, Firefall Vineyards is owned by Robert and Laurie Jones.

In addition, other winery upstarts are in the near future: Cedarville and Le Joy. Despite its small geographic area, Fair Play is the fastest growing wine region in all the Sierra Foothills, not in total number of vineyard acres but number of wineries.. The desirable physical characteristics are luring many new winery and vineyard operations.

Current Use of “Fair Play” Appellation: The Gerwer (previously Stoney Creek and now Charles B. Mitchell) Winery, in addition to a variety of other wines, had for several years produced proprietary blends labeled as “FAIR PLAY RED” and “FAIR PLAY WHITE.”. However now that the US Postal Service has officially redesignated Fair Play as a postal address (sharing the 95684 zip code with Somerset), one by one the wineries are changing their addresses to Fair Play.

Local and National Recognition: The Fair Play wineries sponsor an Annual ‘Fair Play Wine Festival’ (see the 16th annual brochure enclosed), the longest running wineries’ festival in all the Sierra Foothills. The Fair Play wineries ‘are also shown, along with Fair Play Road and the Fair Play townsite, on touring maps published by the El Dorado Winery Association, the Sierra Vine Times, Steppin’ Out, etc. and in farm marketing guides published by the El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Association and the El Dorado County Farm Trails (see enclosed samples). These promotional efforts, as well as the individual efforts of the Fair Play wineries, have helped to establish a local identity, reputation and following for wines from the proposed viticultural area. Promotional mailing promoting Fair Play as a wine region started as long ago as 1982 and continue with great marketing vigor today.

The formation of the Fair Play Winery Association as a non-profit corporation came after 15 years of working closely together to develop the Fair Play wine region. Brian Fitzpatrick is the founding and current president of the eight winery member organization.

While extensive national recognition has not focused on ‘Fair Play’ as of yet, the Fair Play wineries have made their presence known nationally in many ways. Fitzpatrick Winery has been featured in national magazines like the ‘Wine Spectator’, and in numerous spots and stories on northern California television. And their wines were served at prestigious affairs including the White House in 1995 for the historic visit of Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, Ireland’s prime minister and 200 others for Saint Patrick’s Day hosted by President Clinton. Although available only in very limited quantities, Fitzpatrick wines can be found from Bar Harbor, Maine to Miami to Osaka, Japan.

Granite Springs’ Chenin Blanc for a number of years was served as the ‘White House White’ wine at numerous receptions. As Fair Play’s largest producer during the 1980s, Granite Springs wines have the most brand recognition throughout California and a number of states.

Perry Creek wines are among the wines served at the U.S. Consulates in the Far East. And now as Fair Play’s largest wine grape producer, Perry Creek will figure prominently in taking ‘Fair Play’ to national and international recognition.

The cache of awards won by Fair Play wineries is amazing. From Top ‘Grand Awards’, ‘Best of Shows’, ‘Best of Region, etc. awards, to untold Golds, Silvers and Bronzes, Fair Play wines have laid a solid foundation of quality widespread recognition.

Each and every winery here in Fair Play has individually and collectively appeared in the media numerous times over the past two decades.

Our official web site is www.fairplaywine.com.

Leon Adams, in the third edition of The Wines of America, page 424, discusses the history and current operation of the first three Fair Play Road wineries.

(b) EVIDENCE OF BOUNDARIES OF “FAIR PLAY”

Summary: The name “Fair Play” is now used to designate the entire area bisected by Fair Play Road. Surrounding areas are identified with other old mining camps and related cultural features.

Examples of Use of Name Throughout Proposed Viticultural Area: The USGS map submitted shows both “Fair Play” (the current store) and “Fair Play School” (currently a private residence) within the proposed viticultural area. The other maps submitted also show that “Fair Play Road” runs through the proposed viticultural area, beginning at Grays Corner (shown as Melsons Corner on the USGS map) and running generally southeast, east and south to Omo Ranch Road. The proposed “Fair Play” viticultural area primarily consists of those farms and ranches served by Fair Play Road and its “tributaries.” “Fair Play” is now used to designate the general area rather than strictly the old townsite. This is further demonstrated by the El Dorado Irrigation District’s use of “Fair Play” to designate their service area south of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River (see pages 83 and 84 of the USDA Soil Survey).

Cultural Distinctions Between “Fair Play” and Surrounding Areas: Fair Play and the surrounding areas were settled and developed their local identities during the California gold rush. Travel was difficult due to the rugged terrain and primitive or nonexistent roads. After the gold fever died down, agricultural development still centered on the remaining stores, schools, and other institutions left over from the mining camps. As a result, “Fair Play” as a cultural entity (i.e. a recognized rural community) is surrounded by a number of historically distinct areas, some of which still maintain a separate existence.

To the north of “Fair Play” runs the wide, deep canyon of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River and then yet another deep river canyon of the North Fork of the Cosumnes. Large parcels in this canyon, now owned by the US Bureau of Land Management, are unavailable for farming. To the north of the canyon lies land serviced by the El Dorado Irrigation District allowing for more diverse agricultural pursuits than just the very water thrifty wine grapes. The soils change to a reddish clay loam and silty clay loam textures. Up until the late 1980's this area to our north had a different area

code 916 (ours was 209) which had a profound defining effect on the Fair Play area's cultural development in rural isolation from the rest of El Dorado County. Somerset (originally "Somerset House"), -a former way station for stage coaches and supply wagons going to and from the mines further east. It is now the site of a real estate office, Crossroads Café -a coffee house, and the Somerset / Fair Play post office (see below). We have incorporated the lands immediately to the south of this crossroads to reflect the kinship of soils, cultural history and three established vineyards and a new winery who petitioned for inclusion. The matter was brought up at public meeting for the very purpose of discussing the proposed boundaries of "Fair Play" AVA and all the local growers and wineries unanimously favored this adjacent ridge top's inclusion.

To the east, and separated from "Fair play" by volcanic mud flow soils and higher elevations timberlands (over 3400') not suitable for commercial viticulture, is the Omo Ranch area.

To the south of the Fair Play area are two more old mining camps, Coyoteville and Cedarville. These camps lie along Cedar Creek, south of Coyote Ridge, the southern geographical boundary of Fair Play. The soils change to volcanic and metamorphic in origin.

To the west is the little village of River Pines and just beyond at lower elevation is Amador County's premier wine region, the Shenandoah Valley.

(c) EVIDENCE OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND VITICULTURAL FEATURES OF "FAIR PLAY"

Summary: The proposed "Fair Play" viticultural area is located in the Sierra Foothills of California, and consists of a contiguous area of granitic sandy loam soils in the "mountainous uplands" of El Dorado County, as defined in the USDA Soil Survey.

Soils: The "Fair Play" area is characterized by deep, moderately to well drained, granitic soils of the Holland, Shaver, and Musick series. These soils consist of sandy loams and coarse sandy loams, with an effective rooting depth of between 40 and 60 inches on the average. The soil maps taken from the USDA Soil Survey show the specific areas where each of these soils predominate; the proposed boundaries were specifically designed to include these three soil series, and to exclude other soils which are either not granitic, or shallow, or poorly drained.

This distinction is in keeping with the "Fair Play" wineries' self-description of local geographical characteristics on their labels and promotional materials, which emphasize the area's granitic soils (see enclosed examples). The exclusion of shallower soils is also significant in relation to available rainfall and viticultural practices (see "Climatic Zones" below).

The areas to the north and east of the proposed boundaries are predominantly shallow granitic soils of the Chawanakee and Chaix series. The proposed northern and eastern boundaries are drawn primarily based on terrain and ease of description, but with the intent generally to exclude these soils.

The southeastern and southern boundaries of "Fair Play", the waterways of Cedar Creek into Scott Creek into the South Fork of the Cosumnes, lay out a clear geological demarcation where the granitic soils predominate and the volcanic soils begin.

Terrain and Topography: The arable terrain within the proposed area is generally composed of rolling hillsides and rounded ridge tops. At these elevations (2,000-3,000) each vineyard's topographic location in relationship to the immediate surroundings is of utmost importance to minimize the negative effects of late spring frosts. Most of our vineyards are situated on ridge tops or hillsides so there is lower ground for the cold air to drain.

To the east and southeast, the proposed boundaries include terrain too rugged for commercial viticulture. This is also true of Coyote Ridge to the south. Although little vineyard activity is anticipated in these steep canyon lands, the use of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes, Cedar Creek, Scott Creek and the South Fork of the Cosumnes make easily understood and prominent boundaries

Elevation: The lowest elevations in "Fair Play," about 2000 feet, occur along Perry Creek and the North and South Forks of Spanish Creeks where they flow west out of the proposed viticultural area. The lowest existing vineyards sit at about 2,000 feet near Mt. Aukum.. The elevation rises to the north, east and south to a maximum of about 2800 feet above Slug Gulch Road and Walker Ridge.

To the north, the steep sides of the canyon of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River are not suitable for viticulture. The bottom land along the river, ranging from 1700 to 1800 feet elevation, is at least two hundred feet lower in elevation than the lowest points included within the proposed boundaries.

The rugged terrain east of the proposed boundaries, and the volcanic "caps" to the southeast and south all quickly rise above 2800 feet.

Elevation is significant because of its effect on growing conditions in the Sierra Nevada foothills (see the following sections).

Growing Season and Rainfall: The rainfall chart included in the USDA Soil Survey shows that, in this part of the Sierra Foothills, rainfall generally increases along with the elevation. The isobars generally run from northwest to southeast, similar to the general run of the elevation contour lines. The proposed Fair Play area receives between 35 and 40 inches of rain in an average year, while the lower areas to the west and southwest of "Fair Play" receive 35 inches or less. (The BATF Final Rule approving the "El Dorado" appellation, which encompasses the proposed "Fair Play" viticultural area,

notes that rainfall in El Dorado increases 3 to 4 inches for every 300 foot rise in elevation — 48 FR 46519)

The USDA chart for length of growing season follows the reverse pattern; as elevation increases, the growing season decreases. “Fair Play” enjoys an average growing season of between about 230 and 250 days; the areas to the west and southwest show over 250 days.

Thus “Fair Play” enjoys more rainfall, but with a shorter growing season, than the areas to the west and southwest.

Climatic Zones: Based on the standard University of California at Davis (UCD) temperature summation" definition of climatic regions or zones, the proposed Fair Play viticultural area would appear to fall into high Region 3 (less than 3,500 degree days). The area to the west and southwest falls into low Region 4 (over 3,500 degree days).

(See map, Winkler et al, General Viticulture, University of California Press, 1974, pages 62-63)

El Dorado County agricultural experts point out that, at least when applied to their geography, the UCD climatic regions are sometimes misleading. UCD Agricultural Extension officer Dick Bethell, Placerville vineyardist and winemaker Greg Boeger, and Ed Delfino of the County Department of Agriculture address this issue in Growing Wine Grapes in El Dorado County. They write:

“Varieties are recommended for planting in California based on the summation of temperatures over 50 [degrees] F ... Five climate regions or zones have been defined ... This method of establishing climate zones for El Dorado County’s mountainous terrain has been disappointing and grossly misleading. ... Native vegetation has come to serve as a better method of identifying these climatic regions than the temperature summation method. Three climatic regions are highly suitable for wine grapes in El Dorado County and they can be roughly described by elevation and more precisely by the native vegetation.”

These three El Dorado County climatic regions are ElDorado Region II (roughly 2,200’ to 3,300’ elevation; “indicator trees” are black oak and madrone); El Dorado Region III (1,200’ to 2,200’; live oak, digger pine, etc.); and El Dorado Region IV (800’ to 1,200’; blue oak). Under this system, “Fair Play” falls mostly into El Dorado Region II but also has the indicator trees of Region III. The Fair Play area is the transition zone between these two vegetation communities. Whether Fair Play is a warm Region II or a cool Region III may be redefined later as more site specific temperature data is collected.

Viticultural Impact: Bethell, et al, point out that these distinctions are important for practical viticultural reasons. First, in El Dorado Region II, with its shorter growing season, spring frosts are more of a problem than in lower El Dorado Region III areas. Leafing out is often delayed until the end of the frost season in El Dorado Region II. Second, dry farming depends on the ability of the soil to retain sufficient moisture between rains. Because of the greater rainfall at higher elevations, dry

farming is practical in El Dorado Region II on soils of at least four feet in depth, such as the Holland, Shaver and Musick soils composing “Fair Play.” In El Dorado Regions III and IV, however, dry farming requires five feet or more soil depth because of the lesser rainfall.

This is particularly significant in the Fair Play and because, as noted in the USDA Soil Survey, large amounts of high-pressure irrigation water are not readily available from the El Dorado Irrigation District in this part of the County. This may account at least in part for the fact that most of the commercial vineyards in southern El Dorado County are within the proposed Fair Play viticultural area where soil depth ranges from 5 - 9 feet where vineyards are planted.

The lack of high-pressure irrigation water also makes it impractical to use sprinklers for frost control, which is common practice in most of California. This forces growers to concentrate on ridgetops and hillsides where air drainage provides natural frost protection, and avoid low-lying bottom land.

The granitic sandy loam soils of Fair Play impart distinctive signature characteristics in the resultant wines from grapes grown in “Fair Play” demonstrative of the effects of local terroir.

(f) References:

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Eckman et al, Old Mines and Ghost Camps of California (Statewide for 1899) (Frontier Book Company, Ft. Davis, TX, 1970)

El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Map of El Dorado County (Compass Maps, Modesto, CA, 1976)

El Dorado Wine Grape Growers Assoc., Vineyard & Ranch Marketing Guide (1998)

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Sioli, Paolo, History of El Dorado County, California (Oakland, 1883)

USDA Soil Conservation Service, Soil Survey of El Dorado Area, California (Government Printing Office, April 1979)

US Geological Survey, Aukum Quadrangle, Camino Quadrangle, Omo Ranch Quadrangle California, 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic), SW/4 (1952, Photorevised 1973)

US Treasury — Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, “El Dorado Viticultural Area” — 9 CFR Sec. 9.61 (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 47 FR No. 240, December 14, 1984; Final Rule, 48 FR No. 199, October 13, 1983)

Winkler et al, General Viticulture (University of California, 1974)

Yohalem, Betty, “I Remember ...” — Stories and Pictures of El Dorado County

Pioneer Families (El Dorado County Chamber of Commerce, Placerville, CA, 1977)

Fair Play

(a) Name. The name of the viticultural area described in this section is "Fair Play."

(b) Approved maps. The approved U.S.G.S. topographic maps (7.5 minute series; quadrangles) showing the boundaries of the Fair Play viticultural area, including quadrangles showing the area within the boundaries, are as follows:

- (1) "Omo Ranch, California," 1952 (photorevised 1973);
- (2) "Aukum, California," 1952 (photorevised 1973);
- (3) "Camino, California," 1952 (photorevised 1973);

(c) Boundaries. The boundaries of the Fair Play viticultural area which is located in El Dorado County, California, are as follows:

- (1) The beginning point of the boundaries is the intersection of the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River and the section line between Sections 26 and 27, T. 9 N., R. 11 E. ("Aukum" Quadrangle);
- (2) Thence northeast along the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River to its intersection with Mt. Aukum Road (El Dorado County Road E-16), ("Aukum" Quadrangle and "Camino" Quadrangle);
- (3) Thence northeast along Mt. Aukum Road to its intersection with Grizzly Flat Road at the town of Somerset ("Camino" Quadrangle);
- (4) Thence generally east and southeast along Grizzly Flat Road to its intersection with the section line between Sections 15 and 16, T 9 N., R 12 E. ("Camino" Quadrangle);
- (5) Thence south along the section line between Sections 15 and 16, T 9 N., R 12 E. to its intersection with the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River ("Aukum" Quadrangle and "Camino" Quadrangle);
- (6) Thence east and southeast along the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River to its intersection with range line "R. 12 E./R. 13 E." ("Aukum" Quadrangle and "Omo Ranch" Quadrangle);
- (7) Thence south along the along the range line "R. 12 E./R. 13 E." to its intersection with Omo Ranch Road ("Omo Ranch" Quadrangle);
- (8) Thence generally west in a straight line approximately 0.3 miles to the point where Cedar Creek intersects with the 3200-foot contour line, within Section 1, T. 8 N., R. 12 E. ("Omo Ranch" Quadrangle);
- (9) Thence west and southwest along Cedar Creek to its intersection with Scott Creek within Section 18, T. 8 N., R. 12 E. ("Aukum" Quadrangle and "Omo Ranch" Quadrangle);
- (10) Thence generally west along Scott Creek to its intersection with the South Fork of the Cosumnes River ("Aukum" Quadrangle);
- (11) Thence generally west along the South Fork of the Cosumnes River to its intersection with the section line between Sections 14 and 15, T.8 N., R 11 E. ("Aukum" Quadrangle);
- (12) Thence north along the section line to the point of beginning ("Aukum" Quadrangle).



April 21, 1998

John L. Smith
Oakstone Winery, Inc.
6440 Slug Gulch Road
Somerset CA 95684

Dear Mr. Smith:

This letter is in response to your February 17, 1998, request to designate "Fair Play" as an authorized mailing name with ZIP Code 95684. Your request has been approved.

Fair Play CA 95684 is now an authorized last line mailing address. You may begin using it immediately. It will appear in the 1999 publication of the National ZIP Code Directory.

For your information, there are several other city names within the State of California that are similar to Fair Play. Examples of these city names are: Fair Oaks, Fairfax, Fairfield and Fairmead. Nearly all mail handled by the U. S. Postal Service is processed through automated equipment. Although each city name is distinct and assigned to a five digit ZIP Code, it is not uncommon for mail to be misdirected when city names are too similar.

If you have any questions about this change, please contact Dianne Tuosto, Customer Service Analyst, at 916-373-8234.


Jim McBroom

cc: Postmaster Somerset 95684
Manager Address Management Systems
Manager Post Office Operations

Fair Play: good manners gave this South County boomtown its name

By DOUG NOBLE, Democrat correspondent

Not much was written about Fair Play and the surrounding communities during the early days of California. But it was not because there was nothing going on in the southern part of El Dorado County during that time. Instead, most of the world's attention was focused on the feverish mining activities nearer Placerville, Coloma and Sacramento, where the population was larger, the roads were better, communication was easier and, of course, where the newspapers were published.

Because of this, we have only bits and pieces of information on the little but very important towns like Fair Play.

The settlement of Fair Play and the many other communities in the area was a result of the discovery of gold in and along many of the nearby streams. This occurred only a few years after the first discovery of gold in Coloma. Newly arriving miners found the good claims taken and set out to search for new, undiscovered deposits of gold.

As in most other communities founded by miners, the gold near Fair Play soon gave out and many of the miners left to search for new deposits. But the area had attributes that much of the rest of the county lacked - large stands of timber and deep, well drained, fertile soils. So, as time progressed the population of the town remained fairly stable. The departing miners were soon replaced by farmers, ranchers and lumbermen.

The original settlement of Fair Play is attributed to two gentlemen, Charles Staples and N. Sisson, who arrived there around 1853. The story goes that some time after settling in they apparently fell into a disagreement that grew into what must have been a not-too-gentlemanly fight. It ended when some of the other newly arrived residents appealed to them for "fair-play." Thus, we're told, the town became known as Fair Play.

Since that time the name has been shortened to one word - Fairplay - mostly for the convenience of various government agencies. But, as you will see, the name is on its way to being returned to its original two words. In its first few years the town grew by leaps and bounds as more and more rich deposits of placer gold were found in many nearby streams and ravines. Later, in the surrounding hills, minable veins of copper ore were found.

By 1860 the population of Fair Play had grown enough that a post office was established, with George Merkindollar as the first postmaster (he also owned the hotel that housed the post office). The business section of town had grown from a few quickly erected tents to several stores, owned by Purrinton & Carr, A. Church and J. G. Carr; the hotel owned first by Mr. Merkindollar, which was later sold to M. N. Remich and then George Washington McKee; a saloon, butcher shop, carpenter's shop and a blacksmith.

Unlike so many gold rush "boom towns," Fair Play did not die when mining slacked off and the miners left. This was mainly because of the quality of the soils for agriculture. By the 1870s numerous farms and ranches dotted the nearby countryside, taking advantage of the ditch water brought in by the miners. The farms provided fresh meat, produce and many bushels of grain to the local towns and to communities many miles away.

The Fair Play School District was organized in 1890. Classes were held in private residences until a permanent school was built around 1902 on land donated by a John Barkley, the town blacksmith. The Fair Play schoolhouse, now a private residence, is about one-half mile south of the present town, but it's not the same one that shows up in many early photographs of the town. The original schoolhouse was very similar to the simple, one-roomed Mt. Aukum schoolhouse that is preserved several miles away on Mt. Aukum Road.

A fire destroyed most of the town in 1944. As a result, the post office, which had been moved to the town's present site in 1929, was closed and reopened in Somerset. The bell in the tower of the Fair Play School rang its last call to students in 1958.

Literally nothing - except the cemetery - remains of original Fair Play. The town was located adjacent to the cemetery, about one-half mile east of the present town, on the south side of today's Perry Creek Road. In the past two decades, the Fair Play area has seen a huge resurgence of agriculture, this time in the form of hundreds of acres of prime vineyards. Within the last 15 years or so, eight wineries have been built in this area, with more planned in the near future. These wineries have continually produced world-class wines from the soils in the Fair Play area.

Over the years the original name of the town was shortened to one word. But recently, the wineries and businesses of the area, with the assistance of Somerset Postmaster Karen Mickel, convinced the U.S. Postal Service to allow mail to again be addressed to Fair Play (two words), instead of Somerset.

The Fair Play area of El Dorado County continues to grow as an agricultural community with not only vineyards, but also Christmas tree and flower farms. Located between Placerville and the Amador county line, it can be easily reached by taking Mt. Aukum Road (E- 16) south from Pleasant Valley Road.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION
OF
FAIR PLAY WINERY ASSOCIATION, INC.**

ARTICLE I

The name of the Corporation is FAIR PLAY WINERY ASSOCIATION, INC.

ARTICLE II

A. This Corporation is a non-profit mutual benefit corporation organized under the Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law. The purpose of this Corporation is to engage in any lawful act or activity for which a corporation may be organized under such law.

B. The specific purpose of this Corporation is to educate the public in general and the citizens of El Dorado County in particular regarding the consumption, recognition and development of Fair Play Vinifera wines.

ARTICLE III

The name and address in the State of California of the Corporation's initial agent for service of process is:

John W. Driscoll
COMBELLACK & DRISCOLL
263 Main Street
Placerville, CA 95667

ARTICLE IV

The name of the unincorporated association which is being incorporated is FAIR PLAY WINERIES.

ARTICLE V

The unincorporated association whose name is set forth in Article IV of these Articles of Incorporation is being incorporated by the filing of these Articles.

ARTICLE VI

The authorized number and qualifications of members of the Corporation, the different classes of membership, if any, the property, voting and other rights and privileges of members, and their liability for dues and assessments and the method of collection thereof, shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VII

This Corporation is intended to qualify as a business league within the meaning of Section 501(c)(6) of the *Internal Revenue Code*, and Section 23701(e) of the *California Revenue and Taxation Code*. No part of the net earnings of this Corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or a member thereof, or to the benefit of any private persons. Upon dissolution or winding up of the Corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this Corporation, shall be distributed pursuant to the provisions set forth in the Non-Profit Mutual Benefit Corporation Law.

If this Corporation holds any assets in trust, such assets shall be disposed of in such manner as may be directed by decree of the Superior Court of the county in which the Corporation has its principal office, upon petition therefore by the Attorney General or by any person concerned in the liquidation, in a proceeding to which the Attorney General is a party.

ARTICLE VIII

Notwithstanding any of the above statements of purposes and powers, this Corporation shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the specific purposes of this Corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being the incorporator of FAIR PLAY WINERY ASSOCIATION, INC., has executed these Articles of Incorporation on 3-31-99, 1999.

Dated: 3-31-99


✓ FRANKLIN C. LATCHAM, Incorporator

Notary next page

The water service areas in the El Dorado Area are discussed in the following paragraphs.

Georgetown Ridge service area.—Water service in this area generally is provided by a public district, the Georgetown Divide Public Utility District. Recent construction of Stumpy Meadows Reservoir and enlargement of the district's canal system provide the Georgetown Ridge with a water supply that is greater than that presently used. Stumpy Meadows Reservoir has adequate water for double the present farm use on the Georgetown Ridge.

Placerville Ridge service area.—During World War II, and for about a decade after it, lack of water was a factor that limited farm production on the Placerville Ridge. Construction of the Sly Park Unit of the Central Valley Project in 1955 removed this limitation. The El Dorado Irrigation District provides most of the water service to farms in the Placerville Ridge area. Because of the availability of water from Sly Park, and because of limitations in the capacity of the distribution system, the district constructed a piped distribution system, which was completed in 1963. This district can now provide piped water service to a major part of Placerville Ridge west to Shingle Springs. Existing supplies from Sly Park and other sources are adequate to irrigate an additional 2,500 acres.

Somerset and Fair Play service areas (Cosumnes River Basin).—Water for irrigated farming generally is not available in this area. Water that is used for irrigation normally comes from irrigation reservoirs constructed on individual ranches. However, the entire Cosumnes River Basin has been the subject of an intensive study by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. It is anticipated that in due time facilities proposed in reports on the Cosumnes River Division will be constructed. This will provide water for irrigated farming in the Somerset and Fair Play service areas.

Areas outside the water districts have little water available for irrigation. The sources of water are springs, shallow wells, and small reservoirs. The supply of water in these areas is critical after a series of dry years.

Climat^e

The El Dorado Area is an Area of abundant sunshine in summer, moderate to heavy precipitation in winter, and wide temperature ranges. The Area is subject to strong flows of marine air from the Pacific Ocean in winter, which result in heavy precipitation, particularly at intermediate levels in the mountains. At high elevations much of the precipitation falls as snow, providing a water supply that lasts into summer. Precipitation in summer is light and generally is limited to a few scattered thunder-showers.

Temperatures range from very warm in summer near the Sacramento Valley to very cold in some of the high mountain areas during midwinter. All of the survey area experiences freezing temperatures at some time during the year.

The Sierra Nevada Range plays a dominant role in determining the climate of the El Dorado Area. Differences in elevation affect both temperatures and precipita-

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- (1) AMERICA 1961.
- (2) ARKLEY. 1962.
- (3) ASSOCIAT 1955.
- (4) CALIFORN MINES. 1956.
- (5) DUNNING 1942.
- (6) FIELDS, M 1951.
- (7) KILMER, V 1960.
- (8) KILMER, V 1949.

* By ROBERT ELFORD, climatologist for California, National Weather Service, U.S. Department of Commerce.



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