Vancouver when he named, explored, and mapped the area while in service to the British Admiralty. His maps and those of subsequent explorers, settlers and government agencies show the Puget Sound area with the countryside drained by rivers flowing into Puget Sound. Numerous references exist indicating the general use of the name "Puget Sound" to refer to the area. The petitioners included copies of title pages of various publications, guide and tour book references, public telephone book listings, and Federal and State agency maps, to illustrate the use of the name. They also submitted an excerpt from, "Touring the Washington Wine Country," 1993, published by the Washington Wine Commission. This publication discusses grape growing in western Washington and states that, "[t]he expansive Puget Sound basin offers a temperate climate that rarely suffers from prolonged freezing weather in the winter and quite often enjoys a long and warm summer growing season."

Historical or Current Evidence That the Boundaries of the Viticultural Area Are as Specified in the Petition

The viticultural area is located on the land mass surrounding Puget Sound and known as the Puget Sound basin. The petitioners explained that there are no exacting and commonly understood boundaries for the basin. The basin boundaries, for example, can extend up to the crests of the Olympic and Cascade mountain ranges to include the entire watershed. However, individuals in western Washington State commonly refer to the lowland areas surrounding the Sound as the Puget Sound basin. It is these lowland areas that the petitioners feel are suited for viticulture.

The petitioners stated that, "Puget Sound has boundaries determined absolutely by the forces of nature, and recognized by common cultural use. We merely used those public roads that most closely fit within those natural boundaries of terminal moraine [accumulation of boulders, stones, or other debris carried and deposited at the edges of the farthest reaches of a glacier's advance], rainfall lines (isohyets), and temperature to draw enforceable borders." [Definition added.] The petitioners also state that, "[t]he * * * viticultural area is smaller than the basin because not all of the basin is suitable for viticulture. Areas with elevations greater than 600 feet are generally too wet or too cold in this region so they have been excluded."

Evidence Relating to the Geographical Features (Climate, Soil, Elevation, Physical Features, Etc.) Which Distinguish Viticultural Features of the Area From Surrounding Areas

Climate

The climate of Puget Sound is well differentiated from that of surrounding areas. The Olympic Mountains to the west and the Cascade Mountains to the east protect the region from the cool wet influence of the Pacific Ocean and the extreme summer and winter temperatures of eastern Washington. The Strait of Juan de Fuca and associated waterways separate Puget Sound from the cooler summer areas to the north. Foothills to the south of the Puget Sound viticultural area are the limit of the area influenced by the moderating effect of the waters of the Sound. Both summer and winter temperatures are significantly cooler in the hills and mountains to the west, south, and east.

The western, eastern and southern boundaries of the Puget Sound viticultural area closely follow the line formed by a growing season of 180 days and the 60 inch isohyet of annual precipitation. All areas within the viticultural area below 600 feet in elevation have a 180 day or longer growing season with 60 inches or less of annual rainfall, and 15 inches or less of rainfall in the months of April to October (inclusive).

Areas outside of, but adjacent to, the viticultural area to the west, south, and east have a growing season of generally less than 180 days, with more than 60 inches of annual rainfall, and more than 15 inches of rainfall in the months of April to October (inclusive). Examples of weather recording stations surrounding the Puget Sound region are as follows: To the west is Forks, with a growing season of 175 days and an annual precipitation of 118 inches (38 inches April to October). To the southeast is Paradise Ranger Station (Mount Rainier National Park), with a growing season of 50 days and an annual precipitation of 106 inches (39 inches April to October). To the east is Diablo Dam with a growing season of 170 days and an annual precipitation of 72 inches (23 inches from April to October). To the northeast is Heather Meadows Recreational Area (Mt. Baker National Forest) with a growing season of 150 days and an annual precipitation of 110 inches (44 inches from April to October).

The northerly border of the viticultural area closely conforms to the temperature boundary of areas experiencing a mean high temperature

in the warmest month (July) of 72 degrees Fahrenheit or greater. Cool air from the Pacific Ocean moves east through the Strait of Juan de Fuca during the growing season limiting the reliable ripening of winegrapes in the areas west of the Elwha River and outside the line formed by the western boundaries of Clallam, San Juan, and Whatcom Counties and the northern boundary of Whatcom County.

Examples of areas to the northwest of the viticultural area with mean high temperatures in the warmest month which are lower than 72 degrees Fahrenheit are: Forks, Washington, 71 degrees F; Clallum Bay, Washington, 67 degrees F; Victoria, British Columbia, 68 degrees F; and Sidney, British Columbia, 67 degrees F.

Degree Days

Total degree days as measured by the scale developed by Winkler and Amerine of the University of California (Davis) range between 1300 at the northern border, to 2200 in the south. Typical readings are: Friday Harbor 1380, Blaine 1480, Sequim 1310, Port Townsend 1480, Mt. Vernon 1530, Coupeville 1360, Monroe 1820, Bothell 1520, Kent 1940, Seattle (U of W) 2160, Bremerton 1810, Vashon 1730, Grapeview 2010, Puyallup 1770, Tacoma 1940, and Olympia 2160. There is a significant temperature variation from north to south. According to the petitioner, this temperature variation is within a range that will allow the same types of grapes to be grown throughout the area.

Rainfall

Rainfall in the Puget Sound viticultural area is substantially less than in surrounding areas. It ranges from 17 inches annually in the north to 60 inches in the south. Typical amounts are: Friday Harbor 28" Blaine 34", Sequim 17", Port Townsend 18", Mt. Vernon 32", Coupeville 18", Monroe 47", Bothell 40", Kent 38", Seattle (U of W) 35", Bremerton 39", Vashon 47", Grapeview 53", Puyallup 41", Tacoma 37", and Olympia 52". Growing season rainfall ranges from 8 inches in the north to 15 inches in the south. Outside of the boundaries, the rainfall ranges from 70 to 220 inches annually.

Overall, the Puget Sound viticultural area can be characterized as having a growing season of over 180 days, annual degree day averages between 1300 and 2200, and annual rainfall of 60 inches or less.

Soils

Soils in the Puget Sound viticultural area are completely unlike those of the