



For Immediate Release
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TTB PUBLISHES RULINGS ON FIVE VITICULTURAL AREAS

Washington, D.C. – The Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB) published four final rules and a notice of proposed rulemaking regarding viticultural areas in today's Federal Register. Three final rulings established the Texoma viticultural area in north-central Texas, the Ramona Valley viticultural area in central San Diego County, California, and the Wahluke Slope viticultural area in Grant County, Washington.

The fourth final rule modifies the name of the existing "Santa Rita Hills" American viticultural area by abbreviating its name to "Sta. Rita Hills." TTB made this change to prevent possible confusion between wines bearing the Santa Rita Hills appellation and wines bearing the Santa Rita brand name used by a Chilean winery.

The four final rules become effective January 6, 2006.

The notice of proposed rulemaking proposes to establish the 39,200-acre Tracy Hills viticultural area in San Joaquin and Stanislaus Counties, California, approximately 55 miles east-southeast of San Francisco.

Written comments on this notice must be received on or before February 6, 2006.

You may send comments to any of the following addresses:

- Director, Regulations and Rulings Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Attn: Notice No. 54, P.O. Box 14412, Washington, DC 20044-4412.
- 202-927-8525 (facsimile).
- nprm@ttb.gov (e-mail).
- <http://www.ttb.gov/alcohol/rules/index.htm>. An online comment form is posted with this notice on our Web site.
- <http://www.regulations.gov> (Federal e-rulemaking portal; follow instructions for submitting comments).

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