

Statement of Qualifications

My name is Lee Bettencourt. I am a farmer in the Santa Ynez Valley. I am the owner and operator of our family vineyard. We have 115 acres of varietal wine grapes planted in 1968. My income is derived entirely from farming. I am a 6th generation Californian and the 4th generation in the Santa Ynez Valley. My Grandparents bought the ranch in 1923 and our family has been farming there for the past 80 years. My Mother, My Wife, My Son and his wife and children live on the ranch and share in the work.

I am a Trustee for the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District ID #1 and, have been, since 2000. I have been a director on the board of the Cachuma Resource Conservation District for Santa Barbara since 1993 and I am a Trustee for the Oak Hill Cemetery District since 1996. I have been a long time member of the Farm Bureau.

I was born and raised in the Santa Ynez Valley and attended the High school there. On graduation I attended Allen Hancock Jr. College. From there I went to Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and studied Animal Husbandry and I have taken courses at the University of California at Davis in viticulture. With my experience and my heritage I have a good working knowledge of the water in our area.