

May 25, 2012

***California Walnut Growers Vote in Favor of
Keeping Walnut Commission's Assessment Cap Unchanged***

TO THE CALIFORNIA WALNUT GROWER ADDRESSED:

At the request of the California Walnut Commission (CWC) between March 2 and April 30 the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) conducted a referendum to have California walnut growers consider an increase in the Commission's maximum allowable assessment rate. Based on the results of the referendum CDFA found that not all the minimum criteria required by the Law to increase the assessment cap were met. Accordingly, the maximum amount the CWC may assess will remain unchanged at \$0.01 per in-shell pound on all walnuts shipped.

Sections 77151(d) and 77123 of the Commission Law authorize increasing the maximum assessable rate if **both** of the participation and support criteria (by number and volume) are met. Follows a chart indicating the minimum criteria to be met and results of the vote:

	Minimum Criteria for approval	Referendum Results	Criteria Met
Participation	40%	46.73%	Yes
Support by Number	More than 50%	44.24%	No
Support by Volume	More than 50%	57.11%	Yes

As you may know, the CWC proposed to increase the cap of the assessment rate to address the potential loss in revenue it could experience due to reductions or elimination of federal funding for the maintenance, development and expansion of foreign markets.

If you have questions regarding the Commission please contact Mr. Dennis Balint, CEO of the California Walnut Commission, at (916) 932-7070. For questions regarding the results of the referendum please contact Kathy Diaz-Cretu at this office.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

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