



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

October 1, 2012

**CALIFORNIA GRAPE ROOTSTOCK IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION  
CONTINUATION REFERENDUM**

TO THE CALIFORNIA GRAPE ROOTSTOCK PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is currently conducting a referendum among grape rootstock producers in the state to determine whether the California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission shall continue in operation. This vote is required to occur every five years.

The California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission conducts research on the improvement of grape rootstock. The commission's activities are funded by a mandatory assessment on all California grape rootstock producers. The commission is directed by a board of directors consisting of industry representatives from throughout the state. The commission has been in existence since 1993.

Enclosed are a referendum ballot and postage-paid return envelope. If you would like to participate in this referendum, then complete all applicable sections on the ballot and return it to the department. Ballots must be postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than **October 30, 2012**.

Each separate legal entity in the state that produced, or caused to be produced, an invoicable unit of any rootstock cutting, rooted rootstock cutting or grafted grape rootstock used or distributed by a nursery for commercial purposes during the period of April 1, 2011, through March 31, 2012, is entitled to a vote in this referendum.

Continuation of the commission requires that the following criteria are met:

- At least 40 percent of the total number of eligible producers on record must submit valid ballots, **AND**
- Of those voting, at least 65 percent of producers who represent at least 51 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation, **OR**
- Of those voting, at least 51 percent of producers who represent at least 65 percent of the total voted volume must vote in favor of continuation.

Referendum results will be announced after the voting period has ended and all ballots have been tabulated. All information provided on individual ballots will be kept confidential.

For questions concerning this referendum, contact April Izumi of this office at 916.900.5176. For questions about the California Grape Rootstock Improvement Commission, contact Debbie Murdock at 916.441.2031.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Chief  
Marketing Branch

Enclosures

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