



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

July 16, 2015

**SONOMA COUNTY WINEGRAPE COMMISSION  
CONTINUATION REFERENDUM  
(Voting Period Ends August 15, 2015)**

**TO THE GRAPE CRUSH DISTRICT 3 (SONOMA/MARIN) WINEGRAPE PRODUCER ADDRESSED:**

At the request of the Sonoma Winegrape Commission and as required by the California Winegrape Growers Commission Law, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is conducting a referendum among winegrape producers in Grape Crush District 3 (Sonoma and Marin counties) to determine whether or not the Local Winegrape Commission (commonly known as the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission) should continue for another five year period. Enclosed with this cover letter are a referendum ballot and a pre-paid return envelope.

**Re-approval:** In order for the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission to be re-approved and continue for another five year period, a majority of the eligible winegrape producers voting in the referendum must vote in favor of continuance.

**Voter Eligibility:** The California Winegrape Growers Commission Law defines an eligible producer for Grape Crush District 3 as any person who produces and markets District 3 winegrapes during the preceding marketing season (July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015) in a quantity of more than 25 tons. Additionally, unless otherwise exempted, producer also includes any landlord who receives winegrapes as payment for the use of his or her property in the production of winegrapes.

**Voting Period:** In order for your ballot to be counted, all applicable portions of the ballot must be completed. In addition, the ballot must be *postmarked or otherwise received by this office no later than August 15, 2015*.

**Referendum Results:** A summary of the referendum results will be announced following the tabulation of the ballots. Individual votes and all information provided on individual ballots will be kept confidential.

If you have any questions about the activities of the Sonoma Winegrape Commission, please call Karissa Kruse at the Commission office at (707) 522-5863. Please direct any questions regarding the referendum to Kathy Diaz-Cretu at this office. Also, please notify us as soon as possible if you know of anyone who should have received a ballot but did not.

Sincerely,

Robert Maxie, Branch Chief  
Marketing Branch

Enclosures

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