



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

February 11, 2016

**CALIFORNIA WILD RICE PROGRAM
CONTINUATION REFERENDUM**

Voting Period Ends March 13, 2016

TO THE CALIFORNIA WILD RICE PRODUCER ADDRESSED:

Statute requires the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to conduct a continuation referendum among wild rice producers every five years to determine whether the California Wild Rice Program (Program) should be continued. Since the most recent continuation referendum took place in the year 2011, it is time for the Department to conduct another vote. **The deadline to vote is March 13, 2016.**

The California Wild Rice Program is a state marketing order that has been in existence since 1986. It conducts promotion and research activities on behalf of California's wild rice industry. Funds for Program activities come from a mandatory assessment on all wild rice producers in the state. Currently, the assessment is \$10.00 per harvested acre.

Enclosed you will find:

- A REFERENDUM BALLOT
- A POSTAGE-PAID RETURN ENVELOPE

Please read the ballot carefully to determine your eligibility to vote. If you meet the eligibility criteria as a California wild rice producer, you are encouraged to complete the ballot and return it to CDFA in the enclosed return envelope. If you do not qualify, please check the appropriate box and return it to CDFA without completing the voting section. *To be counted, your ballot must be signed and received by this office or postmarked no later than March 13, 2016.*

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.

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In order for the Program to continue for another five years, a majority of wild rice producers who cast a vote must favor continuation. If it is determined from the referendum that the Program should be discontinued, it will cease operating on May 31, 2016, which is the end of the current marketing season.

For questions about the Program, please contact Fred Klose, Manager of the Wild Rice Program at (916) 863-0312. For questions regarding this referendum, please contact David Hillis of this office at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,



Robert Maxie, Chief
Marketing Branch

Enclosures