



September 10, 2020

**CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION  
ASSESSMENT CAP INCREASE APPROVED BY PRODUCERS AND HANDLERS**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) recently conducted a referendum among California rice producers and handlers to determine whether they favor increasing the maximum allowable assessment rate of the California Rice Commission (Commission) from fifteen cents (\$0.15) per hundredweight to twenty cents (\$0.20) per hundredweight, split equally between producers and handlers. The voting for this referendum concluded on August 3, 2020 and the Department has finalized its tally of all ballots received for this process. A summary of the voting results is presented in the table below:

	<b>Producers</b>	<b>Handlers</b>
Participation percentage:	<b>41.14%</b>	<b>87.50%</b>
Percentage of those voting in favor of increasing the assessment cap:	<b>73.38%</b>	<b>85.71%</b>
Percentage of volume represented by those voting in favor of increasing the assessment cap:	<b>75.58%</b>	<b>93.30%</b>

These results meet the criteria provided in the Commission Law to increase the assessment cap. Specifically, in order for the assessment cap to be increased, at least 40 percent of both producers and handlers must submit valid ballots, **and** of those voting, at least 65 percent of producers and handlers, representing a majority of the voted volume, must vote in favor of increasing the assessment cap, **or** of those voting, a majority of producers and handlers, representing at least 65 percent of the voted volume, must vote in favor of increasing the assessment cap.

Based upon this supportive vote from the rice industry, the Commission may establish an assessment rate of up to twenty cents (\$0.20) per hundredweight, split equally between producers and handlers, for rice delivered to handlers by producers beginning in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, which starts on September 1, 2021. The Commission's practice of setting an assessment rate annually is not affected by this change.

An updated version of the California Rice Commission Law is available at: [www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/ordslaws.html](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/mkt/mkt/ordslaws.html). If you have questions regarding the California Rice Commission please contact Tim Johnson, President and CEO of the Commission, at (916) 387-2264. For questions regarding the referendum, please contact Kacie Fritz with the Department's Marketing Branch at (916) 900-5018.

Sincerely,

Joe Monson, Branch Chief  
Marketing Branch

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