



Dear Vintner;

The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission became effective after a successful industry referendum in 2006 among Crush District 3 winegrape growers. As a result, your grape growers will be investing over \$1,000,000/year to promote Sonoma and Marin Counties, our grapes and your wines. You support growers' efforts by withholding the grape assessment from your grower payments and forwarding those assessments to the Commission.

The Commission has set the assessment rate at 0.5% (one half percent) of the gross dollar value of District 3 winegrapes sold by growers to vintners. A vintner/purchaser of District 3 winegrapes is obligated by California law to withhold an assessment. Once the assessments are withheld from payments to the growers, the vintner holds the assessments in trust until remitted to the Commission. Assessments are only withheld on grapes purchased from a non-related entity; do not pay on grapes from your own or your owners' vineyards in District 3.

All information provided to the Commission is confidential and will only be seen by authorized Commission staff. Enclosed are assessment forms for the 2010 District 3 winegrape harvest.

In order to simplify the process of remitting grower assessments, the Commission has set a single reporting/payment deadline for the 2009-10 marketing season on January 10, 2011. **Reports and payments not submitted in timely manner to the Commission are subject to a statutory late penalty of 10% and interest at the rate of 1.5% per month to be paid by the winery.** Wineries are required to collect and remit the assessments.

Please remit the assessment report form and payment (if applicable) **no later than January 10, 2011.** Reports and payments should be sent to: **Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, 3637 Westwind Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403**, as specified on the enclosed assessment forms. You may request an Excel spreadsheet for recording your information. **NOTE:** SCWC have moved to new offices. Please update your records accordingly.

Please do not hesitate to contact info@sonomawinegrape.org or **707-522-5864** should have any questions.

The Commission is committed to working with our wineries to increase the value of Sonoma County grapes and wines and to preserve our agricultural resource for future generations. Thank you for your support of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission and the 1800 vineyard owners that we represent.

Sincerely,

Nick Frey, President