



# INFORMATION ON THE PD/GWSS REFERENDUM

Since 2001, the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (PD/GWSS) assessment has been one of the primary sources of funding for research on Pierce's disease and its primary vector, the glassy-winged sharpshooter. Senate Bill 2 gives winegrape growers and grower/vintners the opportunity to vote on continuing the assessment until 2016.

## Winegrape Assessment

- In place since 2001, the assessment was initially extended to 2011 by Senate Bill 1650, which was approved by a voter referendum.
- The assessment allows for grapes to be assessed up to \$3 per \$1,000 of crop value. For the past two years the assessment rate has been set at \$1 per \$1,000.
- The assessment raises dollars for research aimed at addressing the threat posed by Pierce's disease and its vectors.
- Assessment funds are used to support research and related activities with PD/GWSS while federal, state, and local dollars support the statewide GWSS detection and containment activities.
- Senate Bill 2 expanded the potential uses of the assessment to include research and outreach for other pests and diseases of winegrapes, under certain specified conditions.

### KEY DATES *(tentative)*

March 29, 2010

*Ballots scheduled to be mailed*

April 27, 2010

*Due date for returned ballots*

June 15, 2010

*Announcement of voting results*

## Voting

- All entities that paid the assessment on grapes crushed in 2009 are eligible to vote in the referendum.
- Every entity that paid the assessment in 2009 will receive a ballot. Therefore, **many growers will likely receive more than one ballot. Each separate growing entity is entitled to cast a vote.**
- If you have questions regarding the number of ballots you receive, please contact CDFA – Marketing Branch at (916) 341-6005.

## Passage Requirements

- At least 40 percent of eligible entities must cast ballots for the referendum to be valid.
- Passage of the referendum requires either:
  1. Of those who vote, 65 percent vote "yes," and the "yes" voters must have paid the majority of the assessment that was paid by those who voted; or,
  2. Of those who vote, a majority vote "yes," and the "yes" voters must have paid 65 percent or more of the assessment that was paid by those who voted.