



September 8, 2016

Dear Vintner;

Sonoma County Winegrape Commission Crush District 3 winegrowers will continue to invest 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. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation!

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 by January 10th, 2017. Please note: 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. Additionally, District 3 growers who commercially sell less than 25 tons of winegrapes are exempt from this assessment but may still submit an assessment on a voluntary basis to support our programs and marketing.

In order to simplify the process of remitting grower assessments, the Commission has set a single reporting/payment deadline for the 2016-17 marketing season on January 10th, 2017. **Please remit the assessment report forms and payment no later than January 10th, 2017.** Excel reports should be emailed to: [assessments@sonomawinegrape.org](mailto:assessments@sonomawinegrape.org). Please request an Excel spreadsheet for recording your information or download from our website at <http://www.sonomawinegrape.org/assessment-2016>. Payments should be mailed to Sonoma County Winegrape Commission (SCWC), 400 Aviation Blvd. Suite 500, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

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.

All information provided to the Commission is confidential and will only be seen by authorized Commission staff. Please do not hesitate to contact Kate Piontek, VP of Operations at [kate@sonomawinegrape.org](mailto:kate@sonomawinegrape.org) or via phone at 707-522-5868 should you 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 1,800 vineyard owners that we represent.**

Sincerely,

Karissa Kruse, President