



August 21, 2025

Dear Vintner,

The Sonoma County Winegrape Commission (Crush District 3) is funded primarily through a self-assessment paid by grape growers. Each year, Sonoma County Winegrowers invests more than \$2,000,000 of these grower dollars to market and promote Sonoma and Marin counties grapes and wines.

As in previous years, as a vintner, your role is not to pay this assessment yourself, but to withhold the grower-paid assessment from your payments to growers and forward it to the Commission. In other words, these funds come directly from grape growers, and you act as the facilitator of the collection process. We greatly appreciate your cooperation in ensuring these grower contributions are collected and remitted properly.

For the 2025 vintage, the Commission has voted to set the **grower self-assessment rate at 0.01 of the gross dollar value of District 3 winegrapes sold** by growers to vintners. California law requires vintners/purchasers of District 3 grapes to withhold this grower-paid assessment. Once withheld, the funds must be held in trust and remitted to the Commission **no later than January 10, 2026**.

- Key details:
 - The assessment is paid by the grower, not the vintner.
 - The assessment applies to grapes purchased from a non-related entity or from District 3 growers who sell more than 25 tons commercially.
 - Growers under this threshold may still choose to participate voluntarily to support our programs.
 - This assessment is separate from the CDFA Pierce's Disease payment, which must be paid independently if applicable.
- Reporting and payment process:
 - Deadline: January 10, 2026 (single deadline for the 2025–2026 marketing season).
 - Reports: Excel report forms should be emailed to assessments@sonomawinegrape.org. A template can be requested from our



office or downloaded at: <https://sonomawinegrape.org/growers/assessment-harvest/>

- Payments: Mail checks to Sonoma County Winegrape Commission (SCWC), 3245 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401.
- Penalties for late submission: If reports or payments are not submitted on time, wineries are responsible for a 10% late penalty plus 1.5% monthly interest.

All assessment information is confidential and only reviewed by authorized Commission staff. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Dieckmann, Chief Operating Officer, at jennifer@sonomawinegrape.org or 707.522.5867.

The Commission is proud to partner with both our 1,800 growers and local wineries to increase the value of Sonoma County grapes and wines and preserve our agricultural heritage for future generations. Thank you for supporting the work that grape growers make possible through their self-assessment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Karissa Kruse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Karissa Kruse
President & CEO
Sonoma County Winegrape Commission