



Agenda Date: 5/23/2006  
Agenda Placement: 6L

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Dave Whitmer - Agricultural Commissioner  
Agricultural Commissioner  
**REPORT BY:** Jeffery Erwin, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner, 253-4357  
**SUBJECT:** Adoption of a resolution implementing actions necessary for the imposition of assessments for the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Agricultural Commissioner requests adoption of a resolution providing for the following:

1. Acceptance of alternative Engineer's Reports for the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District setting a hearing for the proposed levy of assessment and the conduct of a mailed ballot election to expand the scope of use of District assessments to address winegrape pests and diseases in addition to the glassy winged sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease;
2. Set public hearing for July 11, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. to hear protests to the proposed assessment, including tabulation of ballots from qualifying property owners;
3. Direct the Clerk of the Board to comply with applicable notice requirements with respect to the proposed assessment and the mailed notice and ballot requirements for imposition of the proposed expanded scope of use of assessments; and
4. Designate Vicki Kemmerer of the Agricultural Commissioner's office as the person to answer questions regarding the assessments and protest proceedings.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The recommended action will commence the annual assessment process for the Winegrape Pest & Disease Control District for the 2006-2007 fiscal year by accepting the Engineer's Reports setting forth the proposed assessment. Alternative reports are submitted to allow for balloting of qualifying property owners of the District to approve expanding the scope of use of assessments to assist funding the Agricultural Commissioner's programs relating to winegrape pests and diseases in addition to the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Is there a Fiscal Impact?                      No

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: The formation of the District and original imposition of assessments was analyzed in a Negative Declaration adopted March, 2002, and the instant activity is further statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to 14 California Code of Regulations 15273 (State CEQA Guidelines) in that the assessments are utilized to assist in funding the Agricultural Commissioner's programs related to winegrape pests and diseases.

### **BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION**

In 2002, the Board of Supervisors established the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District (District) to assist in the funding of the inspection, detection, and education of Pierce's disease as stated in the Napa County Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Workplan with the goal of preventing the spread of Pierce's disease. Subsequently, owners of the parcels of real property within the District containing one or more acres of planted vineyard approved an annual assessment not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) per acre per year to provide such funding.

Under the provisions of Food and Agricultural Code section 6295.1, the District is also authorized to fund the detection, prevention, and treatment of winegrape pests and diseases other than just the glassy-winged sharpshooter and Pierce's disease. The District now desires to obtain the consent of property owners subject to the assessment to utilize assessment funds to assist the Agricultural Commissioner in addressing these other winegrape pest and diseases as is deemed necessary and appropriate by the District Board.

Adoption of the resolution will implement the actions necessary to obtain qualifying property owners approval to expand the scope of use of the District's assessment, and call for the necessary balloting and public hearing requirements. Alternative Engineer's Reports have been submitted for acceptance. In the event the approval of qualifying property owners is obtained through the balloting process, the District's assessment will be in the amount of \$4.95, and \$1.00 of that amount will go towards assisting the funding of Napa County's Vine Mealy Bug Workplan carried out by the Commissioner. The District's contribution to this program would total \$73,347, with an equal amount attributed to the County. In the event the balloting is unsuccessful, the assessment to be imposed would be \$3.95 to assist only in funding the Napa County Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Workplan. The District's contribution to this program under either scenario would total \$168,158, with additional contributions coming from the County and State. Both assessments are based on an allocation of program costs over all properties containing planted vineyards of one acre or more.

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Andrew Carey