



A Tradition of Stewardship  
A Commitment to Service

Agenda Date: 6/16/2015  
Agenda Placement: 9F  
Set Time: 9:00 AM PUBLIC HEARING  
Estimated Report Time: 5 minutes

## NAPA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS Board Agenda Letter

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** A. Humberto Izquierdo for Greg Clark - Agricultural Commissioner  
Agricultural Commissioner

**REPORT BY:** John Cooledge, Deputy Agricultural Commissioner - 253-4357

**SUBJECT:** Public Hearing to consider any objections or protests, and to adopt a resolution imposing assessments on behalf of the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures requests the following actions related to the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District (District):

1. Open Public Hearing to consider any objections or protests with respect to the assessments proposed for the District for Fiscal Year 2015-2016; and
2. Close Public Hearing and adopt a resolution authorizing and levying assessments for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 on qualifying properties in the District.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In August 2002, the Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District (District) obtained authorization from owners of property containing one or more acres of planted vineyards ("qualifying property owners") to levy an assessment of up to \$20 per acre per year to fund the detection, prevention, and treatment of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's disease through partially funding the Napa County Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter Workplan.

In 2006, qualifying property owners voted to expand the scope of the District to include activities to control other winegrape pests in addition to Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease. Currently the District collects assessments for funding a Vine Mealybug control program, and an Enhanced Detection Trapping / Research program as well as a portion of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter prevention and detection program. In 2012, the district was reauthorized for an additional five years until March 26, 2017.

This public hearing is to consider objections or protests to the proposed assessment. The resolution imposes an

assessment in the amount of \$5.00 per planted vineyard acre for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 on qualifying properties.

### PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

1. Open Public Hearing.
2. Staff reports.
3. Public comment.
4. Close Public Hearing.
5. Motion, second, discussion and vote on the item.

### FISCAL IMPACT

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Is there a Fiscal Impact?         | Yes   |
| Is it currently budgeted?         | Yes   |
| Where is it budgeted?             | Agricultural Commissioner   |
| Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? | Discretionary   |
| Discretionary Justification:      | This revenue is used in combination with State funding and the County General Fund as part of a financial partnership developed to prevent Pierce's Disease and the spread of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and other winegrape pests, such as the Vine Mealybug. Program activities include the placement and inspection of monitoring traps; issuing and monitoring of grower compliance agreements; education and outreach and inspection of properties to determine the presence of the pests. |
| Is the general fund affected?     | Yes   |
| Future fiscal impact:             | While there is no direct fiscal impact beyond FY 2015-2016, it is anticipated that the District will continue to participate in a financial partnership, for activities related to Glassy-winged Sharpshooter, Vine Mealybug and other potential pests and diseases of wine grapes. The District will remain in effect until March 26, 2017, at which time the District may request the Board of Supervisors to reauthorize the District for another five year term as they did in 2012.            |
| Consequences if not approved:     | If this item is not approved, there would be a decrease in the level of service for these programs, a higher risk of establishment of Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and spread of Pierce's disease, and an increase in spread of Vine Mealybug and possible damage from other pests and diseases of winegrapes in Napa County.   |
| Additional Information:           |   |

### 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**

The Napa County Winegrape Pest and Disease Control District (District) was formed in 2002 for the purpose of providing funding for the prevention of Pierce's Disease and the spread of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter. In August 2002, qualifying property owners approved the imposition of an assessment not to exceed \$20 per acre per year to carry out that objective. All vineyards that are one or more acres in size are subject to the assessment. In 2006, qualifying property owners voted to expand the scope of the District to include activities to control other winegrape pests in addition to Glassy-winged Sharpshooter and Pierce's Disease. Currently the District collects assessments for funding a Vine Mealybug control program, and an Enhanced Detection Trapping / Research program as well as a portion of the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter prevention and detection program.

In 2012, the District was reauthorized until March 26, 2017. Each year, an Engineer's Report is prepared to verify parcels with vineyard acreage subject to the assessment, ownership information and amount of the assessment for each parcel.

The proposed assessments are based upon an allocation of program costs over all properties subject to assessment within the District - approximately 45,275 acres - which varies slightly from year to year. The Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Engineer's Report recommends the levy of an assessment in the amount of \$226,375 for a per acre assessment of \$5.00. The proposed assessment amount is less than the previous year's assessment amount of \$5.85, and the District's programs will remain essentially the same as Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

Assessment funds that are collected are placed into a special revenue fund and disbursed by the Pest District Board of Directors. A fiscal year end trust account balance of \$94,593 from Fiscal Year 2014-2015 will result in total funds available in the amount of \$320,968 for Fiscal Year 2015-2016 which is the revenue amount used in the District's budget.

The total estimated cost for the Agricultural Commissioner to implement the Fiscal Year 2015-2016 Napa County GWSS Workplan, the Vine Mealybug program, and Enhanced Trapping / Research program is \$600,329 with direct funding coming from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (\$212,932), the County (\$161,022), and the proposed assessments (\$226,375).

### **SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS**

A . Resolution

CEO Recommendation: Approve

Reviewed By: Molly Rattigan