



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

## Mendocino County Winegrape and Wine Commission Continuation Provisions

Article 8 of the Mendocino County Winegrape and Wine Commission law requires that, once every five years, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) hold a public hearing to determine whether the operation of the Commission should be continued.

Notice of this public hearing will be sent to all producers and in-county vintners that are paying assessments to the Commission. The notice will be sent 30 days prior to the hearing.

The Commission has the discretion to recommend to CDFA where and when the hearing is held. The statute requires that the first hearing be held after July 1, 2011 and before June 30 of 2012 at a location that is accessible to the public.

CDFA will appoint a hearing panel to take and evaluate the testimony; this panel will be composed of Glenn Yost, the CDFA Commission liaison, another Marketing Branch economist and a hearing officer who is designated by CDFA.

If CDFA finds, after the public hearing, that a substantial question does not exist among the assessed producers and vintners as to whether the Commission should continue, CDFA will continue the operation of the Commission for another five years. If CDFA finds after the hearing that a substantial question exists among assessment payers, the question of the continuation will be submitted to a reapproval referendum. If a referendum is required, in order for the Commission to be continued, a majority of the producers and vintners voting in the referendum must vote in favor of continuation.

The public hearing must be held early enough in the fiscal year so that there is time to conduct a referendum if needed, and at a recent meeting the Commission has requested that the hearing be held TBD. The Commission may also recommend a location for the hearing, and CDFA will need to know this location by early July, 2011.

If you have any questions regarding the hearing, you may contact the Commission staff in Ukiah at 707-468-9886 or Glenn Yost of CDFA, at the location listed below.

