

SONOMA COUNTY PEST CONTROL DISTRICT (SCPCD) FACT SHEET

WHO: The district and the use of the funds derived from the assessment is managed by a panel of Sonoma County vineyard owners or their appointed representatives. The district is facilitated to work in conjunction with existing and renewed Sonoma County administration and agricultural personnel and resources. Once formed, SCPCD can and will be able to access and work in tandem and or share resources with the Napa County Pest and Disease Control District (c.2001) and the County office of the Agricultural Commissioner to broaden our sphere of protection, and keep the assessments per acre down to the lowest advisable amounts.

Funding priorities will be determined by the Grower/Owner Board, but may include: monitoring and exclusion of pests, leveraging and maximizing Sonoma County research partnering with UCCE/UCANR, and County of Sonoma Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures, Agricultural Division.

WHY:

- We are constantly under threat of new pests and all our good work with IPM practices go out the window when a new pest with no natural enemies establishes in our area.
- SCPCD can put pressure on CDFA to properly list potential harmful pests to grape.
- SCPCD can augment “In-County” research with the North Coast UC IPM Advisor, Dr. Cindy Kron and UCCE in issues of mutual interest and concern
- Based on a recent grower survey conducted by Dr. Cindy Kron, pests and diseases of concern include: Vine Mealybug and ant control, Sharpshooters, Three Cornered Alfalfa Hopper, Nematodes, Pierce’s Disease, Grapevine Red Blotch Disease, Trunk and Canker Diseases, and Leafroll.
- SCPCD would mean that not only could there be additional research work performed in our County (based on the Grower Governing Board’s decision) but will also allow us to mobilize, detect and limit the spread of invasive pests. The SCPCD works as a collective for the benefit of all Sonoma County growers. The need for individual eradication methods would be minimized as the SCPCD could take the lead in cooperative work.

WHEN: Projected to be in effect for the harvest of 2022 with funding available for the 2023 growing season. The formation phase is underway, and now is the time for vineyard owners and stakeholders in the County to be active in the construct and to ensure that the initial Board of Directors holds well vetted and appropriate grower representation.



WHAT: The SCPCD law would be written with an initial assessment to all wine grape growers in Sonoma County with 1 or more producing acres of wine grapes planted on their land. The initial assessment goal is to fund the district with \$500,000 per year. With ~60,000 acres of bearing wine grape acreage in Sonoma County the assessment per acre would be proposed as \$8.33 per acre. The law puts a ceiling on the per acre assessment so it will never exceed \$20.00 per acre. SCPCD is a special assessment district that has to be grower requested and supported. It is not a mandated program from any governmental agency. It is not an agency of increased regulation or scrutiny. It is a tool that is 100% governed by growers, paid for by growers, and it enables all growers to receive the full support of existing County agencies and services as they apply to our own mitigation requirements. 100% of the funds contributed by growers are held in trust for the Grower run board to make annual determination of how funds are spent.

WHERE: Sonoma County only. This is not a crush district assessment. This is a per-acre assessment on Sonoma County vineyard owners. Ultimately, it is up to the SCPCD Board, but the intention is that the assessment dollars are to be spent in Sonoma County for the benefit of Sonoma County vineyard owners.

HOW: This SCPCD formation is governed under Prop 218. Assessments are collected annually with property taxes by the Sonoma County Tax Collector. Those funds are held in trust for the SCPCD Grower Governing Board to determine priority spending.

Brown Act rules govern the work of the SCPCD. The SCPCD will work in partnership with the County Ag Commissioner, UCCE, County Counsel, the County Clerk, County Assessor, and County Auditor and act as the informing organization to the Board of Supervisors of the economic Pest and Disease threats to our industry.