



For Immediate Release
February 2011

PRESS RELEASE

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Federal Government Announces Critical Funding For Combating EGVM

San Diego, California – February 7, 2011. The California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) praised the timely announcement today by the US Department of Agriculture that \$16.9 million is available for the ongoing efforts to combat *Lobesia botrana* (European Grapevine Moth or EGVM) .

“This funding is very timely as we prepare to deploy traps to capture the first flight of the EGVM as they emerge from dormancy,” said Bob Atkins, President of CACASA. “The timing of the announcement of this critical funding is a testament to the teamwork of our federal partners including APHIS, OMB and the California congressional delegation,” added Atkins.

The first recorded discovery of EGVM in North America was in September 2009 in Napa County, California wine grape vineyards. Officials in Napa County, California became aware of significant damage and crop loss occurring in Oakville and Rutherford area vineyards. Growers were finding numerous larvae in wine grape berries and experiencing significant crop damage or loss from larval feeding and subsequent botrytis and other bunch rots. Home to numerous international seaports, California is especially susceptible to invasive species being introduced through these pathways.

Despite the wide host range recorded, grapevine is the major host crop in which damage is very significant. California's grape and wine industries account for \$62 billion of economic activity in California and \$122 billion in the nation, as well as providing 330,000 jobs within California and 820,000 jobs nationwide.

Appointed by respective County Board of Supervisors, County Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers of Weights and Measures carry out the laws and regulations of the state of California and enforce local ordinances. They provide one of the first lines of defense against the introduction of injurious plant and animal pests and protect the consumer through dedicated enforcement of agricultural and weights and measures laws and regulations.

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