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FREE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WORKSHOPS FOR CALIFORNIA WINERIES AND VINEYARDS

SAN FRANCISCO – The California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance (CSWA) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) are co-hosting energy efficiency workshops throughout the state to help California wineries and vineyards conserve energy, resources and funds. The workshops are free of charge to participants and sponsored through PG&E's energy efficiency programs under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. The next two workshops will be held on the Central Coast on March 20, 2006, from 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Paso Robles Inn and on March 21, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m. in Santa Barbara County. Locations and details of four additional energy efficiency workshops will soon be announced. Partner organizations for the workshops include Wine Institute, California Association of Winegrape Growers, Central Coast Vineyard Team, and Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance. Visit www.sustainablewinegrowing.org for a workshop calendar, registration and further information.

The energy workshops are being held in response to findings in the California wine community's 2004 Sustainability Report, which provided statewide results on the industry's adoption of sustainable winegrowing practices. The report indicated that energy use was an area that offered wineries and vineyards opportunities for improvement. In response, CSWA is partnering with PG&E to inform the wine community about best practices and opportunities for energy savings. Two pilot workshops held in winter 2005 in Napa and Mendocino were enthusiastically received by attendees who reported that the workshops were informative and useful.

The workshop content includes energy evaluation and planning strategies, best practices for energy management in vineyards and wineries, and renewable energy opportunities. PG&E will provide updated information on free winery audits, available equipment rebates, technical support services and other new resources for winery and vineyard customers. The workshops will conclude with participants developing an action plan for improving practices as well as self-

assessment ratings in the Energy Efficiency chapter of the Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Workbook.

The energy workshops augment other workshops on topics such as integrated pest management, ecosystem management, and air and water quality, hosted throughout the state by CSWA as part of the California wine community's Sustainable Winegrowing Program. Self-assessment workshops are offered throughout the state, and serve as the foundation of the program by determining which areas have the most room for improvement, such as energy efficiency.

Wine Institute and the California Association of Winegrape Growers (CAWG) introduced the Sustainable Winegrowing Program in 2002 to document and increase the level of adoption of these practices. A comprehensive workbook of best practices was developed, and over 130 educational workshops have been held throughout California to encourage expansion of the practices. The program has earned the California wine community numerous awards and a reputation as the wine world's leader in sustainability. Wine Institute and CAWG established CSWA in 2003, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to assist with implementation of the program.

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