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**NATIONAL
G R A P E
& W I N E
I N I T I A T I V E**

National Grape & Wine Initiative President to Depart at Year-End

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (November 19, 2015) – Earlier this week, Jean-Mari Peltier announced at a meeting of the National Grape & Wine Initiative’s (NGWI) Executive Committee that she will join Environmental Solutions Group, LLC , a Sacramento-based consulting practice, at the end of the year. Jean-Mari has served as NGWI’s president since August of 2008.

“Jean Mari’s leadership will be missed, but her record of achievement at NGWI leaves the organization on very solid ground,” said NGWI chairman John Aguirre and president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers.

NGWI compiled a strong record of success in advancing research priorities for the benefit of grape growers and processors nationwide. From irrigation management to battling trunk diseases, from development of sensor technologies and “big data” to finding the genetic basis of controlling powdery mildew, NGWI has identified and secured funding for nationally significant research issues.

This past September NGWI succeeded in winning grant funding from the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture’s (NIFA) Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) for a four-year research project, led by Drs. Terry Bates of Cornell University and Stephen Nuske of Carnegie Mellon University. The project is expected to provide grape growers powerful new tools to more accurately predict crop size and manage vineyards with greater precision.

“NGWI has made great progress with Jean-Mari at the helm, and I and other leaders of the NGWI board of directors will move forward to identify new leadership to build on our past success,” Aguirre said.

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ABOUT THE NATIONAL GRAPE & WINE INITIATIVE

The National Grape and Wine Initiative (NGWI) is an industry-driven partnership with academic and government representatives, designed to focus emphasis on research and extension as a means to strengthen the competitiveness of America’s grape and grape product industries. Grapes are the nation’s leading specialty crop and all industry segments including raisin, juice, fresh grape and wine created the NGWI coalition to drive research for maximum productivity, sustainability and competitiveness. NGWI aims to lead the world in consumer value and quality.