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Dear Valued FPS Customer,

This notice is to inform you that Grapevine Red Blotch Disease, caused by Grapevine red blotch virus (GRBV), has been found in the Russell Ranch Vineyard (RRV) at Foundation Plant Services (FPS). We have removed and destroyed all affected vines (only five of 4,132 vines in RRV tested positive for GRBV). FPS is carefully monitoring the vineyard blocks in which GRBV has been found and additional testing has been implemented to ensure that any occurrence of disease is immediately detected and contained.

Red blotch disease is widespread in the United States. It was first reported in Napa Valley vineyards in 2008 and the virus, GRBV, was identified in 2012. The virus is transmitted by grafting infected propagative material and one vector, the three-cornered alfalfa hopper (*Spissistilus festinus*), has been confirmed to transmit GRBV. Russell Ranch vineyard has been tested for GRBV since 2013 and this is the first time it has been detected. While we are always committed to maintain foundation material at the highest standard, we want to assure you that we are taking additional precautions to prevent the spread of this disease. To that end:

1. Every grapevine in RRV has been tested for GRBV by validated composite testing methodology.
2. The five GRBV positive vines have been removed and destroyed and are being monitored for regrowth.
3. We have tested all mother vines and vines related to GRBV positives and test results were negative in every case, indicating that this is a field transmission of GRBV.
4. Because we believe this occurrence of red blotch to be vector mediated, and we have found the three-cornered alfalfa hopper in RRV, we have applied additional spray treatments specifically targeting this vector and we are developing a more comprehensive program for control of the vector, including consultation with entomology experts.
5. *Vitis* spp. in proximity to RRV have been tested; positive vines have been removed and destroyed.
6. Very few customers have received source material from vines that later tested positive. We have confirmed that the material from all these plants was distributed prior to the last negative test date, indicating that material was likely GRBV-free at the time of distribution. Nevertheless, the one customer who received material from these vines will be contacted by FPS with the offer of additional testing services.
7. The Classic Foundation was also thoroughly tested after the discovery of GRBV in RRV and the one vine that tested positive was removed.
8. Full characterization of the GRBV isolates is still underway to establish the homology between isolates. Preliminary sequence analysis showed high similarity (99% identity) to GRBV isolates from two different groups which indicates separate infection events.

Moving forward, we will continue to work to maintain a high testing standard for our Foundation vineyards, making every effort to keep you informed as new information becomes available.

Regards,

Handwritten signature of Deborah Golino in blue ink.

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Handwritten signature of Maher Al Rwahnih in blue ink.

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