



CALIFORNIA
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COMMISSION

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News Release

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Grape Commission Hires Viticulture Research Director

FRESNO, California – Franka Gabler, a research scientist at the United States Department of Agriculture/Agricultural Research Service (USDA/ARS) in Parlier, CA has been hired to be the Viticulture Research Director for the California Table Grape Commission.

Gabler, who has a Ph.D. in plant pathology and a master's in agronomy from the University of Zagreb in Croatia, has worked at USDA/ARS in Parlier since 1997. She has extensive experience in the design and analysis of viticulture-related research.

“We are extremely pleased to have a researcher with Franka’s extensive experience and qualifications assist the commission in this critical area,” said Kathleen Nave, president of the commission. As Viticulture Research Director, Gabler will be responsible for managing the commission’s viticulture research program, overseeing a wide range of technical projects from pre- and post-harvest improvements to new variety development. She will work closely with the commission’s vice president of viticulture research and technical issues, Ross Jones, in addressing priorities for the industry’s future viticulture research.

“I am very pleased to join the commission in this position,” said Gabler. “Few countries have such a close and productive relationship between industry and researchers, a relationship where farmers are directly involved in the initiating, funding and guidance of research programs and priorities. I look forward to assisting in the search for research solutions to the challenges faced by California’s fresh grape farmers.”

The California Table Grape Commission was created by the California legislature in 1967 to increase worldwide demand for fresh California grapes through a variety of research and promotional programs. More information can be found at grapesfromcalifornia.com.

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