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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SANTA ROSA, CA (November 8, 2017)— The CAWineStrong network is immensely grateful for American AgCredit’s $100,000 donation to support fire relief in the regions most affected by the Northern California wildfires. The money will be divided between the [Community Foundation of Mendocino County](http://www.communityfound.org/), the [Community Foundation of Sonoma County’s Resilience Fund](http://www.sonomacf.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund/), and the [Napa Valley Community Foundation’s Disaster Relief Fund](http://www.napavalleycf.org/supporting-napa-county-fire-relief-efforts/).

“This generous contribution by American AgCredit--one of our key financial partners in the wine industry--is so valuable,” says Kim Stemler, executive director of Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association. “They understand that the wine community is family, and that they are part of this family.”

“Through this donation, and the many other ways American AgCredit is supporting rebuilding efforts, they show their deep caring and commitment to our critical wine communities,” says Ann Petersen, executive director of Winegrowers of Dry Creek Valley.

Maureen Cottingham, executive director of the Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers Alliance shared “This is a remarkable contribution, going directly to help individuals and families most impacted by these tragic fires. On behalf of our united wine communities, we offer our heartfelt thanks to American AgCredit for this generous donation.”

The donation by American AgCredit is the first of many charitable announcements made in response to the CAWineStrong fundraising efforts, a support network formed by wine industry leaders to provide immediate assistance and long-term aid to the victims of the fires that ravaged Northern California.

To learn more about the effort and to donate, interested parties can visit <https://www.cawinestrong.com/>. A CAWineStrong store has been launched, with proceeds benefitting fire victims. It can be found at <https://www.cawinestrong.com/store/>.

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About American AgCredit

Founded in 1916, American AgCredit is part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, and is the nation’s fifth largest Farm Credit cooperative. Serving all segments of agriculture, American AgCredit provides financial services including production and mortgage financing, equipment and vehicle leasing, crop and life insurance, lines of credit, and the Young, Beginning and Small Farmer Program. Learn more at [www.AgLoan.com](file:///C:\\Users\\kfry\\AppData\\Roaming\\Microsoft\\Windows\\Network%20Shortcuts\\www.AgLoan.com).

About CAWineStrong

The CAWineStrong network extends throughout the Golden State and beyond, with calls for the national wine and wine loving communities to join. Funds may be contributed directly online at [CAWineStrong.com](https://www.cawinestrong.com/) or through visits to participating business partners, listed on the CAWineStrong website.

Organized by a group of association leaders representing California’s major winegrowing regions, support efforts include the #CAWineStrong joint fundraising and resource mobilization.

One hundred percent of the proceeds from the CAWineStrong fundraising campaign will directly benefit individuals and families affected by the wildfires. Funds will be distributed by the following relief organizations:

● [Napa Valley Community Foundation’s Disaster Relief Fund](http://www.napavalleycf.org/supporting-napa-county-fire-relief-efforts/)

● [Community Foundation of Sonoma County’s Resilience Fund](http://www.sonomacf.org/sonoma-county-resilience-fund/)

● [Community Foundation of Mendocino County](http://www.communityfound.org/)

The CAWineStrong Network includes: [Alexander Valley Winegrowers](https://alexandervalley.org/), [Alexander Valley Vineyards](https://avwines.com/taste-av.html), Anderson Valley Winegrowers Association, Amador Vintners Association, [Calaveras Valley Winegrape Alliance](http://calaveraswines.org/), [Clarksburg Wine Growers & Vintners Association](http://www.clarksburgwinecountry.com/), Winegrowers of [Dry Creek Valley](https://www.drycreekvalley.org/wineries/), [El Dorado Winery Association](http://eldoradowines.org/), [Lake County Winery Association](http://www.clarksburgwinecountry.com/), [Livermore Valley](https://www.lvwine.org/blog/livermore-valley-leans-sonoma-napa-valley/) Winegrowers Association, [Lodi Wine](http://www.lodiwine.com/), Lodi District Grape Growers Association, [Monterey County Vintners & Growers Association](https://montereywines.org/cawinecountrystrong/), [Madera Wine Trail](http://www.maderawinetrail.com/), [Mendocino Wine Co](http://www.mendocinowineco.com/), [Mendocino Winegrowers Inc.](http://www.mendowine.com/), [Napa Valley Vintners](https://napavintners.com/), [Paso Robles Wine Country Alliance](https://pasowine.com/consumer_events/wildfire_relief/), [Petaluma Gap Winegrowers Alliance](http://petalumagap.com/), Placer County Wine Trail, [Russian River Vineyards](http://www.russianrivervineyards.com/), [Santa Cruz Mountains Winegrowers Association](http://scmwa.com/), [San Luis Obispo Wine Country](http://www.slowine.com/), [Sonoma County Winegrowers](http://sonomawinegrape.org/), [Sonoma County Vintners](http://sonomawine.com/), [Sonoma Valley Vintners & Growers](http://sonomavalleywine.com/), [Temecula Valley Winegrowers](http://www.temeculawines.org/taste/winery-listing.php), [West Sonoma Coast Vintners](https://westsonomacoast.com/), [Wine Road Sonoma County](https://www.wineroad.com/), and [Wine Road Sonoma County](https://www.wineroad.com/).

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