In our continuing efforts to promote sustainable best practices, the NVG offers the following suggestions for vineyard spraying. This is not an all-inclusive list, but rather a spotlight on important aspects to consider.

**Pesticide Applications & Best Management Practices**
The following guide is in a checklist format, addressing questions that growers should consider and procedures that should be followed for each application. Each point of this paper is meant to be general and to generate planning discussions for your site. Every application is different and will have its own specific considerations.

Please note: The management process of any application is important. The person or persons responsible for the application should be identified. Employees involved in applications should have all appropriate contact information and appropriate training. A thorough management process will better ensure a safe and effective result. Management should include in their planning how to keep “Best Practices” in play for every application.

It is critical that applications are compliant with all applicable laws and regulations, including permits and licensing. In addition, many third party programs such as organic certification have specific requirements for application compliance.

- **Pest Identification**
  - What is the target pest?
  - Is it clear that the pest would reach unacceptable levels in absence of control?

- **Information and Recommendations**
  - If needed, do you have an appropriate recommendation from a qualified Pest Control Advisor?
  - If a recommendation is not needed, have you referenced all appropriate information for the pesticide application being considered?
  - Have you referenced the label & MSDS material? Ensure that the label you have at the site includes the crop (grapes)
  - Have you identified all environmental information that could have an effect on the application?
  - Would altering the application schedule for another time have less impact?

- **Sustainability**
  - Is the approach sustainable?
  - What application would have the least impact on the environment and surrounding community?
○ **Conditions**
  - What are the immediate environmental conditions that could affect the application results?
  - Do those conditions meet the goals of a safe and effective application?
  - Are the mixing and loading site conditions safe? Is backflow prevention available? Are there wellheads nearby?

○ **Equipment**
  - Is the equipment calibrated to provide thorough coverage based on foliage density and label recommendations?
  - Is the application equipment in good repair and working order?
  - Is the equipment being used suited to the application site? Row width? Hillside? Etc.
  - Is any special equipment required? (Example: closed mixing system)
  - Is any necessary emergency equipment in place? Decontamination kit, spill kit, etc?

○ **Training**
  - Are the target pests identified and understood by employees?
  - Are contacts for management and emergency response understood and available?
  - Do all employees understand emergency procedures relating to possible health and environmental risks?
  - Are all materials being used identified and on-hand, including label guidelines?
  - Are mixing procedures for safe and effective loading and mixing included in training?
  - Is pesticide storage and containment on site understood and provided for?
  - Are Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements understood, including the use/disposal and cleanup of PPE?
  - Is the cleanup of the mixing area, application equipment, PPE, and handling empty and used pesticide containers clearly understood?
  - Are re-entry intervals and related compliance/application postings understood by employees?

○ **Communications**
  - What communications to surrounding neighbors, businesses, or schools are appropriate?
  - Have you communicated with employees, applicators and anyone at the workplace who may be exposed?
  - Are there other methods of communications that would reach people entering application sites or adjacent properties that would be helpful?
  - If using a pesticide where the label includes the words "toxic to bees", have you checked with the Ag Commissioner for any bee keepers requesting notification in the area?

○ **Monitor and Follow up**
  - Was the application effective?
  - Are all compliance considerations in place including (if applicable) re-entry postings?
  - Is it appropriate for your site to open all above ground valves (including end of line flush valves) that are not protected from freezing?