CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL NOTICE

FOR COMMUNITIES OF
CANYON LAKE, CORONA, CORONITA, EASTVALE, EL CERRITO, EL SOBRANTE, GOOD HOPE, HIGHGROVE, HOME GARDENS, JURUPA VALLEY, LAKE ELSINORE, LAKE MATTHEWS, LAKELAND VILLAGE, MARCH AIR RESERVE BASE, MEAD VALLEY, MEADOWBROOK, MENIFEE, MORENO VALLEY, MURRIETA, NORCO, PERRIS, RIVERSIDE, TEMECULA, TEMESCAL VALLEY, WARM SPRINGS, WILDOMAR, AND WOODCREST
IN RIVERSIDE COUNTY

PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

PROCLAMATION OF EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID AND HUANGLONGBING

Between September 4 to September 24, 2026, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) confirmed the presence of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus (*C*Las), the causative bacterial agent of the citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB), in plant tissue and/or the insect vector Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama. *C*Las-positive plant tissue and/or insect vectors were collected in the cities and communities of Corona, Lake Elsinore, Riverside, and Wildomar in Riverside County, necessitating an emergency program in response.

HLB is a devastating disease of citrus and is spread through feeding action by populations of ACP. HLB/ACP presents a significant, clear, and imminent threat to California's commercial citrus production, residential citrus plantings, natural resources, and economy. Unless emergency action is taken to disrupt the ACP life cycles, there is high potential for sudden future detections in Riverside County.

To determine the extent of the infestation and to define an appropriate response area, CDFA conducts delimitation surveillance. Unless the survey area triggered by a detection overlaps with an existing survey area, each survey takes place within a 250-meter radius area, centered on the detection site(s). Based on pest and disease surveillance, implementation of the CDFA's ACP and HLB response strategies are necessary for eradication and control.

In accordance with integrated pest management principles, CDFA evaluated possible treatment methods and determined that there are no cultural or biological control methods available to control the immediate spread of HLB/ACP in this area. The Proclamation of Emergency Program is valid until September 17, 2028. The two-year period past the date of the last detection is necessary to allow bacteria titers in any undiscovered asymptomatic HLB-infected host plants to build up to a detectable level, which allows for an assessment of the effectiveness of the treatment.

The detections of HLB/ACP described above require immediate action to address the imminent threat to California's commercial citrus production, residential citrus plantings, natural resources, and economy. More specifically, in addition to a variety of commercial citrus crops, HLB/ACP threatens loss and damage to native wildlife, private and public property, and food supplies. Due to ACP being a vector for the bacteria, *C*Las, that causes HLB and the rapid reproductive rate of ACP, there is a high potential for ACP to establish and spread, resulting in sudden future

detections of HLB/ACP in the cities and communities listed above. Therefore, the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture is invoking Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) to carry out immediate emergency action to prevent the aforementioned loss and damage to California's resources.

The program area is the entirety of the HLB quarantine area within Riverside County, which became effective on September 17, 2026. The program area encompasses all properties within a 5-mile radius of all HLB-positive host plants. Scientific literature has shown that ACP can fly continuously for 2.4 kilometers in an unassisted controlled environment. In actuality, ACP dispersal distance can be significantly greater with human and environmental assistance such as wind. This fact, along with the severity of the HLB disease, justifies the establishment of the 5-mile radius program area around all HLB detections. The surveillance and treatment plan for the HLB/ACP infestation will be implemented as follows:

- ACP and HLB Survey. All host plants will be inspected for ACP and for HLB symptoms within a 250-meter radius around each ACP/HLB detection site and future detection sites, at least twice a year, unless the survey areas triggered by these detections overlap with existing survey areas. ACP and host plant tissue will be collected and forwarded to a USDA accredited laboratory for identification and analysis.

- ACP Treatment. CDFA will pursue treatments for all host plants on properties within a 250-meter radius around each current and future HLB detection site and *C*Las-positive ACP detection site. Treatments within 250 meters of *C*Las-positive ACP detection sites are voluntary. Treatments will convert from voluntary to mandatory if HLB infected host plants are detected within 250 meters of properties undergoing treatment based on *C*Las-positive ACP. Treatments within 250 meters of HLB detection sites are mandatory. All treatments shall be conducted according to the following protocol to control ACP:

    - Tempo® SC Ultra (cyfluthrin), a contact insecticide for controlling the adults and nymphs of ACP, will be applied from the ground using hydraulic spray equipment to the foliage of host plants; and

    - Merit® 2F or CoreTect™ (imidacloprid), a systemic insecticide for controlling the immature life stages of ACP, will be applied to the soil underneath host plants. Merit® 2F is applied from the ground using hydraulic spray equipment. CoreTect™, which is used in place of Merit® 2F in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of liquid Merit® 2F, is applied by inserting tablets into the ground and watering the soil beneath the host plants.

- Physical Control. All host plants found to be positive for HLB (infected with *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus) will be removed and destroyed using mechanical means to stop the spread of the disease.

Public Notification:

Residents of affected properties shall be invited to a public meeting or contacted directly by CDFA staff. Consultation with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the county agricultural commissioner's office will

be provided at the public meeting or upon request to address residents' questions and concerns. Except in circumstances where CDFA needs to execute an inspection or abatement warrant, residents are notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment.

Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing post-treatment precautions.

The following treatment information and additional resources are posted on CDFA's website:

- Program Area Maps: http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/treatment_maps.html
- ACP Pest Profile: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/pests_diseases/acp/PestProfile.html
- ACP/HLB Work Plan: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/pests_diseases/ACP_HLB_Work_Plan.pdf
- Integrated Pest Management Analysis: https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/pests_diseases/ACP_HLB_IPM_Analysis.pdf

Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the program leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the HLB/ACP program shall be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

Attachments

FINDINGS REGARDING AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM FOR ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID AND HUANGLONGBING

Riverside County
Program CS-4904

Between September 4 to September 24, 2026, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) confirmed the presence of *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus (*C*Las), the causative bacterial agent of the citrus disease huanglongbing (HLB), in citrus tree tissue and/or the insect vector, Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama. *C*Las-positive plant tissue and/or insect vectors were collected in the cities and communities of Corona, Lake Elsinore, Riverside, and Wildomar in Riverside County, necessitating an emergency program in response. The program area is the entirety of the HLB quarantine area within Riverside County, which is effective on September 17, 2026. The HLB quarantine area encompasses all properties within a 5-mile radius of all HLB-positive plants.

HLB is a devastating disease of citrus and is spread by ACP as they feed on host plants. Unless emergency action is taken to remove sources of the HLB inoculum and disrupt the ACP life cycle, there is high potential for sudden future detections of ACP in Riverside County and transmission of HLB to other areas.

To determine the extent of the infestation and to define an appropriate response area, CDFA conducts delimitation surveillance. Unless the survey area triggered by a detection overlaps with an existing survey area, each survey takes place within a 250-meter radius area, centered on the detection site(s). Based on pest and disease surveillance, implementation of the CDFA's ACP and HLB response strategies are necessary for eradication and control.

Based on pest and disease surveillance, pest biology, findings and recommendations from California's HLB Task Force, the Primary State Entomologist, the Primary State Plant Pathologist, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) experts on HLB and ACP, county agricultural commissioner representatives who are knowledgeable on HLB and ACP, and experience gained from USDA's control efforts in the southeastern United States, I have determined that an infestation of HLB exists and it poses a statewide significant imminent danger to California's commercial citrus production, residential citrus plantings, and natural resources, and the economy. For example, the transmission of HLB to other areas would severely impact both the citrus industry and the urban landscape because *C*Las blocks the flow of nutrients within the citrus tree and causes the tree to starve to death within two to five years of infection. California is the top citrus-producing state in the U.S., with total citrus production valued at $3.63 billion. A recent study estimated that a 20 percent reduction in California citrus acreage would cause a loss of 8,213 jobs, $214 million in employee income, and reduce state GDP by $569 million. Another recent study concluded that if steps are not taken to combat HLB, the total loss in production value could be up to $2.7 billion over 20 years. Studies in Florida have shown that the presence of HLB increases citrus production costs by up to 40 percent and has resulted in a loss of over $7 billion and 6,600 jobs.

Additional surveys also indicated that the local infestation is amenable to CDFA's ACP and HLB emergency response strategies, which include chemical and physical treatments. These options were selected based upon minimal impacts to the natural environment, biological effectiveness, minimal public intrusiveness, and cost.

HLB is considered one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world. There is no cure for HLB. Symptoms of HLB include yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit, fruit that does not fully color, and fruit that has a very bitter, rancid taste, which makes it inedible for human consumption. These symptoms often do not appear until two years after infection, making this disease particularly difficult to contain and suppress. These undesirable symptoms of HLB-infected plants result in the plants' loss of commercial and aesthetic value while at the same time such plants are hosts for spreading the bacteria that causes HLB.

ACP is an insect pest native to Asia. It has appeared in Central and South America. In the United States, ACP has been detected in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas. In California, ACP has been detected in 30 counties.

ACP feeds on members of the plant family Rutaceae, primarily on *Citrus* and *Murraya* species, but is also known to attack several other genera, including over forty species of plant that act as hosts and possible carriers. The most serious damage to the environment and property caused by ACP – the death and loss in value of host plants – is due to its vectoring HLB. In addition, ACP also causes injury to their host plants via the withdrawal of large amounts of sap as they feed and via the production of large amounts of honeydew, which coats the leaves of the tree and encourages the growth of sooty mold. Sooty mold blocks sunlight from reaching the leaves.

Due to the rapid reproductive rate of ACP, there is a high potential for ACP to establish and spread, resulting in sudden future detections of HLB/ACP in the cities and communities listed above.

If unabated, the establishment of HLB in California would harm the natural environment as commercial and residential citrus growers would be forced to increase pesticide use. It could lead to enforcement of quarantine restrictions by the USDA and California's international trading partners. Such restrictions would jeopardize California's citrus exports, which are valued at over $7 billion in economic revenue.

*C*Las was first detected in Los Angeles in 2012. It has subsequently been detected in Imperial, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Ventura counties.

Infected host plants are destroyed as soon as they are discovered. However, due to the length of time it takes for symptoms to appear on infected plants, new infestations continue to be discovered. If the current infestation is not abated immediately, ACP will likely become established in neighboring counties and could pave the way for a statewide HLB infestation.

CDFA evaluated possible treatment methods in accordance with integrated pest management (IPM) principles. As part of these principles, I have considered the following treatments for control of ACP: 1) physical controls; 2) cultural controls; 3) biological controls; and 4) chemical controls. Upon careful evaluation of each of these options, I have determined that it is necessary to address the imminent threat posed by HLB using currently available technology in a manner that is recommended by the HLB Task Force.

Based upon input from the HLB Task Force, the Primary State Entomologist, the Primary State Plant Pathologist, USDA experts on HLB and ACP, and county agricultural commissioner representatives who are knowledgeable on ACP and HLB, I find there are no cultural or biological

control methods that are both effective against ACP and allow CDFA to meet its statutory obligations, and therefore it is necessary to conduct chemical treatments to abate this threat. As a result, I am ordering visual surveillance for ACP and HLB and insecticide treatments for ACP using ground-based equipment within a 250-meter radius around each current and future ACP and HLB detection site and any subsequent sites, and removal of all HLB-infected host plants.

Sensitive Areas

CDFA has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife when rare and endangered species are located within the current treatment area and will do so when new detections trigger additional treatments in the program area. Mitigation measures for rare and endangered species will be implemented. CDFA shall not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatments shall be applied to ACP-host plants on residential properties, common areas within residential development, non-agricultural commercial properties, and rights-of-way.

Work Plan

The program area encompasses those portions of Riverside County which fall within a 5-mile radius around the properties on which HLB was detected. Scientific literature has shown that ACP can fly continuously for 2.4 kilometers in an unassisted controlled environment. In actuality, ACP dispersal distance can be significantly greater with human and environmental assistance such as wind. This fact, along with the severity of the HLB disease, justifies the establishment of the 5-mile radius program area around all HLB detections. For the same reasons, a 5-mile radius is used to establish the HLB quarantine boundary. The Proclamation of Emergency Program will be amended if future delimitation areas expand beyond the program area. A map of the program area is attached. The Proclamation of Emergency Program is valid until September 17, 2028. The two-year period past the date of the last detection is necessary to allow bacteria titers in any undiscovered asymptomatic HLB-infected host plants to build up to a detectable level, which allows for an assessment of the effectiveness of the treatment.

The work plan consists of the following elements:

1. ACP and HLB Survey. All host plants will be inspected for ACP and for HLB symptoms within a 250-meter radius around each current and future ACP/HLB detection site, at least twice a year, unless the survey areas triggered by these detections overlap with existing survey areas. ACP and host plant tissue will be collected and forwarded to a USDA accredited laboratory for identification and analysis.

2. HLB Disease Testing. All host plant tissue and ACP life stages shall be tested for the presence of *C*Las.

3. ACP Treatment. CDFA will pursue treatments for all host plants on properties within a 250-meter radius around each current and future HLB detection site and *C*Las-positive ACP detection site. Treatments within 250 meters of *C*Las-positive ACP detection sites are voluntary. Treatments will convert from voluntary to mandatory if HLB-

infected plants are detected within 250 meters of properties undergoing treatment based on *C*Las-postive ACP. Treatments within 250 meters of HLB detection sites are mandatory. All treatments shall be conducted according to the following protocol to control ACP:

a. Tempo® SC Ultra, containing the contact pyrethroid insecticide cyfluthrin, shall be applied by ground-based hydraulic spray equipment to the foliage of host plants for controlling the adults and nymphs of ACP. Treatment may be re-applied up to three times annually on properties within 250 meters of additional ACP/HLB detection sites.

b. Either Merit® 2F or CoreTect™, containing the systemic insecticide imidacloprid, will be applied to the root zone beneath host plants for controlling developing nymphs and providing long term protection against reinfestation. Merit® 2F is applied as a soil drench, while CoreTect™ tablets are inserted two to five inches below the soil surface and watered in to initiate tablet dissolution. CoreTect™ is used in place of Merit® 2F in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of the liquid Merit® 2F formulation, such as host plants growing next to ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas. Treatment may be re-applied once annually on properties within 250 meters of additional ACP/HLB detection sites.

4. Physical Control. All plants found to be positive for the disease HLB (infected with *C*Las) shall be destroyed. Infected plants shall be removed and destroyed using mechanical means.

Public Information

Residents of affected properties shall be invited to a public meeting or contacted directly by CDFA staff. Consultation with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the county agricultural commissioner's office will be provided at the public meeting or upon request to address residents' questions and concerns.

Except in circumstances where CDFA needs to execute an inspection or abatement warrant, residents are notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment. Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing post-treatment precautions. For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices. The following treatment information and additional resources are posted on CDFA's website:

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Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the program leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

Information concerning the HLB/ACP program will be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes.

Findings

HLB and ACP pose a significant, clear, and imminent threat to California's natural environment, agriculture, public and private property, and its economy.

Unless emergency action is taken to disrupt the life cycles of ACP in the program area, there is high potential for sudden future ACP and HLB detections in Riverside County.

The work plan involving chemical control of these pests is necessary to prevent loss and damage to California's natural environment, citrus industry, native wildlife, private and public property, and food supplies.

Therefore, I am invoking Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4) to carry out immediate emergency action to prevent this loss and damage.

My decision to adopt the findings and take action is based on FAC sections 24.5, 401.5, 403, 407, 408, and 5761-5764.

Signature on File *October 26, 2026*

Karen Ross, Secretary Date