



May 6, 2021

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
To Consider the Continuation of the
California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program and the
Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee**

**Hearing Dates: Visalia, May 25, 2021; Webinar, May 27, 2021;
Ventura, June 1, 2021; Riverside June 3, 2021**

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) has scheduled four public hearings to receive comments from the California citrus industry and the general public on whether the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (Program) and the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (Committee) should be continued. The Department is required to conduct at least one such hearing every four years per Food and Agriculture Code (FAC) Section 5921 to determine whether the Program and Committee are fulfilling the purposes of the Program and Committee under the FAC Sections 5911-5940. The last series of public hearings regarding the continuation of the Program and Committee were conducted in 2017.

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division will hold four meetings. Three meetings will be available for attendees to participate in person, with social distancing and the use of face coverings and; one meeting will be held via webinar.

<p>May 25, 2021 (5:00 to 7:00 PM) Visalia Marriott at the Convention Center 300 S. Court Street Visalia, CA 93291</p>	<p>June 1, 2021 (5:00 to 7:00 PM) Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor 1050 Schooner Drive Ventura, CA 93001</p>	<p>June 3, 2021 (5:00 to 7:00 PM) Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center 3400 Market Street Riverside, CA 92501</p>
<p>May 27, 2021 Go to Webinar (5:00 to 7:00 PM) https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7593775272267847183 Webinar ID 694-504-515 AUDIO 1 (914) 614-3429 or Toll Free 1 877 568 4108, Attendee Passcode 583-971-916</p>		



Hearing Procedures

During the hearing, a Department representative will receive testimony and evidence, both oral and documentary, with respect to relevant matters, specifically including the following:

1. Whether the Program and Committee:
 - Are meeting the requirements set forth in FAC Sections 5911-5940.
 - Furthers the interests of the residents of the State of California.

All affected California citrus producers and other interested persons are invited to provide testimony and evidence for this hearing. Testimony may be provided in-person during one of the hearings or may be submitted in writing. All written comments must be received by Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 10, 2021 and may be submitted using one of the options listed below.

Ways to Submit Written Testimony	
By Mail to:	Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Attn: Victoria Hornbaker 1220 N Street Sacramento, CA 95814-5603
By E-mail to:	victoria.hornbaker@cdfa.ca.gov

Preparation of Hearing Testimony

Supporters of the Program and Committee should provide testimony that communicates why they believe the Program and Committee should be continued. Supporters should explain how the activities of the Program and Committee aid the industry. Conversely, opponents of the Program and Committee should provide testimony that communicates why they believe the Program and Committee should not be continued. Opponents should explain how the activities of the Program and Committee do not aid the industry.

Following are some relevant questions that hearing witnesses may wish to consider in preparing their testimony.

- Has the California citrus industry benefited from the activities carried out by the Program and Committee? If yes, please explain how. If no, please explain why not.
- What are the most significant accomplishments of the Program and Committee over the last four years?

- What problems, if any, would the industry face in the absence of the industry-funded Program?
- Does the general public benefit from the activities of the Program and Committee? If yes, please explain how. If no, please explain why not.
- Have assessment monies been spent wisely, efficiently and according to the authority granted to the Program?

Steps Subsequent to the Hearing

The hearing transcript, written comments, and submitted exhibits will be combined to form the official hearing record, which will be considered by the California Secretary of Agriculture in determining whether the Program and Committee will be authorized to continue. If the hearing record generally supports continuation of the Program and the Committee, the Secretary may authorize the Program and Committee to operate for another four years without the need for an industry referendum. However, if the Secretary finds from the hearing record that a substantial question exists as to whether the Program and Committee is fulfilling its declared purposes, the Secretary will conduct a vote of citrus producers to determine if the Program and Committee should be continued.

If you have Questions

If you have questions regarding these hearings, please feel free to contact me via phone at (916) 274-6300 or via email at Victoria.hornbaker@cdfa.ca.gov.

Best regards,

Victoria Hornbaker, Director
Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division