

DETERMINATIONS, FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

*Public Hearing to Determine if the California Citrus Disease Prevention Program and
the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee will be Authorized to Continue.*

July 5, 2017

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) held five public hearings on, June 5, 6, 13, 14 and 21, 2017 to determine whether operation of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (Program) and the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (Committee) should be continued. [Food and Agricultural Code 5921]

If the hearing record documents that the affected producers are supportive of the Program and feel that the Program has protected the citrus industry as well as the general well being of the citizens of California, the Department may authorize the Program to operate for an additional four years. However, if a substantial question of opposition exists among affected producers regarding whether the operation of this article should be continued, the article shall be submitted for approval through the referendum process. [Food and Agricultural Code 5922]

DETERMINATIONS

In reviewing the citrus industry and public comments, the Department has determined that the Program and the Committee have adequately met their purpose and obligations as described in the Food and Agricultural Code 5911 through 5940.

- In 2009 an industry-funded program was established within the Department to assist in protecting California citrus from citrus specific diseases, vectors and pests. The Program is supported by industry funds secured in the Citrus Disease Management Account in the Department's Agricultural Fund.
- In 2009 the Committee was created to advise the Department on issues pertinent to the citrus industry, while serving the public interest. The Committee maintains a record of their meetings in the form of meeting minutes and makes recommendations to the Department in the form of motions submitted for the Secretary's consideration.
- Affected producers and the general public have benefitted from the Program and Committee efforts to control and suppress the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), vector of the deadly citrus disease Huanglongbing (HLB) and the efforts to act swiftly and decisively to remove any citrus trees infected with the HLB virus. To date the Program has identified 73 HLB positive trees from residential properties in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, all of the trees were quickly removed from the properties and destroyed. The Program under the direction of the Committee and in collaboration with the Department continues to survey for HLB symptomatic trees

and to survey and treat for ACP in defensible areas of the State, thereby slowing the potential spread of HLB.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

All comments received at the public hearings and in written submissions to the Department were supportive of the program. No question of opposition was raised at public hearings or in written submissions to the Department. Therefore, the Department has determined that a referendum is not warranted in this instance.

ORDER

It is hereby ordered that the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program and the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee shall be authorized to continue.



Karen Ross, Secretary
California Department of Food and Agriculture

Signed and entered in the Office of the Secretary
of Food and Agriculture at Sacramento, California,
On July 6, 2017