FINDING OF EMERGENCY

The Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) determined that an emergency exists; infestations of the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* were detected for the first time in the Santa Maria and Santa Barbara areas of Santa Barbara County. The Department is proposing an emergency amendment of the regulation to expand the quarantine area to include all of Santa Barbara County.

Emergency Defined

"'Emergency' means a situation that calls for immediate action to avoid serious harm to the public peace, health, safety, or general welfare," Government Code Section 11342.545. If a state agency makes a finding that the adoption of a regulation is necessary to address an emergency, the regulation may be adopted as an emergency regulation. Government Code Section 11346.1(b)(1).

In this document the Department is providing the necessary specific facts demonstrating the existence of an emergency and the need for immediate action to prevent serious harm to the general welfare of the citizens of California, pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.1(b)(2).

Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(2) requires that, at least five working days prior to submission of the proposed emergency action to the Office of Administrative Law, the adopting agency provide a notice of the proposed emergency action to every person who has filed a request for notice of regulatory action with the agency.

Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(3) provides that if the emergency situation clearly poses such an immediate, serious harm that delaying action to allow public comment would be inconsistent with the public interest, an agency is not required to provide notice pursuant to Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(2) (See Evidence of Emergency).

The information contained within this finding of emergency also meets the requirements of Government Code Sections 11346.1 and 11346.5.

California Environmental Quality Act

"Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency" are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Public Resources Code Section 21080(b)(4). "'Emergency' means a sudden, unexpected occurrence, involving a clear and imminent danger, demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, or essential public services." Public Resources Code Section 21060.3.

Categorical Exemption

Title 14, California Code of Regulations, Section 15308. "Class 8 consists of actions taken by regulatory agencies, as authorized by state or local ordinance, to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of the environment where the regulatory process involves procedures for protection of the environment."

For the reasons set forth in this document, this constitutes a specific act necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency and is also an action required for the preservation of the environment.

The Secretary is proposing to amend this regulation pursuant to the authority in Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 407, "the director may adopt such regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code which he is directed or authorized to administer or enforce," and FAC Section 5322, "the director may establish, maintain, and enforce quarantine, eradication, and such other regulations as are in his or her opinion necessary to circumscribe and exterminate or prevent the spread of any pest which is described in FAC Section 5321."

Additionally, FAC Section 401.5 states, "the department shall seek to protect the general welfare and economy of the state and seek to maintain the economic well-being of agriculturally dependent rural communities in this state" and Section 403 states, "the department shall prevent the spread of injurious insect pests."

Evidence of an Emergency

By itself, ACP causes feeding damage to citrus trees. However, when it becomes infected with Huanglongbing (HLB or citrus greening), it becomes a carrier for the disease and can transmit the HLB-associated bacteria from the fourth nymphal instar through the adult stage with a latency period as short as one day or as long as 25 days. HLB was first identified in China in 1919 and is considered to be the most devastating of all citrus diseases. Once infected, there is no cure for HLB infected citrus trees, which decline and die within a few years. Additionally, the fruit produced by infected trees is not suitable for either the fresh market or juice processing due to the significant increase in acidity and bitter taste.

Both ACP and HLB are federal action quarantine pests subject to interstate and international quarantine restrictions by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Both ACP and HLB now occur in Mexico and HLB has continued to spread to the north and now occurs south of the State of Sonora. In mid-January of 2012, HLB was confirmed in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Additionally, in July of 2009 ACP nymphs were intercepted in a plant shipment from India sent to the Fresno area which tested positive for HLB. On March 30, 2012, the USDA confirmed the presence of HLB in the Hacienda Heights area of Los Angeles County and the only known infected tree was removed. Additionally, the Department established a HLB Interior Quarantine of approximately 93 square miles surrounding the find site.

It is imperative that the Department prevent the artificial spread of ACP wherever possible to ensure the devastating damage caused by HLB is limited to the smallest area possible.

California is the number one economic citrus state in the nation, with the USDA putting the value of California citrus at $1,131,851,000 (Federal Register Vol. 71 No.83; published May 1, 2006; pg 25487). A 2002 report by the Arizona State University School of Business indicates that there is at least $825.6 million of direct economic output and another $1.6 billion when all upstream suppliers and downstream retailers are included. This represents over 25,000 direct and indirect employees. To protect this source of revenue, California must do everything possible to exclude both HLB-associated pathogens and ACP from the state.

An economic analysis study by the University of Florida IFAS Extension concluded HLB had a total impact of $3.64 billion and eliminated seven percent of the total Florida workforce. Extrapolating from this study, in California the projected increased production costs would be up to $450 to $550 per acre. The projected increased citrus production costs in California would be at least $130.5 to $159.5 million.

The Department uses Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping programs to plot locations of all the detections of ACP. As a result, based upon the criteria contained in the USDA regulatory protocol, the Department determined that there are new infestations of ACP requiring the expansion of the quarantine area.

On February 25, 2013 (PDRs #SA0P06071874 and BU0P06007550), three adult ACP were identified; on February 26, 2013 (PDR #BU0P06007551), an adult ACP was identified; and, on March 1, 2013 (PDR #SA0P06071875), an adult ACP was identified and all were in the Santa Barbara area of Santa Barbara County. On January 23, 2013 (PDR #MV1P06169707), an adult ACP was identified and on March 4, 2013 (PDR #SA0P06071876), an adult ACP was identified and both were from the Santa Maria area of Santa Barbara County. On March 22, 2013 (PDR #SA0P06125725), an adult ACP was identified from a trap in the Goleta area of Santa Barbara County. These detections meet the State and federal regulatory protocols for expanding the quarantine in these areas to include all of Santa Barbara County.

The Agricultural Commissioner of Santa Barbara County requested a quarantine expansion on March 4, 2013.

The Department determined there are 46 growers representing 2,000 acres of citrus (primarily lemon), 68 retail nurseries that will be impacted and no commercial wholesale citrus production nurseries which ship intra and intestate that will be impacted. The lemons are in the process of being harvested now an there is an immediate need to implement the restrictions on the movement of bulk citrus to prevent the unintended movement of ACP adults and nymphs as hitchhikers.

The USDA cannot regulate less than an entire state unless the state has a quarantine regulation which is substantially the same as what the existing federal rule requires for interstate movement. The Department needs to have the immediate authority to prevent host material from being shipped intrastate outside the proposed quarantine area. This in turn will enable the USDA to amend their federal regulation or order. If the Department fails to implement a quarantine on an emergency basis, the USDA may consider quarantining all of California in order to immediately prevent the affected host material from shipping interstate.

Therefore, it is necessary to amend this regulation by adding the rest of Santa Barbara County to the regulation as an emergency action.

Project Description

This proposed emergency action will expand the quarantine area for ACP by approximately 2,244 square miles in Santa Barbara County. The proposed boundary line were drawn jointly by the USDA, the CDFA, and the affected county agricultural commissioner. The criterion for determining quarantine boundaries around an epicenter was based upon the information obtained from the USDA. The entire counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego and Ventura; and, portions of Riverside, San Bernardino and Santa Barbara are already under quarantine for ACP. The total proposed quarantine area would then become approximately 28,369 square miles.

The effect of the amendment of this regulation will be to implement the State's authority to perform quarantine activities against the ACP in this additional area of Santa Barbara County. Any quarantine actions undertaken by the Department will be in cooperation and coordination with the USDA and the affected county agricultural commissioners. It is immediately necessary to implement quarantine actions in order to prevent the artificial spread of ACP.

Background

The California citrus industry has taken a great deal of responsibility in preparing for the introduction and establishment of HLB-associated bacteria and psyllid vectors. Funding has been

allocated towards research on easy, early (i.e., pre-clinical) detection methods (i.e., one primer set to detect all strains rather than primer sets specific for each known strain; host systemic responses) and the identification of HLB-associated bacterial strains, and vector relationships. In addition, a public relations firm has been hired to determine the most effective and efficient methods to educate the general public and make them feel as though they are part of the solution. Industry leaders (research and marketing boards) are involved in procuring federal funds for national research programs in the areas of host plant resistance, etiological agents and variants of HLB, specific native and exotic natural enemies of the insect vectors, and pesticide efficacy and new chemistries.

California citrus industry leaders recognized how Florida was at a loss of ample supplies of HLB-free citrus stock when the pathogen was detected in 2005. As a result, plans are underway to expand the screenhouse facility at the UC Lindcove Research and Extension Center that houses the industry's pathogen-free budwood source to allow for the protection of additional varieties. Other alternatives are being considered to protect valuable citrus propagation sources, germplasm, and breeding material such as isolated and/or protected locations and tissue culture. For long-term survey and management, the industry may pursue the formation of pest control districts.

In Florida and countries where HLB exists, insecticides have been a first line of defense to eliminate the psyllid vector, thereby reducing the spread of the HLB-associated pathogens. Applying insecticide sprays at critical flushing periods in order to kill psyllid nymphs may be an effective method of HLB control should HLB be introduced into California. In accordance with integrated pest management (IPM) principles, the Department will evaluate all appropriate mechanical, biological, cultural and treatment control options which may be efficacious to prevent the artificial spread of ACP. If a treatment option is chosen, as insecticide use registrations vary between crops and urban areas and between fruit trees and ornamentals, any treatment program will need to be tailored to each situation.

The implementation of biological control methods (the use of beneficial organisms to attack pest populations) will be an important component of an IPM program to reduce populations of ACP.

As there are no known native psyllids in California citrus, exotic natural enemies from the pest's area of origin may need to be imported into the United States or from Florida under strict quarantine protocols. There may be some generalist predators such as the coccinellid beetles that will come into citrus from other habitats but to what extent these would be effective is not known at this time. Natural enemies obtained from commercial sources or mass reared by government or industry personnel can be periodically released into field situations once the psyllid becomes established.

Populations of ACP in Florida are fed upon by many generalist arthropod predators such as spiders, lacewings, hover flies or syrphids, and minute pirate bugs, and are attacked by a number of parasites. The coccinellids exert the greatest amount of control. Two lady beetles, *Olla v-nigrum*, which is native to California and *Harmonia axyridis,* are the most important predators of ACP nymphal stages in Florida. *H. axyridis* was imported from Japan to control the pecan aphid and is established in parts of California. Two tiny parasitic wasps have been imported and released in Florida; *Tamarixia radiata* was imported from Taiwan and Vietnam, and *Diaphorencyrtus aligarhensis* was imported from Taiwan.

The Department also relied upon the following information:

> "Pest and Damage Records #s SA0P06071874, BU0P06007550, BU0P06007551, SA0P06071875, MV1P06169707, SA0P06071876 and #SA0P06125725, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services.
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> Email dated March 19, 2013, from Nawal Sharma to Lindsay Rains.
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> Letter dated March 4, 2013, from Cathleen Fisher to Karen Ross.
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> Economic Impacts of Citrus Greening (HLB) in Florida, 2006/07-2010/11, University of Florida IFAS Extension.

Federal Register, Vol. 76, No. 81, dated April 27, 2011, Docket No. APHIS-2010-0048, Citrus Canker, Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Pysllid; Interstate Movement of Regulated Nursery Stock.

"New Pest Response Guidelines, Citrus Greening Disease," dated June 2, 2008, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Authority and Reference Citations:
Authority: Sections 407 and 5322, Food and Agricultural Code.
Reference: Sections 407 and 5322, Food and Agricultural Code.

Informative Digest

Existing law provides that the Secretary is obligated to investigate the existence of any pest that is not generally distributed within this state and determine the probability of its spread and the feasibility of its control or eradication (FAC Section 5321).

Existing law also provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain and enforce quarantine, eradication and other such regulations as he deems necessary to protect the agricultural industry from the introduction and spread of pests (Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 401, 403, 407 and 5322).

Anticipated Benefits from This Regulatory Action

Existing law, FAC section 403, provides that the department shall prevent the introduction and spread of injurious insect or animal pests, plant diseases, and noxious weeds.

Existing law, FAC section 407, provides that the Secretary may adopt such regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code which she is directed or authorized to administer or enforce.

Existing law, FAC section 5321, provides that the Secretary is obligated to investigate the existence of any pest that is not generally distributed within this State and determine the probability of its spread, and the feasibility of its control or eradication.

Existing law, FAC section 5322, provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce quarantine, eradication, and such other regulations as are in her opinion necessary to circumscribe and exterminate or prevent the spread of any pest which is described in FAC section 5321.

The existing law obligates the Secretary to investigate and determine the feasibility of controlling or eradicating pests of limited distribution but establishes discretion with regard to the establishment and maintenance of regulations to achieve this goal. The amendment of this regulation benefits the citrus industries (nursery, fruit for domestic use and exports, citrus packing facilities) and the environment (urban landscapes) by having a quarantine program to prevent the artificial spread of ACP over long distances. Most all of the commercial citrus fruit and nursery stock production is located outside this proposed quarantine boundary area.

This amendment provides the necessary regulatory authority to prevent the artificial spread of a serious insect pest which is a mandated statutory goal.

FAC Section 401.5 states, “the department shall seek to protect the general welfare and economy of the state and seek to maintain the economic well-being of agriculturally dependent rural communities in this state.” The amendment of this regulation is preventing the artificial spread of ACP to uninfested areas of the State. HLB is generally distributed in Florida due to ACP being generally distributed there. The University of Florida IFAS Extension calculated and compared the impact of having and not having HLB present in Florida and concluded HLB had a total impact of $3.64 billion and eliminated seven percent of the total Florida workforce. The overall California economy benefits by the amendment of this regulation which is intended to prevent ACP from becoming generally distributed in California and resulting in a similar affect on our economy as to what happened in Florida. This is now critical as HLB has been introduced into California.

The California, national and international consumers of California citrus benefit by having high quality fruit available at lower cost. It is assumed that any increases in production costs will ultimately be passed on the consumer.

The amendment of this regulation benefits homeowners who grow citrus for consumption and host material which is planted as ornamentals in various rural and urban landscapes.

The Department is the only agency which can implement plant quarantines. As required by Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(3)(D), the Department has conducted an evaluation of this regulation and has determined that it is not inconsistent or incompatible with existing state regulations.

Section 3435. Asian Citrus Psyllid Interior Quarantine.

This proposed emergency action will expand the quarantine area for ACP by approximately 2,244 square miles in Santa Barbara County. The effect of the amendment of this regulation is to provide authority for the State to perform quarantine activities against ACP within this additional area. The total area which would be under regulation would be approximately 28,369 square miles.

Mandate on Local Agencies or School Districts

The Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that Section 3435 does not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts, except that an agricultural commissioner of a county under quarantine has a duty to enforce it. No reimbursement is required under Section 17561 of the Government Code because the affected county agricultural commissioner requested that these changes to the regulation be made.

Cost Estimate

The Department has also determined that the regulation will involve no additional costs or savings to any state agency because initial funds for state costs are already appropriated, no

nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts, no reimbursable savings to local agencies or costs or savings to school districts under Section 17561 of the Government Code and no costs or savings in federal funding to the State.