

TITLE 3. DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Department of Food and Agriculture adopted Section 3435 of the regulations in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations pertaining to Asian Citrus Psyllid Interior Quarantine as an emergency action that was effective on March 18, 2009. The Department proposes to continue the regulation as amended and to complete the amendment process by submission of a Certificate of Compliance no later than September 13, 2009.

A public hearing will be held on September 2, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM (or until all interested parties have been heard), at the Riverside County Cooperative Extension Office, 81-077 Indio Blvd. Suite H, Indio, California. Following the public hearing, the Department of Food and Agriculture, at its own motion, or at the instance of any interested person, may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice.

Notice is also given that any person interested may present statements or arguments in writing relevant to the action proposed to the agency officer named below on or before August 31, 2009.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Existing law obligates the Department of Food and Agriculture to protect the agricultural industry in California and prevent the spread of injurious pests (Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 401 and 403). Existing law also provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce such regulations as he deems necessary to prevent the spread of pests to protect California's agricultural industry (Food and Agricultural Code, Section 5322).

The amendment Section 3435 established a portion of Riverside County as a additional regulated area for the Asian citrus psyllid. The effect of this amendment was to establish authority for the State to conduct quarantine activities in this portion of the State against this pest. There is no existing, comparable federal regulation or statute.

COST TO LOCAL AGENCIES AND 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 agricultural commissioners of Imperial and San Diego counties requested that these areas become the area under quarantine; therefore, there are no mandated costs associated with the addition of this area to the regulation.

The Department also has determined that the regulation will involve no costs or savings to any state agency, no nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts,

no reimbursable costs or savings to local agencies or school districts under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code, and no costs or savings in federal funding to the State.

EFFECT ON HOUSING COSTS

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed actions will not affect housing costs.

EFFECT ON BUSINESSES

The Department has made an initial determination that the proposed action will not have a significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

COST IMPACT ON AFFECTED PRIVATE PERSON OR BUSINESSES

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

ASSESSMENT

The Department has made an assessment that the proposed amendment of the regulations would not (1) create or eliminate jobs within California, (2) create new business or eliminate existing businesses within California, or (3) affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Department of Food and Agriculture must determine that no reasonable alternative considered by the Department or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the Department would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the actions are proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed actions.

AUTHORITY

The Department adopted and amended Section 3435 pursuant to the authority vested by Sections 407, 5301, 5302 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code of California.

REFERENCE

The Department adopted and amended Section 3435 to implement, interpret and make specific Sections 5301, 5302 and 5322, Food and Agricultural Code.

EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS

The proposed amendment of this regulation may affect small businesses.

CONTACT

The agency officer to whom written comments and inquiries about the initial statement of reasons, proposed actions, location of the rulemaking files, and request for a public hearing may be directed to is: Stephen S. Brown, Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, 1220 N Street, Room A-316, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-1017, FAX (916) 654-1018, E-mail: sbrown@cdfa.ca.gov. In his absence, you may contact Liz Johnson at (916) 654-1017. Questions regarding the substance of the proposed regulation should be directed to Stephen S. Brown.

INTERNET ACCESS

The Department has posted the information regarding this proposed regulatory action on its Internet Web site (www.cdfa.ca.gov/cdfa.pendingregs).

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Department of Food and Agriculture has prepared an initial statement of reasons for the proposed actions, has available all the information upon which its proposal is based, and has available the express terms of the proposed action. A copy of the initial statement of reasons and the proposed regulations in underline and strikeout form may be obtained upon request. The location of the information on which the proposal is based may also be obtained upon request. In addition, when completed, the final statement of reasons will be available upon request. Requests should be directed to the contact named herein.

If the regulations amended by the Department differ from, but are sufficiently related to the action proposed, they will be available to the public for at least 15 days prior to the date of adoption. Any person interested may obtain a copy of said regulations prior to the date of adoption by contacting the agency officer (contact) named herein.

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