

## FINDING OF EMERGENCY

### Amended

The Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture determined that an emergency exists; the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* was unexpectedly detected for the first time in Ventura County. This new occurrence is over 50 miles from the nearest known ACP infestations in Los Angeles County. The Department is proposing an emergency amendment of the regulation to expand the quarantine area to include all of Ventura County and a portion of Santa Barbara County. Additionally, ACP was also unexpectedly detected in the Redlands area of San Bernardino County. As a result, The Department is also proposing to expand the quarantine area in portions of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

#### 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).

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.

By itself, ACP causes only minor cosmetic 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 has now been found just south of the State of Sonora. 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. 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.

For 2008 in Florida, the estimated increased production costs for citrus range from \$266 to \$332 million. There are approximately 600,000 acres of citrus in production in Florida. This translates into increased production costs of \$443 to \$553 per acre. This estimate is based upon an eight

dollar per tree replacement cost. In California, the estimated cost to replace a tree is from \$10 to \$20. Using a cost of \$15 per tree would push the projected production costs up to \$450 to \$550 per acre. The estimated citrus acreage in 2008 in California is approximately 290,000 acres. The projected increased citrus production costs in California would be at least \$130.5 to \$159.5 million.

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.”

#### Emergency Rulemaking Procedures

Since the Department does not have a record of any person requesting a notice of regulatory actions under Government Code Section 11346.4(a)(1), the provisions of Government Code Section 11346.1(a)(2) do not appear to be applicable to this emergency action.

#### Evidence of an Emergency

Under Section 14.5 of the State of California Emergency Plan, dated July 1, 2009, the Department is responsible for coordinating integrated federal, state and local preparedness for response to, recovery from and mitigation of plant diseases and pests and overseeing the control and eradication of outbreaks of harmful or economically significant plant pests and diseases. The Department is also charged with leading the administration of programs to detect, control and eradicate pests affecting plants.

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 December 14, 2010 (PDR #1443890), an adult ACP was detected in the La Conchita area of Ventura County. It was confirmed as ACP on December 17, 2010. This detection meets the State's and federal regulatory protocol for expanding the quarantine area in this area which includes portions of Santa Barbara County and all of Ventura County.

On December 17, 2010 (PDR #1443911), an adult ACP was detected in the Redlands area of San Bernardino County. It was confirmed as ACP on December 22, 2010. This detection meets the State's and federal regulatory protocol for expanding the quarantine area in this area which includes portions of San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

On June 17, 2010, the USDA issued a new interim rule which quarantines the states of Florida, Georgia and Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and two parishes in Louisiana and two counties in South Carolina due to the presence of HLB. Additionally, this rule also quarantined Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Guam, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, Puerto Rico, Texas, the U.S. Virgin Islands, three counties in South Carolina, portions of one county in Arizona, and all of three and portions of an additional three counties in California due to the presence of Asian citrus psyllid,

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 USDA has notified the Department that it is necessary to expand the quarantine area for ACP to encompass the latest find in La Conchita, Ventura County. If the Department fails to implement a quarantine on an emergency basis, the USDA may consider quarantining all of California.

Therefore, it is necessary to amend this regulation by adding portions of Santa Barbara County and all of Ventura County as an emergency action.

### Project Description

This proposed emergency action will expand the quarantine area for ACP by approximately 3,625 square miles; including approximately 312 square miles of Santa Barbara; approximately 1,834 square miles of Ventura County; approximately 700 square miles of San Bernardino County; and, approximately 1,779 square miles of Riverside County. The proposed boundary lines were drawn jointly by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), the California Department of Food and Agriculture, and the affected county agricultural commissioners. 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 and Orange; and, portions of Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego are already under quarantine for ACP. The total proposed quarantine area would then become approximately 20,562 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 these additional areas of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. 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 greenhouse facility at the UC Lindcove Research and Extension Center that houses the industries 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. Since insecticide use registrations vary between crops and urban areas and between fruit trees and ornamentals, any eradication treatment program will need to be tailored to each situation.

A number of registered insecticides, including insect growth regulators and biocontrol agents of unknown efficacy for ACP control should be evaluated for potential use:

1. Commercial citrus: methomyl, formetanate, malathion, piperonyl butoxide + pyrethrins, pyrethrins, pyriproxyfen and *Beauveria bassiana* (a fungal biocontrol agent).
2. Nursery citrus: bifenthrin, permethrin, acephate, dinotefuran, Imidacloprid + cyfluthrin, azadirachtin, *B. bassiana*, pyriproxyfen, pyrethrin + rotenone, Kryocide and dinotefuran.
3. Ornamentals: permethrin and acephate.

The implementation of biological control methods (the use of beneficial organisms to attack pest populations) will be an important component of an integrated pest management program to reduce populations of the ACP. As there are no known 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 Record #1443911,” dated December 17, 2010, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services.

“Pest and Damage Record #1443890,” dated December 14, 2010, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services.

Email dated December 23, 2010, from nick Condos to Stephen Brown, Wendi Wilkinson, Nawal Sharma, Melinda Mochel and Susan McCarthy.

Letter dated December 23, 2010, from John Snyder to A.G. Kawamura.

Letter dated December 21, 2010, from Henry S. Gonzales to A.G. Kawamura.

Letter dated December 20, 2010, from Cathleen M. Fisher to Nick Condos.

Federal Register, Vol. 75, No. 116, dated June 17, 2010, Docket No. APHIS-2008-0015, Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid; Quarantine and Interstate Movement Regulations.

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

“Huanglongbing (HLB) or Citrus Greening and the Vectors of HLB-associated Bacteria: *Diaphorina citri*, the Asian Citrus Psyllid (AC), and *Trioza erytreae*, the African Citrus Psyllid,” Draft Action Plan for California, dated June 1, 2008, HLB Task Force 2007.

“Detection of ‘*Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*’ in *Diaphorina citri* and Its Importance in the Management of Citrus Huanglongbing in Florida,” dated April 2008, Phytopathology, K.L. Manjunath, S.E. Halbert, C. Ramadugu, S. Webb, and R.F. Lee.

“Citrus Industry Update,” dated March/April 2008, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“Citrus Greening: Questions and Answers,” dated March 2007, United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Plant Protection and Quarantine.

Citrus Acreage, Production and Value, 1997-2006, dated 2007, California Agricultural Resource Directory.



“Citrus Huanglongbing: Understanding the Vector-Pathogen Interaction for Disease Management,” dated December 2007, R.H. Briansky and M.E. Rodgers, University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences.

“Asian Citrus Psyllid,” dated 2006, Publication 8205, University of California, Division of Agriculture and Natural Resources.

Authority and Reference Citations:

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

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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).

Section 3435. Asian Citrus Psyllid Interior Quarantine.

This proposed emergency action will expand the quarantine area for ACP by approximately 3,625 square miles; including approximately 312 square miles of Santa Barbara; approximately 1,834 square miles of Ventura County; approximately 700 square miles of San Bernardino County; and, approximately 1,779 square miles of Riverside 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 and existing regulated areas.

### 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 commissioners 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.