

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

45 – Day Notice

The Department of Food and Agriculture (Department) amended subsection 3589(a) of the regulations in Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations pertaining to Japanese Beetle Eradication Area as an emergency action that was effective on April 5, 2016. 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 October 3, 2016.

This notice is being provided to be in compliance with Government Code Section 11346.4.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing is not scheduled. A public hearing will be held if any interested person, or his or her duly authorized representative, submits a written request for a public hearing to the Department no later than 15 days prior to the close of the written comment period.

WRITTEN COMMENT PERIOD

Any interested person or his or her authorized representative may submit written comments relevant to the proposed amendment to the Department. Comments may be submitted by mail, facsimile (FAX) or by email to Sara.Khalid@cdfa.ca.gov. The written comment period closes at 5:00 p.m. on September 12, 2016. The Department will consider only comments received at the Department offices by that time. Submit comments to:

Sara Khalid
Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
1220 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
916.654.1017
916.654.1018 (FAX)

Following the public hearing if one is requested, or following the written comment period if no public hearing is requested, the Department, at its own motion, or at the instance of any interested person, may adopt the proposal substantially as set forth without further notice.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

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 she deems necessary to protect the agricultural industry from the introduction and spread of pests (FAC 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. This amendment provides the necessary regulatory authority to prevent the artificial spread of a serious insect pest which is a mandated statutory goal.

Section 3589, subsection (a), was amended and established Santa Clara County as an eradication area for Japanese beetle, *Popillia japonica*. The effect of this action was to establish authority for the State to conduct eradication activities in Santa Clara County.

This regulation will benefit the public's general welfare by providing authority for the state to perform detection, control and eradication activities against Japanese beetle in Santa Clara County.

The implementation of this regulation will prevent:

- Direct damage to the agricultural industry growing hosts.
- Indirect damage to the agricultural industry growing hosts due to the implementation of quarantines by other countries and loss of export markets.
- Increased production costs to the affected agricultural industries.
- Increased pesticide use by the affected agricultural industries.
- Increased costs to the consumers of host fruits.
- Increased pesticide use by homeowners and others.
- The need to implement a state interior quarantine.

- The need to implement a federal domestic quarantine.
- Damage to homeowner’s lawns and landscapes.

There is no existing, comparable federal regulation or statute regulating the intrastate movement.

The Department considered any other possible related regulations in this area, and we find that these are the only regulations dealing in this subject area, and the only state agency that can implement these eradication areas for plant pests. As required by GC 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.

AMENDED TEXT

This regular rulemaking action established the eradication area for Japanese beetle in Santa Clara County. The effect of the amendment of this regulation is to provide authority for the State to perform eradication activities against Japanese beetle within this additional area.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Department has made the following initial determinations:

Mandate on local agencies and school districts: None.

Cost or savings to any state agency: None.

Cost to any local agency or school district which must be reimbursed in accordance with GC sections 17500 through 17630: None and no nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts.

Cost or savings in federal funding to the state: None.

Significant, statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states: None.

Cost impacts on a representative private person or business: 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.

Small Business Determination

The Department has determined that the proposed regulations may affect small business.

Significant effect on housing costs: None.

Results of the Economic Impact Analysis

The amendment of these regulations will not:

- (1) Create or eliminate jobs within California;
- (2) Create new businesses or eliminate existing businesses within California; or
- (3) Affect the expansion of businesses currently doing business within California.

The Department has determined the amendment of this regulation would benefit:

- The general public.
- Homeowners and Community Gardens.
- Agricultural industry.
- The state's general fund.

For additional information, please see "Anticipated Benefits" from this regulatory action under "Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview."

There are no known specific benefits to worker safety or the health of California residents.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The Department must determine that no reasonable alternative it considered to the regulation or that has otherwise been identified and brought to its attention would either be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action or would be more cost effective to affected private persons and equally effective in implementing the statutory policy or other provision of law than the proposal described in this Notice.

AUTHORITY

The Department proposes to amend subsections 3589 pursuant to the authority vested by sections 407 and 5322 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC).

REFERENCE

The Department proposes this action to implement, interpret and make specific sections 407, 5322, 5761, 5762 and 5763 of the FAC.

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: Sara Khalid, Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services, 1220 N Street, Room 210, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-1017, FAX (916) 654-1018, E-mail: Sara.Khalid@cdfa.ca.gov. In her absence, you may contact Laura Petro at (916) 654-1017. Questions regarding the substance of the proposed regulation should be directed to Sara Khalid.

INTERNET ACCESS

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

AVAILABILITY OF STATEMENT OF REASONS AND TEXT OF PROPOSED REGULATIONS

The Department 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 adopted 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.