

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS

Title 3, California Code of Regulations

Section 3591.12, Subsection (a)

Peach Fruit Fly Eradication Area

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS/

POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

Description of Public Problem, Administration Requirement, or Other Condition or Circumstance
the Regulation is Intended to Address

This regulation is intended to address the obligation of the Department of Food and Agriculture to protect the agricultural industry from the movement and spread of injurious plant pests within California.

Specific Purpose and Factual Basis

The specific purpose of Section 3591.12 is to provide authority to the State to eradicate infestations of *Bactrocera zonata*, peach fruit fly, from within the declared eradication area by the established means and methods.

The factual basis for the determination by the Department that the amendment of this regulation is necessary is as follows:

On August 23, 2018, (Pest and Damage Record # CR0P06225966) an adult male peach fruit fly was taken from a trap in Moorpark area of Ventura County. This detection of an adult peach fruit fly is indicative of a possible incipient infestation of the fly in Ventura County. This is the first time a peach fruit fly has been detected within Ventura County. Peach fruit fly is an insect pest which attacks the fruit of various plants, including but not limited to, apple, peach, pear, tomato and citrus. The female punctures host fruit to lay eggs which develop into larvae. The punctures admit decay organisms that may cause tissue breakdown, and larval feeding causes further breakdown of fruit tissue. Fruits with egg punctures and larval feeding are generally unfit for human consumption. Pupae may be found in fruit, but normally are found in soil. The first California detection occurred in Los Angeles County in 1984, and since that time, several reintroductions have been delimited and successfully eradicated.

California is the number one economic citrus state in the nation. The USDA's Citrus Fruits 2017 Summary puts the value of citrus at \$2.26 billion (pg. 8). Per the 2016-2017 California Agricultural Statistics Review, California stone fruits (including peaches, plums, nectarines, apricots and cherries) were valued at \$830,476,000 in 2018. Additionally, tomatoes were valued at over \$1.3 billion. If the fly is allowed to spread and become established in host fruit production areas, California's agricultural industry would suffer losses due to decreased production of marketable fruit, increased pesticide use, and loss of markets if other states or countries enact quarantines against California products. Thus, this incipient infestation presents a clear, imminent danger to the agricultural industry in California.

This occurrence of peach fruit fly triggers the delimitation response as outlined in the United States Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Fruit Fly Emergency Response Triggers & Guidelines in Ventura County. This response requires CDFA to have eradication authority in Ventura County.

The implementation of this proposed regulatory action is necessary to prevent the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS) from considering the entire state as infested with peach fruit fly, rather than just the current area of Ventura County. If USDA APHIS were to consider the entire state infested, there would likely be additional detrimental quarantine requirements directed against California host commodities by the USDA APHIS and our international trade partners.

This regulation will avoid harm to the public's general welfare by providing authority for the Department to perform detection, control, and eradication activities against *Bactrocera zonata* in Ventura County. It is necessary to begin eradication activities to prevent spread of the fly to non-infested areas. Therefore, it is necessary to amend this regulation.

The entire county of Ventura is being proposed as an eradication area because the utilization of these political boundaries will avoid frequent amendments to the regulation; if the peach fruit fly is detected elsewhere within this county there will be no associated regulatory impacts in areas of the county where no flies are found. The existing regulation covers the entire counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Fresno, Los Angeles, Napa, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Clara, Solano, San Joaquin, and San Mateo. Fruit may have already been moved from the

infested area to another portion of the county, and flies which may have already spread naturally from the infested area may have already resulted in small infestations outside the current known infested area. Additionally, these fly finds may be linked to smuggled uncertified fruit shipments which have been distributed within the State. Only through the implementation of this regulation would the Department be able to rapidly treat these small infestations in the affected county.

If the peach fruit fly were allowed to spread and become established in host fruit production areas, California's agricultural industry would suffer losses due to decreased production of marketable fruit, increased pesticide use, and loss of markets if other states or countries enacted quarantines against California products.

Potential Impact to Homeowners and Community Gardens

Many of the host fruits attacked by the peach fruit fly are enjoyed by the home gardener and community gardens. Therefore, if peach fruit fly is not eradicated homeowners and community gardeners would be negatively impacted.

Potential Impacts to General Fund and Welfare

The negative impacts to agriculture would in turn negatively impact the State's economic recovery which would negatively impact the general welfare of the State.

California's unemployment rate in July 2017 fell to 4.8 per cent. During the preceding 12 months prior to July 2017, the average amount of individuals employed in agriculture was 421,475. The agricultural industry is one of the economic engines which are lowering the State's unemployment rate. Additionally, any job losses in this area would likely be felt by low-skilled workers whose employment options are already limited. The loss of any agricultural jobs would likely result in an increase in the State's public assistance obligations which would also negatively impact the State's economic recovery.

Action Plan

This amendment will provide authority for the State to perform specific detection, control, and eradication activities against the peach fruit fly in Ventura County. This authority includes "The search for all stages of peach fruit fly by visual inspection, the use of traps, or any other means." It is necessary to perform delimitation procedures within Ventura County. These delimitation

procedures are nationally and internationally accepted standards for establishing if there is an incipient infestation of peach fruit fly and its exact location.

Intensive Delimitation Trapping

Intensive trapping is triggered after a single fly is trapped by the Department. Following confirmation of the specimen through lab tests, trap densities in the core square mile are increased to 25 Jackson traps and 25 McPhail traps within 24 hours. In the remainder of the delimitation area, 81 square miles, traps are placed in densities of 5 Jackson traps per square mile within 72 hours of the find. Traps in the core will be checked daily during the first week. Traps in the first buffer zone, 8 square miles, will be serviced every two days; those in the remainder of the delimitation area are checked at least once during the first week. All traps in the delimitation zone will be checked weekly following a week of negative trap catches. Intensive trapping ends after the second complete life cycle following the last fly find, and then trap densities revert to detection trapping levels.

If a second fly is found, additional traps are deployed around the new fly find and trap servicing in the new core area will be daily for the first week and increased emphasis will be placed on servicing traps in the buffer areas in an effort to better delimit the infestation. Traps in the eight-square miles around the core are serviced every two days, until eradication activities begin, at which time the trap inspection frequency changes to weekly. All traps are then serviced weekly for three life cycles of the last fly detected. Traps may be relocated to available preferred hosts as practical.

Following an eradication program, if no additional flies are trapped, intensive trapping ends after the third complete life cycle of the final fly find, as determined by a temperature dependent developmental model run by program personnel in Sacramento.

Larval Survey

Fruit on a property where a fly has been trapped may be inspected for possible larval infestation. Small circular oviposition scars are occasionally visible, indicating an infested fruit. In the absence of visible clues, 100 or more of the fruit on preferred hosts (if available) may be cut open at random and examined for larvae. First and second instar larvae are tiny and may be

feeding immediately under the surface of the skin; therefore, fruit cutting should be left to experienced personnel. Fruit on properties adjacent to a trap catch may also be inspected.

If two or more flies are trapped in proximity, fruit cutting may be extended to all properties in a 200-meter radius of the finds, concentrating on preferred hosts. Fruit must be inspected on the property; it cannot be removed from an established quarantine area.

Eradication Activities

The Department begins an eradication project when it determines that a peach fruit fly infestation exists within the state. Although there is no debate that either criterion two or three of the below criteria indicate the presence of a breeding peach fruit fly population, criterion one below is often open to further review. The CDFA may take up to 10 days, after the criteria are met, to further identify the presence and location of the infestation in order to better target eradication activities.

1. Two flies within three miles of each other and within a time period equal to one life cycle of the fly;
2. One mated female; or
3. Larvae or pupae.

After an infestation is determined to exist and, 24 to 72 hours later, a notification of treatment is issued, then treatment will begin. Treatment activities may include the following methods:

Male Attractant Technique

The male attractant technique makes use of small amounts of attractant (methyl eugenol) and pesticide (insecticide) to lure all the male flies in a population to bait stations. The insecticide/lure mixture is applied to utility poles, street trees, and other unpainted surfaces (such as fences) within public right of ways using pressurized tree marking guns. The project boundaries will be nine square miles (3 mi. X 3 mi.) around each detection location. Project boundaries may be enlarged if the number of flies trapped warrants it. Application is made to at least 600 sites distributed evenly in each square mile. Treatment is repeated every two weeks. Treatment continues for one to two fly life cycles after the last fly was trapped, dependent on the severity of the infestation.

Ground Bait Spray

If ground treatments of insecticide and bait are deemed necessary, the foliage of all shrubs and trees within a 200-meter radius of each infested property will be treated within 24 hours with insecticide/bait sprays using hydraulic spray equipment. Residents and tenants on affected properties will be notified in writing at least 48 hours prior to treatment. Completion notices are left following treatment detailing precautions to take and harvest intervals applicable to any fruit on the property. Treatments are repeated at five to 14-day intervals, unless significant rainfall justifies retreatment.

Fruit Stripping

Fruit will be stripped from all host trees on a known infested property and on all other properties within a minimum of 100 meters of the property. Fruit is placed in heavyweight plastic bags and removed to a landfill site to be buried under at least one foot of fill.

California Environmental Quality Act

A Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared by the Department as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act. The EIR addresses the potential impacts and mitigations when implementing the Statewide Plant Pest Prevention and Management Program activities related to peach fruit fly. The EIR may be accessed at the following website:
<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/peir/>.

Economic Impact Analysis

The eradication and prevention of the spread of peach fruit fly in California through the amendment and implementation of this regulation economically benefits:

- the general public
- homeowners and community gardens
- the agricultural industry
- the State's general fund

These treatments are part of the Department's general exotic fruit fly treatment program. Single area delimitations such as this one for the Ventura area are estimated to cost approximately \$50,000.

The Creation or Elimination of Jobs within the State

The amendment is designed to minimize the spread of peach fruit fly to ensure that the devastating damage caused by peach fruit fly is limited to the smallest area possible.

Compliance activities are currently being performed by existing state staff throughout quarantine areas within the State. The Department has been conducting quarantine actions throughout the State for over 30 years without causing significant creation or elimination of jobs. Therefore, the Department has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in the State of California.

The Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses within the State

The amendment is designed to minimize the spread of peach fruit fly to ensure that the devastating damage caused by peach fruit fly is limited to the smallest area possible.

Compliance activities are currently being performed by existing state staff throughout quarantine areas within the State. The Department has been conducting quarantine actions throughout the State for over 30 years without causing significant creation of new businesses. Therefore, the Department has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the creation of new businesses in the State of California.

The Expansion of Businesses Currently Doing Business within the State

The amendment is designed to minimize the spread of peach fruit fly to ensure that the devastating damage caused by peach fruit fly is limited to the smallest area possible.

Compliance activities are currently being performed by existing state staff throughout quarantine areas within the State. The Department has been conducting quarantine actions throughout the State for over 30 years without causing significant creation of new businesses. Therefore, the Department has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the expansion of businesses currently doing business in the State of California.

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 the Secretary 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 the Secretary's opinion necessary to circumscribe and exterminate or prevent the spread of any pest which is described in FAC section 5321.

Existing law, CCR Section 3591.12, defines the state's eradication areas for peach fruit fly.

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.

This regulation will benefit the public's general welfare by providing authority for the State to perform detection, control, and eradication activities against peach fruit fly in Ventura County.

The implementation of this regulation will prevent:

- direct damage to the agricultural industry growing host fruits
- indirect damage to the agricultural industry growing host fruits 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

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.

Estimated Cost of Savings to Public Agencies or Affected Private Individuals or Entities

The Department of Food and Agriculture has determined that subsection 3591.12 does not impose a mandate on local agencies or school districts and no reimbursement is required under Section 17561 of the Government Code.

The Department also has determined that no savings or increased costs to any state agency, no reimbursable costs or savings under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code to local agencies or school districts, no nondiscretionary costs or savings to local agencies or school districts, and no costs or savings in federal funding to the State will result from the amendment of subsection 3591.12.

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.

The Department has determined that the proposed actions will not have a significant adverse economic impact on housing costs or California business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The Department's determination that the action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact on business was based on the following:

The amendment of subsection 3591.12 will provide authority for the Department to conduct eradication activities against peach fruit fly in Ventura County and there are no known private sector cost impacts.

Assessment

The Department has made an assessment that the amendment of the regulation 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 with California. The Department has been conducting eradication projects throughout the State without creating or eliminating businesses.

Alternatives Considered

The Department of Food and Agriculture must determine that no alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective as and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

Information Relied Upon

The Department relied upon the following studies, reports, and documents in the proposed adoption and subsequent amendment of Section 3591.12:

“Pest and Damage Record # CR0P06225966”, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services.

“Action Plan, Peach Fruit Fly, *Bactrocera zonata* (Saunders),” May 2000, Food and Agricultural Organisation, International Atomic Energy Agency.

“Action Plan for Methyl Eugenol Attracted Fruit Flies, Including the Oriental Fruit Fly, *Bactrocera dorsalis* (Hendel),” Revised April 2000, California Department of Food and Agriculture, Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services.

“California Agricultural Statistics Review, 2016-2017,” California Department of Food and Agriculture.