

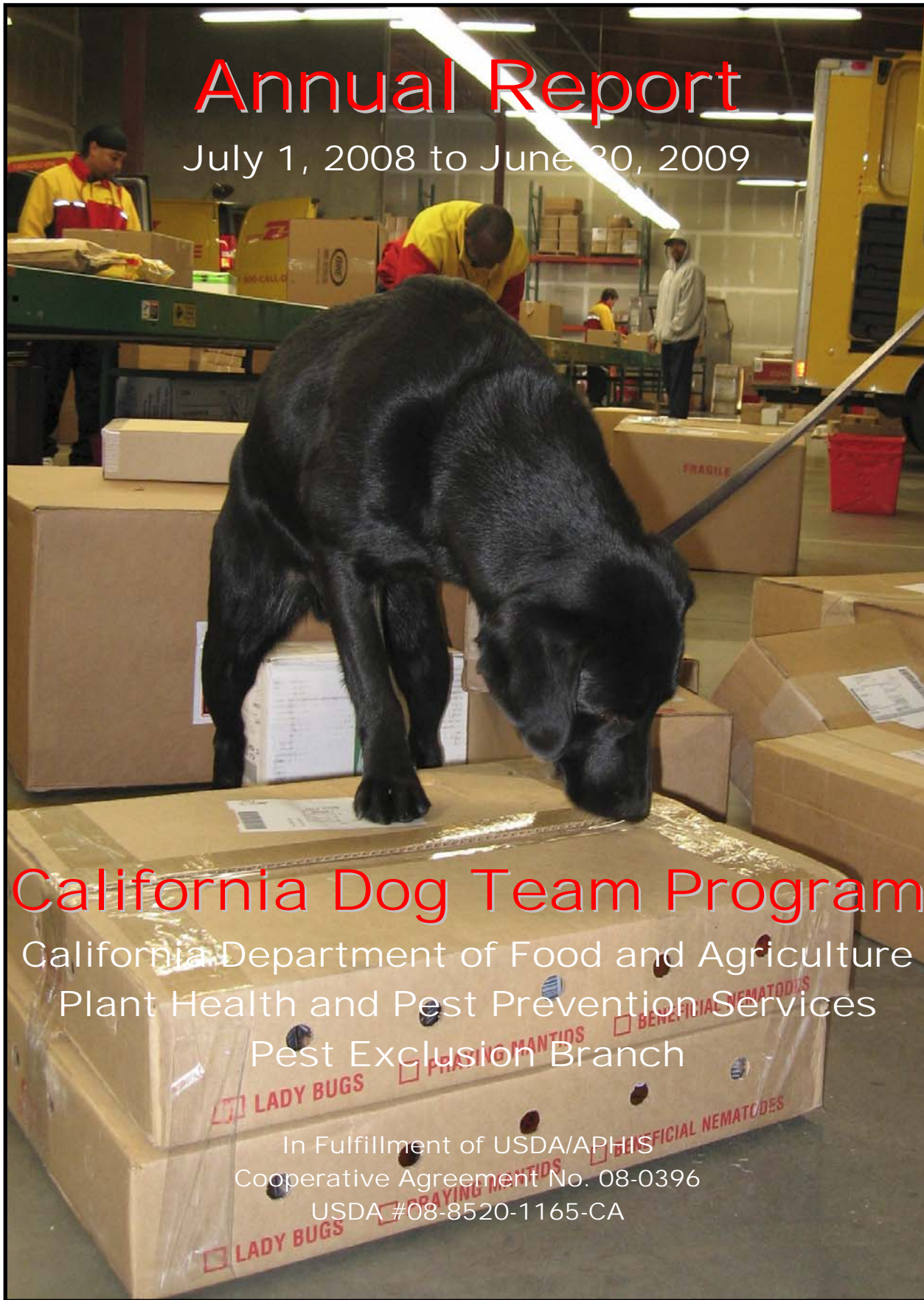
Annual Report

July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009

California Dog Team Program

California Department of Food and Agriculture
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
Pest Exclusion Branch

In Fulfillment of USDA/APHIS
Cooperative Agreement No. 08-0396
USDA #08-8520-1165-CA



Purpose of Cooperative Agreement #08-0396

The purpose of cooperative agreement #08-0396 (USDA #08-8520-1165-CA) is to implement the use of the California Dog Teams to enhance inspection and surveillance activities related to plant products entering the State of California via parcel delivery facilities and airfreight terminals.

Purpose of Annual Report

The purpose of the annual report is to document accomplishments of the activities outlined in the work plan. This report is in fulfillment of USDA cooperative agreement #08-0396, USDA #08-8520-1165-CA.

Work Plan Activities Performed by CDFA

CDFA distributed funds to County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) for the purposes of continued training and maintenance of dogs, training new handlers and fulfilling Dog Team activities as outlined in the work plan. CDFA conducted database (information capture) training for handlers and biologists working with Dog Teams. CDFA also acted as liaison between CAC's and the National Detector Dog Training Center and has also communicated significant pest finds and smuggling information to USDA/SITC.

Work Plan Activities Performed by County Agricultural Commissioners

For the full reporting period (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009) California had two funded Dog Teams operating out of Contra Costa County (covers the San Francisco Bay Area) and San Bernardino County (covers the Inland Empire).

In October 2008, three counties (Fresno, Sacramento, and San Diego) sent handlers to the 10-week training course at the National Detection Dog Training Center in Florida. All three handlers successfully completed training and graduated in December 2008. Beginning in January 2009, the three additional teams operated out of Fresno County, Sacramento County (covers the Sacramento Valley Area), and San Diego County (**Table 1**).

TABLE 1: Operating CA Dog Teams

Dog Team	Months in Operation During Reporting Period	Area Covered
Contra Costa	July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009 (12 months)	San Francisco Bay Area
Fresno	January 1, 2009- June 30, 2009 (6 months)	Fresno County
Sacramento	January 1, 2009- June 30, 2009 (6 months)	Sacramento Valley
San Bernardino	July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009 (12 months)	Inland Empire
San Diego	January 1, 2009- June 30, 2009 (6 months)	San Diego County

County Agricultural Commissioner's Accomplishments:

The CA Dog Teams have demonstrated that unmarked parcels present a high-risk pathway for harmful pests to enter California (**Table 2**). Between July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009, CA Dog Teams alerted on 39,973 total marked and unmarked parcels containing agricultural product. Of the total alerts, 1,303 were unmarked parcels containing agricultural commodities (**Table 3**). A total of 117 pests were intercepted during the reporting period, which included 17 actionable A-rated pests (**Table 4**) and 100 actionable Q-rated pests (**Table 5**). Some of these interceptions involved multiple pest specimens in a single package. Additionally, due to the efforts of the CA Dog Teams, 191 rejections were issued for violations of state and federal plant quarantine laws and regulations.

TABLE 2: CA Dog Teams -Parcels, Pests and Violations

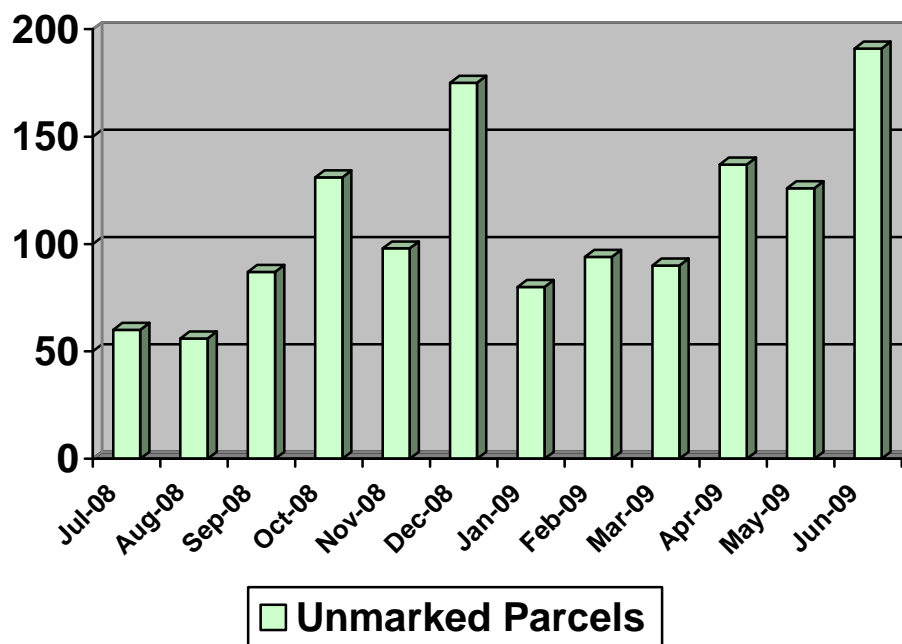
Total Parcels Alerted on by Dog	39,973*
Total Parcels Unmarked with Agricultural Commodities	1,303*
Total A & Q Pests	117*
Total Violations of Plant Quarantine Law and Regulations	191*

**Data reflects only six months of full program operation AND the initiation of a new data collection system. Statewide training for new data collection system is in progress.*

Trends in Unmarked Parcels

During reporting period (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009), Dog Teams conducted inspections at a total of 63 facilities throughout the state. During that time, the number of unmarked parcel found to contain agricultural products was highest in the month of June 2009, with a total of 191 reported unmarked parcels that month, with December 2008 having the second highest number of unmarked parcels found to contain agricultural products (175) (Table 3).

TABLE 3: Detections of Unmarked Parcels



Significant Pest Interceptions

The tables below list the number and type of actionable pests found as a result of the efforts of a Dog Team during the reporting period. Following the tables is a narrative of the most interesting finds during the reporting period.

TABLE 4: Significant Pests, A-Rated Interceptions
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/Notes	Origin	Rating
1	Dysmicoccus grassii	Mealybug	FL	A
1	Diaprepes abbreviatus	Root Weevil	Unknown	A
1	Ischnaspis longirostris	Black Thread Scale	FL	A
2	Pinnaspis buxi	Boxwood Scale	FL	A
1	Wasmannia auropunctata	Ant	Unknown	A
1	Darna pallivitta	Limacodid Moth	HI	A
6	Howardia biclavis	Mining Scale	HI	A
1	Ceroplastes rubens	Red Wax Scale	HI	A
1	Hemiberlesia palmae	Scale	HI	A
1	Pseudoparlatoria parlatorioides	False Parlatoria Scale	FL	A
1	Ceroplastes rusci	Fig Wax Scale	FL	A

17 Total A-Rated Pest Interceptions

TABLE 5: Significant Pests, Q-Rated Interceptions
July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/Notes	Origin	Rating
1	Abgrallaspis possibly cyanophylli	Armored Scale	MX	Q
1	Acari	partial specimen	Unknown	Q
1	Aleurodicus dispersus	Spiraling Whitefly	HI	Q
1	Aleurodicus sp.	Whitefly	FL	Q
1	Aleurotrachelus sp.	Whitefly	MX	Q
1	Ancopolepsis gracilis		HI	Q
1	Anoplolepis gracilipes	Ant	HI	Q
1	Aonidiella sp.	Armored Scale	HI	Q
1	Arvelius albopunctatus	Stink bug	FL	Q
1	Aulacaspis tubercularis	Armored Scale	Unknown	Q
1	Battus philenor	Pipevine Sawllowtail	Unknown	Q
1	Blattodea Blattidae	early instar nymph	FL	Q
1	Brachymyrmex sp.	Ant	Unknown	Q
1	Camponotus sp.	Carpenter Ant	FL	Q
1	Coccotrypes sp.	Bark Beetle	Unknown	Q
1	Coleoptera Curculionidae	sub-family: Baridinae, non-native	Unknown	Q
1	Colocasia cf. esculenta		Unknown	Q
1	Diaspis sp.	Armored Scale	MX	Q
1	Diptera Agromyzidae		MX	Q
1	Diptera Cecidomyiidae		Unknown	Q
1	Empoasca sp.	Leafhopper	HI	Q
1	Gastropoda	Shell Broken	HI	Q
2	Gyponana sp.	Leafhopper	Unknown	Q
1	Hemiptera Miridae		Unknown	Q
1	Hemiptera Pentatomidae	(Nymph)	FL	Q
1	Hemiptera Tingidae		Unknown	Q
2	Homoptera Aleyrodidae	immatures	FL	Q
5	Homoptera Aphididae	nymphs only, need adults to ID	MX	Q
1	Homoptera Cercopidae	nymph	Unknown	Q
1	Homoptera Cicadellidae	nymph	Unknown	Q
4	Homoptera Coccidae	(or near), Immatures	MX, HI, Unknown	Q
2	Homoptera Diaspididae	Possibly Pseudaulacaspis sp.	MX, Unknown	Q
5	Homoptera Pseudococcidae	Immature female	HI, Unknown	Q
1	Homoptera		HI	Q
1	Hymenoptera		Unknown	Q
1	Ipomoea sp		Unknown	Q
4	Lepidoptera Pyralidae		Unknown	Q
1	Lepidoptera Tortricidae		Unknown	Q
2	Lepidoptera	larva, in poor condition	HI, Unknown	Q
1	Limnobiium spongia		Unknown	Q
1	Monomorium floricola	Ant	Unknown	Q
1	Moodna sp		AL	Q
2	Myllocerus sp	Weevil	FL, Unknown	Q
1	Orchamoplatus mammaeferus	Croton Whitefly	HI	Q
2	Pheidole megacephala	Bigheaded Ant	HI, Unknown	Q
3	Pheidole sp.	Ant	HI, Unknown	Q

Number of Interceptions	Scientific Name	Common Name/Notes	Origin	Rating
1	Phyllophaga sp.	May Beetle/white Grub	Unknown	Q
1	Planococcus sp.	Mealybug	Unknown	Q
1	Polygonum aubertii		FL	Q
1	Potentilla sp.		Unknown	Q
1	Pseudaonidia trilobitiformis	Trilobe Scale	Unknown	Q
1	Pseudoparlatoria parlatorioides	False Parlatoria Scale	FL	Q
1	Pseudoparlatoria possibly perparvula	Scale	MX	Q
1	Pulvinaria sp.	Soft Scale	HI	Q
8	Technomyrmex albipes	Ant	HI, FL, Unknown	Q
3	Tetraleurodes sp.	Redbanded Whitefly	FL, MX	Q
1	Thrips sp. 1	Thrips	Unknown	Q
1	Thrips sp.2	Thrips	Unknown	Q
2	Thysanoptera Phlaeothripidae	adult female	Unknown	Q
4	Trialeurodes sp.	Whitefly	MX	Q
1	Trialeurodes sp. near flonidensis	Whitefly	MX	Q
1	Trialeurodes sp. near honidensis	Whitefly	MX	Q
1	Convolvulaceae		Unknown	Q
1	Possible Heliodinidae	possible Heliodinidae	Unknown	Q
1		Superfamily: Fulgoroidea	HI	Q

100 Total Q-rated Pest Interceptions

Significant Pest Interceptions

On August 28, 2008, San Bernardino County Dog Team Mike Cochrane and his partner, CC the dog, intercepted a package from Florida containing 20 pounds of mangos, 12 pounds of backyard grown yucca and other roots. The parcel was intercepted at the Ontario International Airport UPS terminal. The fruit was found harboring **Q-rated cockroach (Blattidae Family)**. Furthermore, the package was rejected for lack of markings (California Food and Agriculture Code, Section 6421) and violation of California Exterior Quarantine for Caribbean Fruit Fly (CCR 3252).



On August 29, 2008, the San Bernardino County Dog Team intercepted a package shipped from Michigan. This parcel was intercepted at the Ontario International Airport Fed Ex terminal.

The package contained **Q-rated spongeplant (Limnobium spongia)**. In addition to being rejected for a Q-rated aquatic weed (California Food and Agriculture Code (FAC), 6461.5) the package was rejected for lack of markings (FAC, Section 6421) and violation of California Exterior Quarantine for hydrilla (CCR 3281).

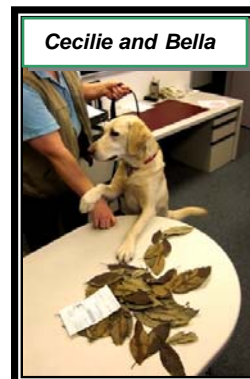
On September 11, 2008, the Contra Costa Dog Team composed of handler Mariah Slusser and Bart the dog were conducting a parcel inspection at the FedEx facility and found an unmarked box from Florida.

The package contained outdoor cut foliage that was heavily infested with pests. Two pest and damage records were submitted: one for botany and one for entomology. In total, 90 pest samples (24 botany, 66 insect) were sent to the lab. **One A-rated fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) and 53 Q-rated pests including: ants, aphids, crickets, leafhoppers, mites, moths, morning glory (*Ipomoea sp.*), plant bug, scales, spittle bug, thrips, weevils, and wild taro.**



On January 26, 2009, the San Bernardino County Dog Team hit on two large moving boxes. The unmarked parcels were sent from Alabama. The packages contained 50-pounds of sorghum cuttings. The inspector says that there were no roots attached to the sorghum, just long stems cut into 8-10 inch pieces. The plant material contained a **Q-rated moth (*Moodna sp.*)**; the shipment was also rejected for violation of State Exterior Quarantine for European corn borer (CCR 3263).

On February 20, 2009 Contra Costa County Dog Team, Cecilie Siegel and Bella, intercepted a package from a private shipper in Cuautla, Mexico while working at FedEx. Cecilie explains, "There was no indication that there was plant matter in the box. The box contained a number of things that were out of our jurisdiction so the plant matter was removed and the rest was sent on." In addition to plant material, the package contained a bag of homemade crusher, Mexican cheese, candies, and other goods for personal consumption.



In total **16 Q-rated pests were intercepted including: armored scale (*Diaspis sp.*, Diaspididae Family.), gall midge (Cecidomyiidae Family), leaf miner (Agromyzidae Family), redbanded Whitefly (*Trialeurodes exuriae*), soft scale (Coccidae Family) and whiteflies (*Aleurotrachelus sp.*, *Trialeurodes sp. near cryptus*, *Trialeurodes sp. near flonidensis*, *Trialeurodes sp. near honidensis* and *Trialeurodes sp.*).**

On March 16, 2009, Alameda County inspectors were working with the Contra Costa dog team (handler Mariah Slusser and Bart) at the Fed Ex facility. The Dog Team intercepted an unmarked package (in violation of marking requirement – Food and Agricultural Code, Section 6421) from a private shipper in Miami, Florida. The 31-pound package was in a large KFC box and contained a wide variety of plant cuttings. The Alameda County inspectors took the package back to the office where they combed through the plant material to finding **one A-rated rated mealybug (*Dysmicoccus grassii*) and five Q-rated pests including white footed ant (*Technomyrmex albipes*), carpenter ant (*Camponotus sp.*), weevil (*Myloccerus sp.*), redbanded whitefly (*Tetraleurodes sp.*), and a whitefly (*Aleurodicus sp.*).**

Unmarked package contents



Additionally, the plant material was sent to the botany lab (nine PDRs) where it was identified. The majority of the plants were D-rated; however, the package did contain a **Q-rated invasive vine (*Polygonum aubertii*)**.

Mariah reports that Bart “had no doubt that he should get all the treats that I had on me for finding that one!”

On May 4, 2009 while conducting a parcel inspection at the DHL facility, Fresno County inspector Stephanie LeBarron and her partner Chelsea intercepted a homemade care package of ‘tea’ from Lao. The 20-pound parcel contained unknown plant material, which was sent to the botany lab for identification. Most of the package contained nonpropagative wood chips, stem, root, and fern stipes. However, **Q-rated cinquefoil (*Potentilla sp.*)** was also found. The cinquefoil was destroyed.



Stephanie & Chelsea

On May 15, 2009 the Contra Costa County Dog Team were performing a parcel inspection at FedEx. Bart hit on a parcel containing dwarf date palm fronds (*Phoenix roebelenii*) sent from Florida. Although the parcel was marked, Bart was able to accurately identify plant material in the box. While inspecting the fronds, the following **A-rated pest were found: Black Thread Scale (*Ischnaspis longirostris*), Boxwood Scale (*Pinnaspis buxi*), and Fig Wax Scale (*Ceroplastes rusci*)**. In addition to the three A-rated pest, the following **Q-rated pests were found: false parlatoria scale (*Pseudoparlatoria parlatorioides*), insect eggs, soil mealybug (*Rhizoecus sp.*) and whitefly (Aleyrodidae Family)**. The package was destroyed by the County.

Tassie hitting on an unmarked package



On June 11, 2009, Sacramento County Dog Team Jennifer Berger and Tassie were working at the FedEx facility with a local inspector. While working the parcel belt, Tassie hit on a white unmarked package from a private shipper. The package was wrapped in tin foil and newspaper and contained several handmade leis from Hawaii. The leis were found harboring **A-rated red wax scale (*Ceroplastes rubens*) and tropical palm scale (*Hemiberlesia palmae*) and Q-rated pests armored scale (*Aonidiella sp.*), croton whitefly (*Orchamoplatus mammaeferus*) and soft scale (*Pulvinaria sp./Coccidae Family*)**. The leis were destroyed by the County.

Significant Quarantine Violations

On December 10 and 12, 2008, while conducting parcel inspections at the United Parcel Service (UPS), Contra Costa County Dog Team Cecilie Siegel and Bella the dog intercepted a fruit gift basket sent from Connecticut. There was no indication on the outside of the package that fruit was contained inside. Florida citrus fruit is prohibited entry into California by the federal Citrus Canker regulation (CFR 301.75), Federal Order for Citrus Greening and Asian Citrus Psyllid, and the Citrus Pest State Exterior Quarantine (CCR 3250).



In April 2009, the San Bernardino County Dog Team were working at FedEx, when CC hit on an unmarked package containing two river stingrays (Potamotrygonidae Family) from Taiwan. The shipment of river stingrays is prohibited under the California Fish and Game Commission's Wild Animal Policy (Title 14, Section 671 of the California Code of Regulations). Under the Wild Animal Policy, river stingrays have been determined to pose a threat to native wildlife and the agricultural interests of California and are designated "detrimental animals."

San Bernardino County contacted the California Department of Fish and Game to confiscate the river stingrays. "Instead, the Fish and Game officer decided to do a ride along with the FedEx driver and do a bust when the driver delivered the package."

San Bernardino County reports that the stingrays belonged to "a teenager who wanted them for a tank in his room. The kid was cited, fined \$1,000 and was made to pay the return to origin fees to have FedEx ship them back to Taiwan. Plus he was out the \$240 each they cost to buy originally." In this situation, the "Fish and Game says they would rather make the receiver pay extra money to ship the animals back rather than confiscate and destroy the animals."

A notice of rejection for the shipment was written using the following Fish and Game codes, Title 14 California Code of Regulations, Section 671 (makes it illegal to import, transport, or possess listed species in California without a permit) and Fish and Game Code, Section 2117 (provides the county agricultural commissioners with the authority to enforce the California Fish and Game Commission's Wild Animal Policy).

