



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR VENTURA COUNTY PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

NOTICE OF TREATMENT FOR THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

In 2015, Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, have been identified from the cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and other surrounding municipalities in Ventura County. These detections indicate that a breeding population exists in the areas. To control the spread of ACP, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will implement its ACP treatment work plan, which includes treatment with foliar and soil-applied insecticides.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been certified which analyzes the ACP treatment program in accordance with Public Resources Code, Sections 21000 et seq. The PEIR is available at <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/peir/>. The treatment activities described below will be consistent with the PEIR.

In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the CDFA has evaluated possible treatment methods and determined that there are no physical, cultural, or biological control methods available to eliminate the ACP from this area.

The treatment plan for the ACP infestation will be implemented within a 400- to 800-meter radius of each detection site, as follows:

- Tempo® SC Ultra (cyfluthrin), a contact insecticide for controlling the adults and nymphs of ACP, will be applied from the ground using hydraulic spray equipment to the foliage of host plants; and
- Merit® 2F or CoreTect™ (imidacloprid), a systemic insecticide for controlling the immature life stages of ACP, will be applied to the soil underneath host plants. Merit® 2F is applied from the ground using hydraulic spray equipment, whereas CoreTect™, if used in place of Merit® 2F, is applied by inserting the tablets into the ground and watering the soil beneath the host plants.

Public Notification:

Residents of affected properties may be invited to a public meeting where officials from CDFA, the Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the county agricultural commissioner's office will be available to address residents' questions and concerns. Residents are notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment in accordance with the Food and Agricultural Code, Section 5779 and 5401-5404. Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to the citrus fruit on the property. Treatment information is posted at http://cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp/treatment_maps.html. Press releases, if issued, are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the program leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves

as the primary contact to the media.

For any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 for assistance. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

Enclosed are the findings regarding the treatment plan and a map of the treatment areas.

Attachments

NOTICE OF TREATMENT REGARDING THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

In 2015, Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, have been identified from the cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Fillmore, and other surrounding municipalities in Ventura County. Based on the survey data, pest biology, information from California's Huanglongbing Task Force, recommendations provided to me by the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) Primary State Entomologist and Primary State Plant Pathologist, and experience gained from the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) control efforts in the southeastern United States, I have determined that an infestation of ACP exists in the areas.

ACP is an exotic insect that is originally from Asia. It has been introduced into Central and South America, the Caribbean, and Mexico. In the United States, ACP has been found in Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas, and California (Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura counties). ACP feeds on members of the plant family Rutaceae, primarily on *Citrus* and *Murraya* species, but is also known to attack several other genera. The most serious damage caused by ACP is due to its vectoring the phloem-inhabiting bacteria in the genus *Candidatus Liberibacter*, the causal agents of huanglongbing (HLB). HLB is considered one of the most devastating diseases of citrus in the world. Symptoms of HLB include yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit, fruit that does not fully color, and fruit that has a very bitter taste making it unfeasible for human consumption. The psyllids cause injury to their host plants via the withdrawal of large amounts of sap as they feed and via the production of large amounts of honeydew, which coats the leaves of the tree and encourages the growth of sooty mold, which blocks sunlight from reaching the leaves.

Under my statutory authority, as Secretary of the CDFA, I have decided, based upon the likely environmental and economic damage that would be inflicted by this infestation of ACP, that it is incumbent upon me to address this threat. This pest presents a major threat to citrus grown within the State. California is the top citrus-producing state in the U.S., with total production valued at over \$1.8 billion. Additionally, the establishment of ACP in California would increase the need for pesticide use by commercial and residential citrus producers, as well as require enforcement of quarantine restrictions. Recent studies in Florida have shown that the presence of HLB increases citrus production costs by up to 40 percent and has resulted in a loss of over \$7 billion and 6,600 jobs over the last five years. Because HLB has been detected in Mexico, the establishment of ACP in California will pave the way for HLB to spread. HLB would have severe consequences to both the citrus industry and to the urban landscape via the decline and the death of citrus trees.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Sections 24.5, 401.5, 403, 407, 408, 5401-5405, and 5761-5764 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) authorizing and mandating the Secretary to: thoroughly investigate the existence of the pest; to determine the probability that the pest will spread; to adopt regulations (Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Section 3591.21) as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code; to abate the pest within the established treatment areas; and, to prevent further economic damage. In order to determine the extent of the infestation, and to define an appropriate response areas, an additional survey took place for several days over nine-square mile areas, centered on the detection sites. The results of this additional survey indicate that the infestation is sufficiently localized to be amenable for effective implementation of the CDFA's ACP emergency response strategies, which include treatment. Emergency action is needed to protect California from the negative environmental and economic impact this pest will cause, should it be allowed to remain in these area and spread.

The enclosed project plan describes the actions to be taken by the CDFA which are necessary to mitigate the spread of this pest.

This decision, to proceed with a treatment program, is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to address the threat posed by ACP using currently available technology in a manner that is recommended by California's HLB Task Force. Treatment needs and environmental conditions are outlined in the attached work plan. In making this decision, the CDFA has evaluated possible treatment methods. In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the following is a list of the options that I have considered for the treatment of these ACP infestations: 1) mechanical controls; 2) cultural controls; 3) biological controls; and 4) chemical controls.

Based upon input from my professional staff, including memorandums from the Primary State Entomologist and Primary State Plant Pathologist, and the input of experts familiar with ACP, I have concluded that there are no mechanical, cultural, or biological controls that are effective to treat ACP that allow the CDFA to meet its statutory obligations. To treat ACP in these areas, I am ordering ground applications of pesticides be made to all ACP hosts within a 400- to 800-meter radius around the detection sites. A description of the alternative treatment methods considered, and methodologies chosen, is contained in the attached alternatives analysis.

Sensitive Areas

The treatment areas has been reviewed by consulting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species. Mitigation measures will be implemented as needed. The CDFA also consults with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife when rare and endangered species are located within the treatment areas. The CDFA will not apply pesticides to bodies of water or undeveloped areas of native vegetation. All treatment will be applied to residential properties, common areas within residential development, non-agricultural commercial properties, and right-of-ways.

Treatment Plan

The proposed project areas encompasses those portions of Ventura County which fall within a nine-square mile area around each property in which ACP has been detected. A map of the detection sites with the project boundaries and the proposed treatment work plan is attached. In summary form, the treatment plan consists of the following elements:

1. **Delimitation.** Yellow panel traps may be placed throughout the project areas to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment ACP populations. Yellow panel traps are placed at a density of up to 100 traps in the core square miles and 50 traps per square mile in the surrounding eight square miles. Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to determine the efficacy of treatments. These traps will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to two years beyond the date of the last ACP detection.
2. **Visual survey and tap sampling.** All host plants will be inspected at all locations where traps are placed. Host plants at other properties may be surveyed within a 400- to 800-meter radius around each detection site.

3. Treatment. Properties within 400 to 800 meters of each detection site will be treated according to the following protocol. Treatments will be repeated, if necessary, as per label instructions.
 - a. Tempo® SC Ultra, containing the contact pyrethroid insecticide cyfluthrin, will be applied by ground-based hydraulic spray equipment to the foliage of host plants for controlling the adults and nymphs of ACP.
 - b. Either Merit® 2F or CoreTect™, containing the systemic insecticide imidacloprid, will be applied to the root zone beneath host plants for controlling developing nymphs and providing long term protection against reinfestation. Merit® 2F is applied as a soil drench, while CoreTect™ tablets are inserted two to five inches below the soil surface.

Public Information

Residents of affected properties are invited to a public meeting where officials from the CDFA, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation, the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, and the county agricultural commissioner's office will be present to address residents' questions and concerns. Residents are notified in writing at least 48 hours in advance of any treatment in accordance with FAC Section 5779. After treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to the citrus fruit.

Public information concerning the ACP project will consist of press releases to the public and direct notification of project developments to concerned local and State political representatives and authorities. Press releases are prepared by the CDFA information officer and the county agricultural commissioner, in close coordination with the project leader responsible for treatment. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer serves as the primary contact to the media.

If you have any questions related to this program, please contact Victoria Hornbaker, Program Manager, at (916) 654-0317.



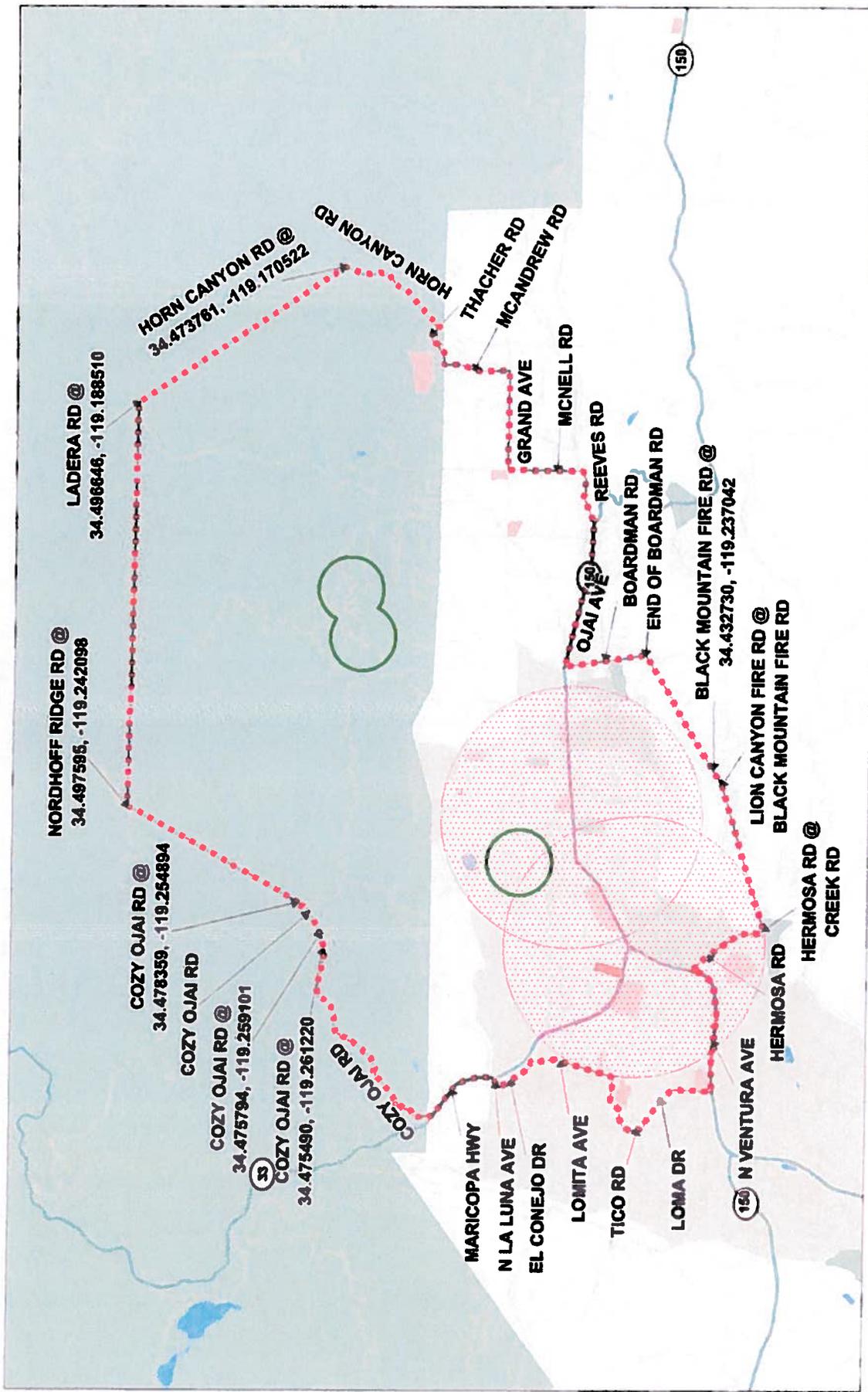
Karen Ross, Secretary



Date

Attachments

**ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID
OJAI, VENTURA COUNTY
2015**



-  MAXIMUM PROGRAM BOUNDARY
-  BOUNDARY
-  SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA / TREATMENT MITIGATIONS IN PLACE
-  PROPOSED 400M TREATMENT BOUNDARY



