CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL NOTICE
FOR UNINCORPORATED TULARE AND FRESNO COUNTIES
PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

NOTICE OF TREATMENT REGARDING THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

On February 12, 2015, Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, serious exotic pests, were identified from unincorporated Tulare County. In order to determine the extent of the infestation, and to define an appropriate response area, additional surveys took place for several days over a nine-square mile area, centered on the detection site. The results of the additional surveys indicate that the infestation is sufficiently localized to be amenable to effective implementation of the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) 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 this area and spread. This pest transmits to citrus trees, via feeding action, a devastating disease known as huanglongbing (HLB). HLB is considered one of the most deadly diseases of citrus in the world. The causal agents of HLB are the phloem-inhabiting bacteria in the genus *Candidatus* Liberibacter. HLB is found in citrus producing areas in various parts of the world, but was unknown from California until a single infected plant was discovered in March 2012. HLB cannot move from tree to tree independently; it is solely dependent on ACP for its transmittal. Therefore, without mitigation measures, such as quarantines and eradicative treatments, ACP would spread on infested host plants or by natural dispersal to infest all the citrus-growing areas of the State. The resulting decline and death of citrus trees will have severe consequences to the California citrus industry and to the urban landscape. In addition, without the CDFA's actions to eradicate ACP populations before they spread or as soon as they are detected, commercial and residential citrus producers would increase pesticide use in order to control ACP infestations.

The emergency program is based on recommendations developed in consultation with the California HLB Task Force, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Primary State Entomologist, and the Primary State Plant Pathologist. Based on these recommendations, the program includes insecticide treatments to control all life stages of ACP. Pursuant to Sections 5401-5405 and 5761-5763 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), the Secretary is mandated to: thoroughly investigate the existence of the pest; determine the probability that the pest will spread; adopt regulations as are reasonably necessary to carry out the provisions of this code (Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations; Section 3591.21); abate the pest from the established treatment area; and, prevent further economic damage.

In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the CDFA has evaluated possible eradication methods and determined that there are no physical, cultural, or biological methods available to eradicate ACP.

To comply with FAC mandates, the treatment portion of the work plan 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 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.

Tempo® SC Ultra and Merit® 2F are applied from the ground using hydraulic spray equipment. 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 will 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 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. Treatment information is posted on the CDFA website 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.

Please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 and staff will be able to assist with any questions related to this program. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

NOTICE OF TREATMENT
REGARDING THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

On February 12, 2015, Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, were identified from unincorporated Tulare 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 area.

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 (Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Los Angeles, Madera, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, 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 currently uninfested areas of 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 currently uninfested areas of 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 area; and, to prevent further economic damage. In order to determine the extent of the infestation, and to define an appropriate response area, an additional survey took place for several days over a nine-square mile area, centered on the detection site. 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

this area and spread. The enclosed program 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 this ACP infestation: 1) physical 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 physical, cultural, or biological controls that are effective to treat ACP that allow the CDFA to meet its statutory obligations. To treat ACP in this area, 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 area has been reviewed by consulting the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database for threatened or endangered species. 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 area. Mitigation measures will be implemented as needed. 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 program area encompasses those portions of Tulare and Fresno Counties 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 program area 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 mile 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 and any subsequent

detection sites within the program boundaries 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.

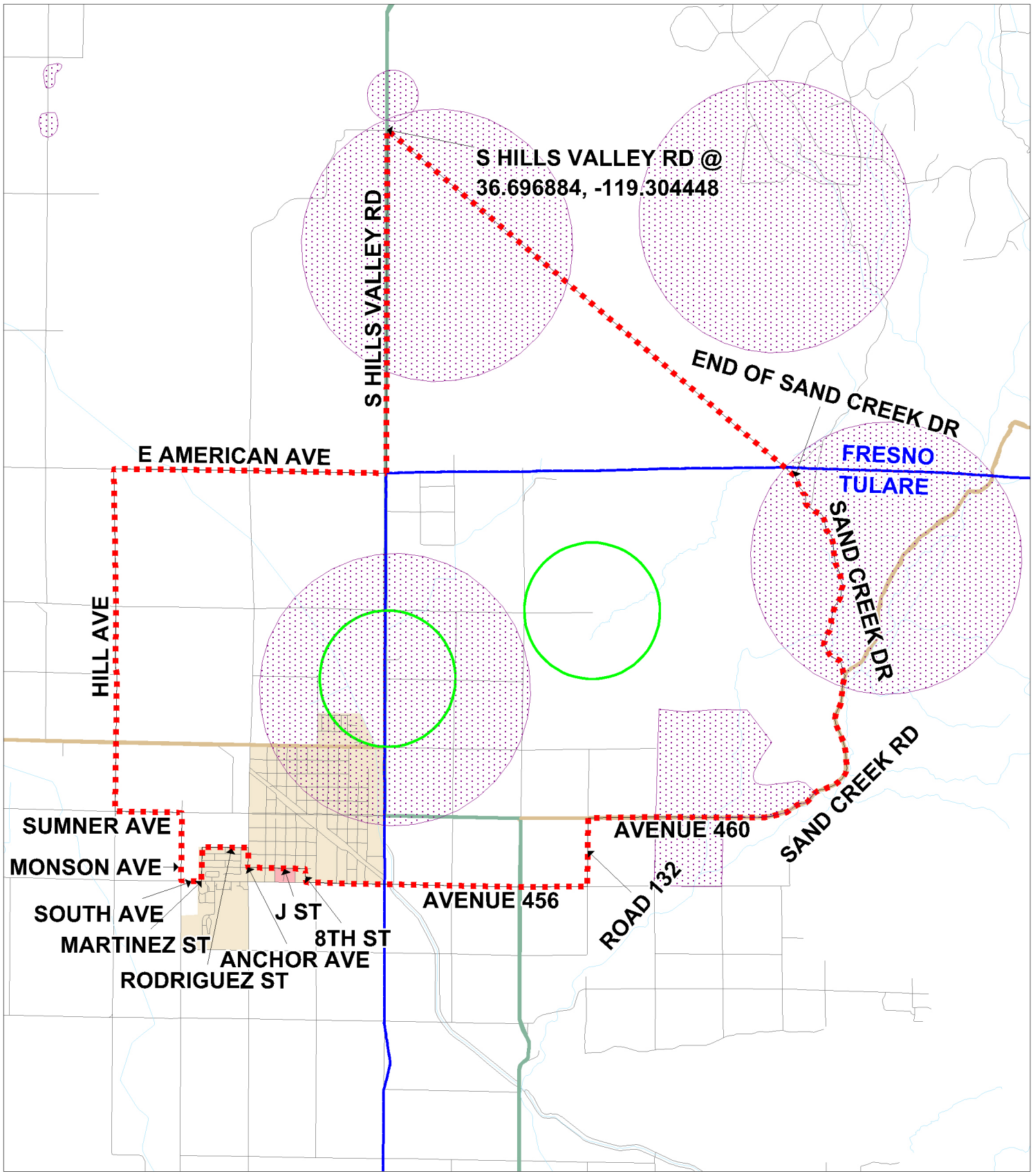
Public Information

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 offices 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. Information concerning the ACP program will be conveyed directly to local and State political representatives and authorities via letters, emails, and/or faxes. Treatment information is posted on the CDFA website 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.

Please contact the CDFA toll-free telephone number at 800-491-1899 and staff will be able to assist with any questions related to this project. This telephone number is also listed on all treatment notices.

Attachments

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID
UNINCORPORATED, TULARE AND FRESNO COUNTIES
2015



cdfa

MAXIMUM PROGRAM BOUNDARY

PROPOSED 800M TREATMENT BOUNDARY

SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA/TREATMENT MITIGATIONS IN PLACE