CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

OFFICIAL NOTICE
FOR THE CITY OF VISALIA
PLEASE READ IMMEDIATELY

NOTICE OF TREATMENT FOR THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

On March 7, 2015, one Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, a serious exotic pest, was identified from the city of Visalia, Tulare County. This detection indicates that a breeding population exists in the area. The infestation is sufficiently isolated and localized to be susceptible to the California Department of Food and Agriculture's (CDFA) 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 area.

Attachments

FINDINGS REGARDING A TREATMENT PLAN FOR THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

On March 7, 2015, one Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, was identified from the city of Visalia, Tulare County. This detection indicates that a breeding population 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 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. However, 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, because it causes trees to produce inedible fruit and results in the eventual death of infected trees. 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 inedible for human consumption.

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 $2.2 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.

This decision to proceed with treatment is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to eliminate the ACP from this area and prevent its spread using currently available technology in a manner that is based on an action plan developed by the United Stated Department of Agriculture (USDA), the CDFA and other scientists on the ACP Science Advisory Panel. In making this decision, the CDFA has evaluated possible treatment methods. In accordance with integrated pest management principles, the following is the list of 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, biological, or cultural control methods that are effective to treat the 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. The option selected is a chemical control measure that involves the use of insecticides targeting both the adult and immature stages of ACP. This option was

selected based upon biological effectiveness, minimal public intrusiveness, cost, and minimal impacts to the environment.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) has been prepared which analyzes the ACP treatment program in accordance with Public Resources Code (PRC), Sections 21000 et seq. The PEIR was certified in December, 2014, and is available at http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/peir/. The PEIR addresses the treatment of the ACP at the program level and provides guidance on future actions against the ACP. It identifies feasible alternatives and possible mitigation measures to be implemented for individual ACP treatment activities. The ACP program has incorporated the mitigation measures and integrated pest management techniques as described in the PEIR. In accordance with PRC Section 21105, this PEIR has been filed with the appropriate local planning agency of all affected cities and counties. No local conditions have been detected which would justify or necessitate preparation of a site specific plan.

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.

Work Plan

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

1. Delimitation. Yellow panel traps will 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 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. Treatment may be re-applied up to six times

annually if additional ACPs are detected.

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 and watered in to initiate tablet dissolution. CoreTect™ is used in place of Merit® 2F in situations where there are environmental concerns about soil surface runoff of the liquid Merit® 2F formulation, such as host plants growing next to ponds and other environmentally sensitive areas. Treatment may be re-applied once annually if additional ACPs are detected.

Public Information

Residents of affected properties may be 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 the Food and Agricultural Code (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 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.

Duty to Act

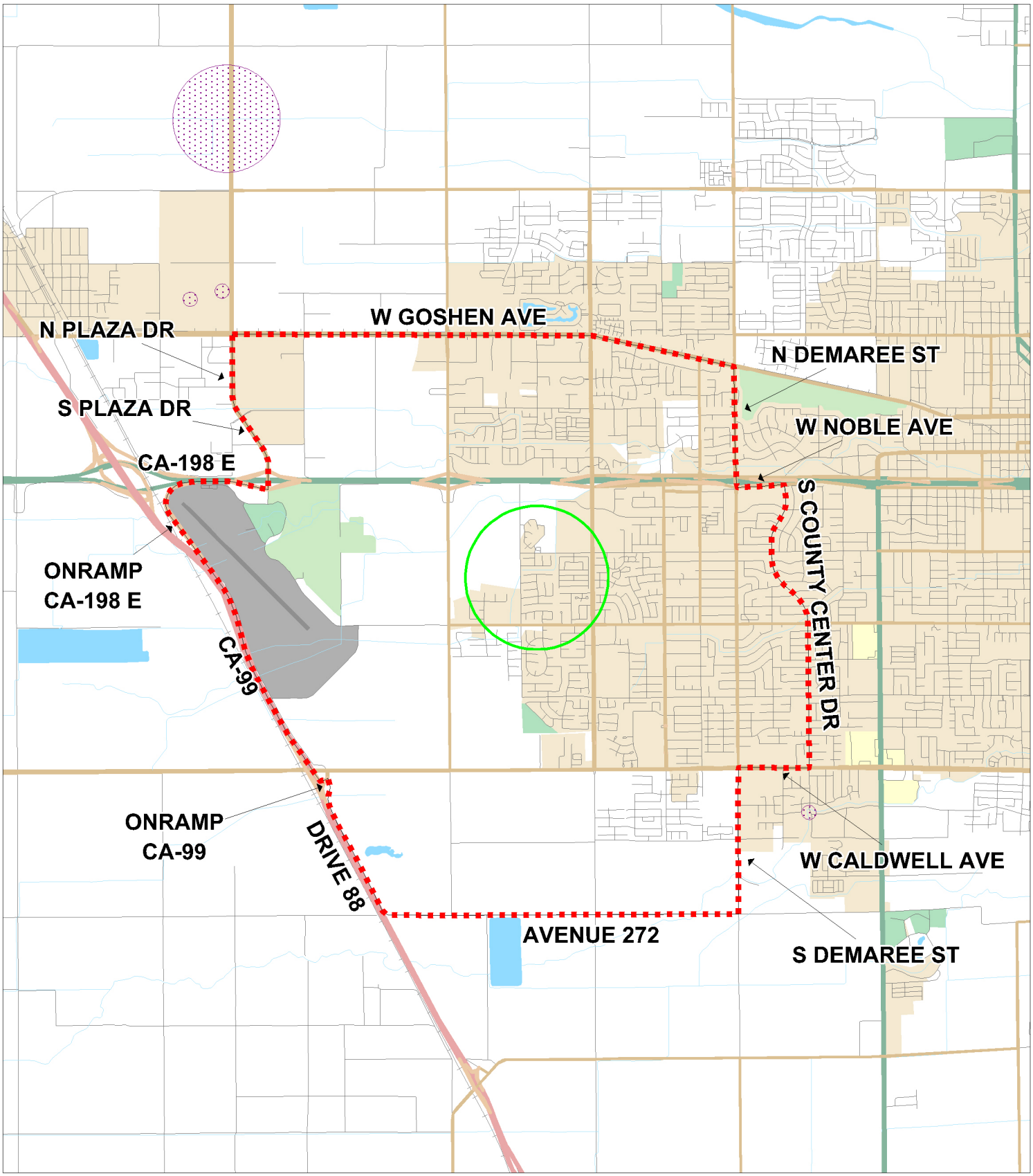
Under my statutory authority, as Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, I have decided, based upon the likely environmental and economic damage that would be inflicted by an established infestation of the ACP in this area, that it is incumbent upon me to attempt to address this threat.

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 FAC, authorizing and mandating the Secretary to: thoroughly investigate the existence of the pest; determine the probability of the pest spreading to other areas; 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; abate a pest from the established treatment area; and, to prevent further economic damage. The project work plan above describes the CDFA's actions that are necessary to mitigate the effects of this pest.

_____ _____

Karen Ross, Secretary Date

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID
VISALIA, TULARE COUNTY
2015



cdfa

MAXIMUM PROGRAM BOUNDARY

PROPOSED 800M TREATMENT BOUNDARY

SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL AREA/TREATMENT MITIGATIONS IN PLACE