

Asian Citrus Psyllid  
Proclamation of an Emergency Program

PROCLAMATION OF AN EMERGENCY PROGRAM  
REGARDING THE ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID

On November 17, 2010 and January 4, 2011, an Asian citrus psyllids (ACP), *Diaphorina citri* Kuwayama, were detected in the city of Irvine, Orange County. Based on the survey data, the ACP having a continuous life cycle with no true dormancy, information from California's Huanglongbing Task Force, recommendations provided to me by the Department's 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 established infestation of ACP exists.

The 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, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Texas and California (San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties). The 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 bacterium *Candidatus liberibacter* the causal agent 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 unusable 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. 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.

As Deputy Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), I have decided, based upon the possible economic and environmental damage that could be inflicted by an established infestation of the Asian citrus psyllid, that under my statutory authority, it is incumbent on me to address this threat.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Section 3591.21 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations whereby an ACP eradication area was established. Additionally, Division 4 of the Food and Agricultural Code Sections 403, 5321, 5322, 5761, 5762 and 5763 authorizes the Secretary to thoroughly investigate the existence and the probability of the spread of a pest and to abate the pest from the established eradication area.

Based upon input from my professional staff, including memorandums of the Primary State Entomologist and Primary State Plant Pathologist, and the input of experts familiar with the ACP, I am ordering ground applications of a pesticide be made to all ACP hosts in an area up to 800 meters around detection sites. Factors impacting the extent of ground applications are outlined in the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Work Plan. A description of the methodologies chosen is contained in the attached ACP Work Plan. In issuing this

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decision, I have considered pesticidal and non-pesticidal options. I find that no non-pesticidal options exist to effectively address the situation with ACP.

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.

### Sensitive Areas

The treatment area has been examined for threatened or endangered species and mitigation measures will be implemented as needed. The CDFA will not apply pesticides to undeveloped areas of native vegetation; all foliar treatment will be applied to residential properties, common areas within residential development and other non-commercial properties.

### Treatment Plan

The proposed project area encompasses those portions of Orange County which fall within an approximate nine square mile area around each property in which ACP has been detected in the area. The maximum program boundary is 22.3 square miles. A map of the detection sites with the project boundaries and the proposed treatment work plan are attached. In summary form, the treatment plan consists of the following elements:

1. Delimitation. Yellow panel traps will be placed throughout the project area to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment ACP populations. Yellow panel traps are placed at a density of 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 three ACP generations beyond the date of the last ACP detection.
2. Visual survey. All host plants will be inspected at all locations where traps are placed. Host plants will be surveyed in a 10-mile radius around the detection site(s). Up to 100 properties per square mile may be inspected.
3. Treatment. Properties within the treatment area as outlined in the ACP Work Plan will be treated according to the following protocol. Ground application of registered formulations of pesticides (such as cyfluthrin or other efficacious materials) will be applied to all ACP host plants on designated properties where ACP has been detected. Treatments will be repeated as per label instructions, for up to two life cycles beyond the last ACP (as determined by a life cycle model driven by accumulated day degrees). If additional ACP or immature life stages are detected in the survey area, the treatment area may expand to an 800-meter radius around

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the infested properties.

To address the developing immature stages of the ACP, an imidacloprid insecticide will be applied to the soil beneath the drip line of the host plants.

4. Public Information. 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 Department's 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 then serves as the primary contact to the media.

Additionally, residents of affected properties are invited to a public meeting where officials from various agencies (California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment and the County Agricultural Commissioner) are present to address residents questions and concerns. Residents are notified in person and/or in writing at least 24 hours prior to the scheduled treatment. Following the treatment, completion notices are left with the residents detailing precautions to take and post-harvest intervals applicable to any citrus fruit on the property.

If you have any questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899.