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News Release

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ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID DETECTED IN TRACY, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

STOCKTON, CA, May 3, 2016 – The San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner, in cooperation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), is beginning an extensive survey in response to the detection of one Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) within the boundaries of the city of Tracy.

The ACP was positively identified on April 27, 2016 around Lammers and Valpico Roads in Tracy. An increased number of traps will be deployed and a visual survey initiated in the surrounding properties in an attempt to determine if there is an infestation. Treatment activities will be carried out on all citrus plants surrounding the sites where the insect was trapped. Residents in the treatment area will be notified in advance of any activity.

“The Asian Citrus Psyllid is a dangerous pest of citrus. We are working to determine the full extent of this infestation so that we can protect our State’s vital citrus industry as well as our backyard citrus trees. Working together we can prevent the spread of this invasive species and the harm it can cause.

“While San Joaquin County has very little commercial citrus there is a \$10.7 billion dollar industry statewide not counting the nursery industry, which has increased significantly in some of our neighboring counties in recent years. It is our duty to not only help protect the industry in our nearby counties but also the citrus that many of us grow in our own backyards.” stated Tim Pelican, San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner.

Background: The ACP is an invasive species of grave concern because it can carry the disease Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening. ACP is found in tropical and subtropical Asia, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Reunion, Mauritius, parts of South and Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean, and in the U.S. (Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, and Texas). ACP was first found in California on August 27, 2008 in San Diego County. In recent years, it has spread to Kern, Tulare, Fresno, Madera and Stanislaus counties in the San Joaquin Valley. All citrus and closely related species are susceptible hosts for both the insect and the disease. There is no cure once a tree becomes infected, the diseased tree will decline in health and produce bitter, misshaped fruit until it dies. The citrus is safe to eat and the disease is not harmful to human health. HLB has been detected on eleven trees at nine different locations in the Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

If you think you may have seen the pest, please do NOT remove it or any plant materials from the area. Residents in the area who think they may have seen the pest are urged to call the Pest Hotline at 1-800-491-1899. For more information on the Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing disease, visit: www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/acp.

5.3.16 Press Release Tracy ACP Find



Pictured above is an Asian Citrus Psyllid which measures approximately 3 to 4 millimeters long
(Photo courtesy of the San Joaquin County Agriculture Commissioner's Office.)

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