



# California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA)

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## Issue Fact Sheet

**Issue:** The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was detected for the first time in California in 2008. The ACP vectors the devastating and fatal disease of citrus known as huanglongbing (HLB) or citrus greening.

**Background:** In California, ACP is found in San Diego, Imperial, Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino and Ventura counties. ACP occurs throughout Mexico, including California border towns such as Tijuana. HLB has not been found in California, but it has been found approximately 900 miles to the southeast in Mazatlan, Mexico.

Because ACP is established in areas of the world with climates similar to several areas of California, it is likely that the ACP will establish a permanent presence in the state if mitigation measures are not maintained and enforced. Asian citrus psyllid damages plants directly through its feeding activities. New shoot growth that is heavily infested by psyllids does not expand and develop normally and will break off. While direct damage is serious, the ACP is an efficient vector of the bacterium that causes the economically devastating disease HLB or yellow dragon disease, which is the most devastating of all citrus diseases.

The citrus industry projects that for every 10,000 acres of citrus in California lost to HLB, that California would lose 2,200 jobs and \$8.8 million in state revenue.

**Status:** Since the discovery of ACP in California, the County Agricultural Commissioners, the USDA and CDFA have made strides in mitigating the spread of ACP to citrus production counties through enforcing quarantine regulations and treatment of spot infestations of the insect vector. Additionally, proactive measures include trapping in high-risk locations, surveying for HLB, implementation of improved diagnostic tools and initiation of research and development of biological control organisms and disease resistant varieties of citrus are ongoing. The California citrus producers contribute approximately \$15 Million for treatments of 400 meters surrounding each find, which has made all the difference in 2010. They contribute an additional \$3 Million in research funding. The industry works in collaboration with USDA, CDFA and the County Ag Commissioners to conduct a coordinated program throughout California. All of the funds are used to support urban treatments and commercial grove surveys including public education efforts.

**Action Item:** To sustain these activities and to respond to ACP or HLB detections in new areas of the state, California is requesting \$19.5 million and supports increased overall funding for the Citrus Health Response Plan.