

SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA



ITEM: 2.1
(ID # 29975)

MEETING DATE:
Tuesday, March 03, 2026

FROM : AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONER: Renewal of Local Emergency in Riverside County Due to the Discovery of Citrus Greening Disease, or Huanglongbing, All Districts. [\$0]

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors:

1. That the declaration relating to citrus greening disease, or huanglongbing adopted as Agenda Item 3.20 on August 29, 2017, Resolution Number 2017-196 be renewed.

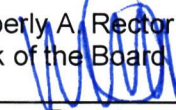
ACTION: Consent

Delia Cioc, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner. 2/19/2026

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

On motion of Supervisor Medina, seconded by Supervisor Gutierrez and duly carried, IT WAS ORDERED that the above matter is approved as recommended.

Ayes: Medina, Spiegel, Perez, and Gutierrez
Nays: None
Absent: Washington
Date: March 3, 2026
xc: Agric. Comm., COB

Kimberly A. Rector
Clerk of the Board
By: 
Deputy

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE,
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FINANCIAL DATA	Current Fiscal Year:	Next Fiscal Year:	Total Cost:	Ongoing Cost
COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
NET COUNTY COST	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
SOURCE OF FUNDS: N/A			Budget Adjustment: No	
			For Fiscal Year: 25/26	

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: Approve

BACKGROUND:

Summary

On July 25, 2017, the presence of the bacterial agent that causes citrus greening disease, or huanglongbing (HLB) was confirmed from a tissue culture collected from a backyard grapefruit tree in the city of Riverside. HLB is a fatal disease of citrus trees and is spread through feeding action of the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP).

HLB originated in Asia and is considered the most devastating disease of citrus in the world. Symptoms of HLB include yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit that does not fully color and fruit that has a very bitter taste making it unfit for human consumption. The bacterium that causes the disease blocks the flow of nutrients within the tree, causing the tree to starve. There is no cure and trees infected with the disease will die.

This disease has nearly destroyed the citrus industry in Florida and Texas. In Florida, it is estimated that the presence of HLB has resulted in a loss of over \$7 billion and 6,600 jobs over the last five years. Prior to the Riverside find, HLB was discovered in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

The presence of ACP and now HLB in Riverside County presents a serious threat to our annual \$187 million commercial citrus production as well as the tradition of backyard and landscape citrus plantings throughout the County. The history of Riverside County is rooted in citrus. The risks posed by the continued spread of ACP and HLB constitute a local emergency within Riverside County.

CLERK OF THE BOARD: Due to unique circumstances and unknown duration of the situation, request that renewal of this declaration be automatically submitted as an agenda item every 30 days until request to terminate is submitted by the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner’s Office.

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Impact on Residents and Businesses

The presence of ACP and now HLB in Riverside County presents a serious threat to our annual \$187 million commercial citrus production as well as the tradition of backyard and landscape citrus plantings throughout the County.

Crystal Carrillo
Crystal Carrillo, Senior Management Analyst 2/26/2026

Riverside County has declared a local state of emergency in response to the introduction and spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP), which poses a significant threat to the region's citrus industry and residential citrus trees. The Riverside County Board of Supervisors reviews and renews this declaration every 30 days, in accordance with Government Code Section 8630, due to the ongoing presence of the pest and the continued risk to commercial agriculture and backyard citrus.

Maintaining this emergency proclamation ensures Riverside County remains eligible for state funding through the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). These funds support critical activities such as detection, treatment, regulatory enforcement, biological control, and public outreach related to ACP and the disease it vectors.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid is an invasive insect that transmits Huanglongbing (HLB), also known as citrus greening—a fatal disease of citrus for which there is currently no cure. HLB causes misshapen, bitter fruit, tree decline, and eventual tree death. While ACP feeding can damage trees, the primary concern is its ability to spread HLB.

Since its initial detection in Southern California, ACP has become established in numerous urban and agricultural areas, making eradication within Riverside County no longer feasible. Current efforts focus on suppression, containment, regulatory compliance, nursery stock protection, biological control releases, and preventing further spread into regions where commercial citrus production remains vital to California's economy.

The continued emergency declaration strengthens coordinated response efforts and regulatory authority necessary to protect citrus-growing regions, including areas where the disease is not yet widespread and where highly susceptible commercial varieties are still cultivated.

There are no additional local restrictions on planting citrus trees beyond existing state and federal quarantine requirements. However, growers and homeowners are strongly encouraged to follow best management practices, purchase citrus trees only from approved and inspected nurseries, and cooperate with inspection and treatment programs. The Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner's Office provides guidance to commercial growers and residents to ensure compliance and informed decision-making.

The Agricultural Commissioner's Office receives state contracts to assist with ACP and HLB response activities, including nursery inspection and protection agreements, regulatory and treatment support, survey and detection programs, and outreach initiatives administered through CDFA. As part of these efforts, the office conducts hundreds of inspections annually—covering transportation, growers, and fruit sellers—to ensure compliance with regulatory standards aimed at preventing the spread of ACP and HLB.

For more information on California's Action Plan for Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing (Citrus Greening), visit:

<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/citrus/docs/committee/ActionPlan.pdf>

To participate in CDFA's monthly webinar covering treatments, detections, and quarantine updates, visit:

<https://californiacitrusthreat.org/meetings/>

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