

**MOORPARK CITY COUNCIL  
AGENDA REPORT**

**TO:** Honorable City Council

**FROM:** John Brand, Senior Management Analyst 

**DATE:** April 27, 2010 (CC Meeting of 05/05/2010)

**SUBJECT:** Consider Farm Bureau Briefing on Asian Citrus Psyllid Threat

**BACKGROUND**

The Council is being asked to hear a presentation by John Krist, Chief Executive Officer of the Farm Bureau of Ventura County. The Ventura County citrus industry, which accounts for fully a quarter of the economic activity generated by local agriculture, may face an unprecedented threat from a bacterial disease and the insect that spreads it.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) is an invasive insect pest that can transmit a bacterial disease to citrus trees. Known as Huanglongbing (HLB), the disease ruins the taste and appearance of citrus fruit, and eventually kills infected trees. There is no treatment or cure, and all commercially valuable varieties of citrus are vulnerable. If ACP and HLB reach Ventura County, and cannot be eradicated or contained, it is likely that the county will cease to be a significant producer of citrus crops within a decade.

The Farm Bureau has convened a task force to help Ventura County prepare effectively for arrival of the pest and the actions that must follow if we are to remain a citrus-producing region.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None.

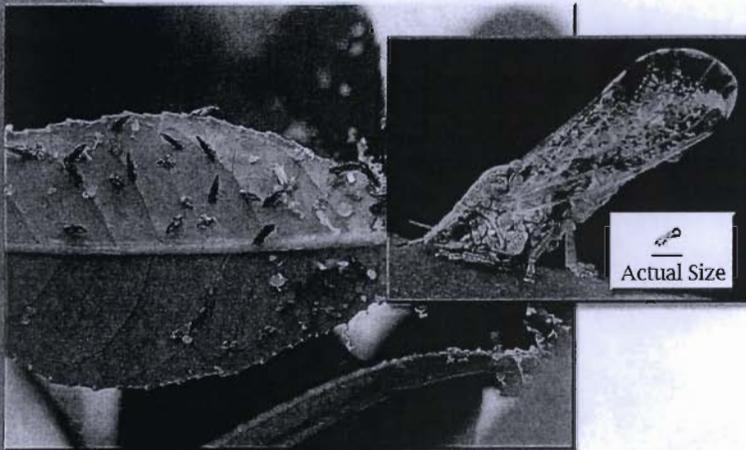
**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Hear the presentation.

Attachment: No More California Citrus?

# No more California citrus?

That's what is at stake if the Asian citrus psyllid and the disease it carries establishes here!  
**With your help it can be stopped – before it's too late.**



## The Dangerous Pest: Asian citrus psyllid (ACP)

- A small insect, about the size of an aphid.
- Feeds on leaves and stems of citrus and close relatives of citrus.
- Eggs are laid on young “flush growth” of citrus, where small yellowish orange nymphs (larvae) feed and develop.
- The psyllid is a carrier of the deadly plant disease, Huanglongbing.
- This insect has spread from Mexico into southern California.
- Limiting the spread of the psyllid will limit the spread of the disease.

## The Disease: Huanglongbing (HLB)

- Also called greening disease and yellow shoot disease.
- Causes irregular yellowing of leaves.
- Produces bitter, inedible, deformed fruit.
- It kills citrus trees.
- This disease has not yet been found in California, but it is infecting citrus in nearby states and in Mexico.



## The Solution: We All Play a Critical Role

- Be prepared – learn to recognize the pest and disease and teach others what you know.
- Inspect your citrus trees each month.
- Be sure to plant only California-grown certified trees that are known to be free of disease.
- Remind everyone that it is illegal to bring citrus trees or cuttings into California from other states or countries because they can carry the insect or be infected with HLB.
- If you live in a quarantine area, help prevent the spread of psyllids to other areas:
  - Don't move plants out of the quarantined area that may harbor the psyllid.
  - Dry out plant clippings for two weeks before putting them in green waste recycle bins or double-bag clippings.
- If you suspect your tree has the psyllid or disease, act fast! **Call your County Agricultural Commissioner or the CDFA hotline at 800-491-1899.**



To learn about the Asian citrus psyllid and HLB disease, visit

## CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org

Printed materials in English, Spanish, Hmong and Chinese are downloadable from this Web site.