

# NEWS

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SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

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## County prepares assault on citrus-killing insect

The Board of Supervisors tomorrow will consider joining forces with the state to fight the citrus-destroying Asian Citrus Psyllid.

News media interested in observing how the state controls the pest are invited to view a demonstration tomorrow morning, February 7, at 11:30 a.m. at the citrus trees outside the west entrance to the County Government Center, 385 N. Arrowhead Ave., San Bernardino. Crews will be spraying the county's trees in the same way they will soon treat residential trees.

"Citrus is an important part of my district's economy, so I plan to support all efforts to eradicate this pest before it threatens groves in our county and elsewhere," said Supervisor Neil Derry, whose Third District includes Redlands, Loma Linda, Yucaipa, Big Bear Lake, the Morongo Basin, and Barstow.

The board will consider a resolution supporting the state's establishment of containment lines to restrict the spread of the Asian Citrus Psyllid within the county and authorize the county Agricultural Commissioner to use his abatement authority, if necessary, to order owners of infested properties to treat their trees or have the infested trees removed at the owner's expense.

The Asian Citrus Psyllid is a small aphid-like insect that acts as a carrier of huanglongbing, also known as HLB and Citrus Greening Disease, an incurable bacterial disease that destroys fruit and eventually kills infected trees. HLB has caused significant economic losses in Florida and Mexico.

HLB has always followed the appearance of Asian Citrus Psyllids. The insect was found in California in 2008 and has spread to Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.