

Per California Code of Regulations, title 2, section 548.5, the following information will be posted to CalHR's Career Executive Assignment Action Proposals website for 30 calendar days when departments propose new CEA concepts or major revisions to existing CEA concepts. Presence of the department-submitted CEA Action Proposal information on CalHR's website does not indicate CalHR support for the proposal.

A. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Date

2018-10-15

2. Department

Food and Agriculture

3. Organizational Placement (Division/Branch/Office Name)

Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD)

4. CEA Position Title

Division Director

5. Summary of proposed position description and how it relates to the program's mission or purpose. (2-3 sentences)

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) requests the establishment of a Career Executive Assignment (CEA) B to serve as the Division Director overseeing CPDPD. CPDPD will be dedicated to enhancing Asian Citrus Psyllid and Huanglongbing detection, suppression, and eradication activities throughout the State. Combating this deadly citrus disease will protect the California citrus industry, urban landscapes, and environment; protect the health and safety of the citizens; and promote and protect a safe and healthy food supply.

6. Reports to: (Class Title/Level)

Secretary

7. Relationship with Department Director (Select one)

- Member of department's Executive Management Team, and has frequent contact with director on a wide range of department-wide issues.
- Not a member of department's Executive Management Team but has frequent contact with the Executive Management Team on policy issues.

(Explain):

8. Organizational Level (Select one)

- 1st
- 2nd
- 3rd
- 4th
- 5th (mega departments only - 17,001+ allocated positions)

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST

9. What are the duties and responsibilities of the CEA position? Be specific and provide examples.

CDFA is legislatively mandated under Food and Agricultural Code Section 5911 to protect California's citrus industry from citrus killing diseases that could be detrimental to California's agriculture, citizens, and public or natural resources.

The CEA B will serve as the Director of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD); serve as a key policy advisor to the Secretary and other members of the Executive Office; direct and implement regulations and enforcement strategies and activities against the spread of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing (HLB) as well as other citrus pest and diseases; and ensure policies, processes, and procedures align with the operational and strategic business goals of CDFA are successfully implemented and executed.

The duties include but are not limited to:

Policy and Program Oversight:

Oversee, coordinate, and direct all aspects of a large statewide sensitive and complex environmental division; develop and evaluate policy changes to ensure compliance with existing legislative mandates and regulations; develop, review, and implement policy and strategy responses of citrus disease and pests to mitigate environmental issues for the protection of air, water, soil, and sensitive species habitats; and develop and implement strategic responses to further the study of HLB control or eradication.

Departmental Representative:

Represent the Secretary, Executive Office, and Department at meetings and conference with various governmental agencies, industry groups, and Legislative and Executive Branches; serve as the Incident Commander for ACP and HLB; serve as the subject matter expert and central point of contact regarding citrus pest and disease; and perform liaison work between CPDPD and various governmental and non-governmental agencies or individuals related to State or Federal pest prevention programs.

Administration/Fiscal Oversight:

Ensure work plans and workforce planning meet CDFA's strategic vision and mission to protect the State's food supply from the impact of invasive pests and diseases, environment, natural resources, and the public from pests that present from human health threats; manage, allocate, and monitor the budget; and oversee the mid-year budget projections for newly discovered citrus pests and diseases.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

10. How critical is the program's mission or purpose to the department's mission as a whole? Include a description of the degree to which the program is critical to the department's mission.

- Program is directly related to department's primary mission and is critical to achieving the department's goals.
- Program is indirectly related to department's primary mission.
- Program plays a supporting role in achieving department's mission (i.e., budget, personnel, other admin functions).

Description: The CDFA's mission is to serve the citizens of California by promoting and protecting a safe, healthy food supply, and enhancing local and global agricultural trade, through efficient management, innovation, and sound science, with commitment to environmental stewardship. Pest prevention is uniquely positioned to protect California's urban and natural environments as well as its agriculture. CDFA is committed to protecting the environment, economy, and citizens from invasive pests and has the authority to protect California from the damage caused by the introduction or spread of harmful pests in the Food and Agriculture Code Sections 24.5, 403, 407, 5006, 5301, 5322, and 5761. CDFA has the sole authority implement and enforce quarantine restrictions within the state.

Goal 1 Development of CPDPD: The CEA B will oversee the formation of the new Division utilizing new and existing positions to provide ongoing precise and efficient service to the citrus industry.

Goal 2 Policy Development and Oversight: The CEA B will incorporate new data and scientific analysis, and existing policy and regulations into CPDPD activities throughout California.

Goal 3 Advocate to the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee: The CEA B will focus greater effort representing California's interests at the national and international level to ensure federal support and international scientific collaboration.

Goal 4 Program Evaluation: The CEA B will ensure continual development of annual milestones and performance measures to assess progress towards meeting goals of the ACP and HLB Action Plan.

Goal 5 Inter-agency Coordination: The CEA B will ensure effective coordination, collaboration, and implementation of the ACP and HLB Action Plan with Citrus Pest Control Districts and other local agencies.

B. SUMMARY OF REQUEST (continued)

11. Describe what has changed that makes this request necessary. Explain how the change justifies the current request. Be specific and provide examples.

ACP is a non-native insect pest that serves as a vector of the bacterium that causes the HLB disease, which is fatal to citrus trees. HLB transmittal is solely dependent on ACP and is transmitted to healthy trees by ACP after it feeds on infected plant tissue. ACP is typically found in tropical and subtropical Asia. The host range for ACP includes all citrus species and many citrus relatives. HLB is established in areas with climates similar to California and is the most devastating of all citrus diseases.

In July 2008, the first detection of ACP in California occurred in San Diego County. ACP has subsequently spread as far north as Placer County. There are currently 87,656 square miles under quarantine for ACP. In March 2012, the first detection of HLB occurred in the Hacienda Heights area of Los Angeles County. In July 2015, a second HLB positive tree was detected in the San Gabriel area of Los Angeles County, about 10 miles to the northwest of the first HLB positive tree. This initiated an extensive survey which has subsequently identified several additional HLB-infected citrus trees near the initial find in Los Angeles County. In 2016, HLB was confirmed in two trees in the Cerritos area of Los Angeles County which created a second stand-alone HLB quarantine area. In 2017, HLB was confirmed in the Rosemead and Pico Rivera areas in Los Angeles County; the Anaheim, Fullerton, and La Habra areas in Orange County; and Riverside near the border of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. In 2018, HLB has been confirmed in Whittier and Norwalk in Los Angeles County and in Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana, Tustin, Yorba Linda and Orange in Orange County. In 2018, there are currently 784 square miles under quarantine for HLB in four counties. To date there has been 874 HLB positive trees confirmed and removed from residential properties in Riverside, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties.

In addition, existing law provides that the Secretary of CDFA is obligated to investigate the existence of any pest that is not generally distributed within California and determine the probability of its spread and the feasibility of its control or eradication (FAC, Sections 5321, 5911-5940). FAC Section 5322 provides that the Secretary may establish, maintain, and enforce quarantine, eradication and other such regulations as necessary to protect the agricultural industry from the introduction and spread of pests.

California's citrus industry is the number one fresh market citrus producer in the United States, with a 2016-17 direct value of citrus production of \$3.389 billion. The citrus industry employs over 20,000 people and in Fiscal Year 2016-2017, estimated wages paid by the citrus industry totaled \$452 million. Compared to the rest of the world, California's citrus is relatively free of diseases. Currently, this status is in jeopardy due to the increasing detections of HLB and the growing population of ACP. The presence of ACP and HLB in California poses a clear threat to agriculture, the urban environment, and California's economy. The permanent establishment of HLB would cause significant economic losses for citrus growers and nurseries, as well as negatively impact California's residential property values, urban forest, and economy. The bacterium that causes the disease, *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*, blocks the flow of nutrients within the tree which leads to yellow shoots with mottling and chlorosis of the leaves, misshapen fruit, fruit that does not fully color, and fruit that has a very bitter taste making it unfit for human consumption. There is no cure for HLB. Infected trees will starve to death from the lack of nutrients and must be removed and destroyed to ensure they do not serve as a reservoir for the bacteria. The citrus industry in Florida has been heavily impacted by HLB. The economic impacts over the fiscal years 2006-2007 through 2013-2014 were estimated at a loss of negative \$7.80 billion in cumulative industry output, or an annual average of \$975 million, while total value-added impacts averaged \$573 million, and employment impacts averaged 7,513 jobs.

Due to the imminent threat that citrus pests and diseases pose to California's citrus industry, the Legislature approved Chapter 426, Statutes of 2009 (Assembly Bill 281), which added Article 2 (commencing with Section 5911) to Chapter 9, Part 1, Division 4 of the Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), creating the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (Committee) within CDFA. The Committee has the authority to develop, subject to the approval of the Secretary, the assessment rate for bulk citrus, the budget, a statewide citrus-specific pest and disease work plan that includes programs for surveying, detecting, analyzing and treating citrus pests and diseases. In September 2018, the Committee passed a motion to fund a separate Division within CDFA to implement the activities necessary to control ACP and HLB.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE

12. Provide 3-5 specific examples of policy areas over which the CEA position will be the principle policy maker. Each example should cite a policy that would have an identifiable impact. Include a description of the statewide impact of the assigned program.

CDFA is the agency responsible for preventing the introduction of invasive pests and diseases that are harmful to California's landscape, including agricultural production areas, natural landscapes and urban/suburban areas. If invasive pests and diseases are discovered to be present in California, CDFA is then responsible for managing the infestation in a manner to mitigate the impact to California. This includes determining the scope of the infestation, implementing actions such as quarantines to limit the spread of the infestation, and determining the appropriate treatment approach to eradicate, suppress or control the infestation. The proposed CEA B will provide the necessary policy formation for the following areas:

Program Operational Polices: The CEA B will formulate and implement policies to guide the selection of techniques and strategies for preventing the spread of the disease into commercial production areas. Policies enacted in this area will require input from a wide base of entities and will be essential to managing the many factors involved with how the disease spreads. These policies will be based on scientific principles generally used in the pest prevention system and the role will be to customize according to the many unique situations associated with the distribution of citrus trees in California. Additionally, the CEA B will be responsible for policies to guide the development of critical program activities such as tree surveys. California has a very diverse landscape with regards to geography, population densities, and climatic conditions, with citrus trees being present throughout the state. This can be extremely challenging for developing effective tree survey protocols and sound policy insures the proper protocols are utilized.

Budgetary and Fiscal Policy: This program is funded through multiple and complex funding sources that include assessments on citrus production, various federal funds, and limited term general fund appropriations. Due to overlapping fiscal years between California and the federal government, the seasonality of citrus production that provides the assessment revenues, and the myriad of rules and regulations attached to federal funding sources. The CEA B will develop, implement, and oversee budget and fiscal policies to insure adequate funding resources are available to operate all of the program activities and that these policies are followed in such a manner to satisfy fiscal audit requirements. Due to the nature of federal funds being appropriated for specific purposes, the CEA B will be responsible for developing strategies for procuring federal funding available to the program and deploying these funds to meet the federal requirements and optimizing the program activities to meet the goal of suppressing the spread of the infestation.

Developing Research Policy: The CEA B will be responsible for collaborating with various entities to identify and develop research activities for achieving program goals. Long term success in containing the disease will be highly dependent on determining the correct policies to facilitate engagement with federal, state and local agencies as well as the academic community in setting priorities. These policies will also need to be evaluated and updated to reflect emerging technologies that evolve rapidly in research environments.

C. ROLE IN POLICY INFLUENCE (continued)

13. What is the CEA position's scope and nature of decision-making authority?

The CEA B will have full responsibility and independent decision-making authority for the oversight, development, and implementation of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) policies, rules, laws, and regulations regarding Program Administration and Fiscal Oversight; oversight of day-to-day aspects of field activities (survey, treatment, regulatory, and outreach); and serve as a subject matter expert and represent CDFA at meetings and conferences with Federal, State, and local government, law enforcement, and stakeholder groups.

The CEA B will have full responsibility to plan, organize, and direct CPDPD; ensure processes and procedures align with CDFA's mission and strategic goals; direct and implement all regulations and enforcement strategies for ACP and HLB Quarantine; and serve as the lead coordinator of enforcement activities with the County Agricultural Commissioners.

The CEA B will serve as a leader and mentor to Division managers and supervisors; provide expert consultative advice to the Secretary, Undersecretary, Deputy Secretary, and other Executive Office management staff; represent CDFA at legislative hearings and meetings; and independently meet with stakeholders, industry members, and/or law enforcement officials related to CPDPD.

14. Will the CEA position be developing and implementing new policy, or interpreting and implementing existing policy? How?

The CEA B will develop and implement existing and new policies concerning best management of invasive plant pests. Existing policies will be interpreted and applied to this disease complex. New policies will be explored and implemented to address the unique nature of this complex in that the disease reservoir currently is growing at a fast rate in non-commercial areas but still in close proximity to commercial production areas. Due to the rapid increase in disease and recently approved strategic plan the program is still in a very dynamic state and new policy is continually being developed to ensure the program elements are aligned with the rapidly changing situation on the ground.