

***HIGH IMPORTANCE*****Temporary Local Emergency Declared in Kern County for Beet Curly Top Virus**

Effective April 5, 2024, the Kern County CAO has declared a local emergency pursuant to Government Code section 8630 and Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR) section 6990, allowing for neonicotinoid pesticides to be applied to crops susceptible to the beet leafhopper (BLH), the vector of Beet Curly Top Virus, a disease known to cause serious crop damage.

This local emergency is currently in effect, and will remain in effect until ratified by the Kern County Board of Supervisors, presumably on April 9, 2024, after which the local emergency will continue. This local emergency declaration is in response to increases in populations of the BLH in the wildland/agricultural interface in Kern. The neonicotinoid regulatory package (3 CCR sections 6990-6990.16) that went into effect January 1, 2024, which restricts and limits certain uses of neonicotinoid pesticides on various crop groups beyond the label requirements would have restricted such use, but the local emergency declaration would supersede these regulations. Applications can be made to address the local emergency declaration by allowing for applications of neonicotinoid pesticides, which would normally be subjected to the restrictions or rate limits imposed by the regulations indicated above, so that growers can specifically treat for BLH in Kern County.

The local emergency declaration does not supplant pesticide product labeling requirements for use. Therefore, the use of any pesticide shall not conflict with its product labeling.

This emergency declaration is in effect for sixty (60) days from the date of Board ratification, after which the need for the local emergency shall be reviewed by the Kern County CAO and Board of Supervisors to determine whether to continue the local emergency or to terminate it.

The Agricultural Commissioner suggests all Product Use Recommendations and Product Use Reports to reflect BLH as the target pest. The Product Use Recommendations should contain the following statement,

“This recommendation is made in accordance to 3CCR Section 6990(c) as an application made to address a local emergency issued by Kern County on April 5, 2024.”

PROCLAMATION OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

COUNTY OF KERN

Government Code section 8630 and Chapter 2.66 of the Kern County Ordinance Code empower the Chief Administrative Officer to proclaim the existence or threatened existence of a local emergency when the County of Kern is affected or likely to be affected by a public calamity and the Board of Supervisors is not in session.

The Chief Administrative Officer of the County of Kern does hereby find as follows:

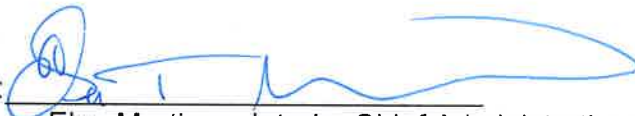
That the Board of Supervisors is not in session and that conditions of extreme peril to the safety and persons and property have arisen within Kern County and local emergency response agencies are faced with being extended beyond their functional capabilities because of the following events: Due to a localized migration of the beet leaf hopper, a vector for the curly top virus, there is an extreme threat to tomato crops in Kern County. The migration event has created conditions of immediate peril to tomato crops within the County of Kern. The Kern County tomato crop is approximately 8,000 to 10,000 acres at a value in the \$5,000 per acre range. The declaration of a local emergency relaxes some regulatory requirements for the application of neonicotinoid pesticides upon which the crop is highly reliant to combat beet leaf hoppers. The full scope of damage cannot be determined with certainty at this time but can be mitigated in part if immediate action is taken. A pest control adviser has advised staff that beet leaf hoppers must be controlled to prevent crop failure.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED THAT A LOCAL EMERGENCY EXISTS THROUGHOUT KERN COUNTY.

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED THAT DURING THE EXISTENCE OF THE LOCAL EMERGENCY, THE POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES OF THE EMERGENCY ORGANIZATION OF THIS COUNTY SHALL BE THOSE PRESCRIBED BY STATE LAW AND BY THE ORDINANCES OF THIS COUNTY AND BY THE COUNTY OF KERN EMERGENCY PLAN, APPROVED BY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESOLUTION 2008-338 ON AUGUST 26, 2008, AS FROM TIME TO TIME AMENDED THEREAFTER.

Date: April 5, 2024 Time 5:07 P.M

By:



Elsa Martinez, Interim Chief Administrative Officer
County of Kern

Upon issuance: Copy to Kern Emergency Services Manager.
Return Original To County Counsel
