



MEMORANDUM

TO: Northern/Southern Handlers & Grove Managers

FROM: Guy Witney, Director of Industry Affairs

DATE: January 10, 2007

SUBJECT: **SEVERE FREEZE ALERT**

c: CAC Board Members/Alternates

A strong and cold trough of low pressure, called a *Siberian Express* by meteorologists, is dropping rapidly southward into Oregon this afternoon and is forecast to dive southward into the Central California Coast and San Joaquin Valley by Friday morning, January 12. Computer models indicate this cold trough will hold over the Southern San Joaquin Valley, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and into the rest of Southern California on Saturday. Clouds and showers will slowly increase ahead of the main trough line later tomorrow and into Friday, with decreasing showers by later Saturday. The air mass associated with this storm system is the *coldest since late 1998* and temperatures are likely to drop into the lower 20's by Saturday morning in the San Joaquin Valley, and the mid 20's on the Central Coast. Sunday and Monday mornings in these regions will be colder yet with lows near 20 in the San Joaquin, and the lower 20's in the coldest areas of the Central Coast. Only a weak inversion is likely during these nights with irrigation water being the best source of protection. A stronger inversion is likely Monday morning.

In Santa Barbara and Ventura County areas, clouds and a few showers are likely into Friday and Friday night with a slow clearing trend into Saturday morning. Temperatures will range down to the upper 20's Saturday morning in Santa Barbara County and to the lower 30's over the Ventura County region. Colder weather with lows in the mid 20's can be expected in the colder, more wind-protected areas of both counties for Sunday and Monday mornings with a weak inversion.

The coldest weather in southern areas will occur Sunday and Monday mornings with lows ranging from 24 in the colder areas of Riverside and San Diego Counties with little or no inversion. Clouds and showers will hold temperatures up Friday and most likely

Saturday mornings. Snow showers are possible in portions of Southern Riverside and Northern San Diego Counties Friday night and into Saturday morning.

Growers should consider irrigating now so trees are not stressed when cold weather hits. Since this is an arctic freeze with little or no inversion layer, wind machines and helicopters can increase the damage rather than help.

If a freeze occurs, chill drop will become apparent within the next couple of weeks following the freeze. Harvesting may be an option in areas where damage is suspected. Damage in susceptible areas could occur in pockets, rather than entire groves or blocks.

CAC's WINTER WEATHER HOTLINE will have additional updates during this extreme cold period at 4 a.m., 10 a.m., 4 p.m., 10 p.m.

Inform your growers to call toll-free: **877-300-6496**

PLEASE PASS THIS INFORMATION ON

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