

California Border Station Improvements for Bee Transportation

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PROJECT SUMMARY

Objectives for current year:

The California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA), Project Apis m., and the Almond Board of California have partnered to provide better access to water for honey bees transported through California border stations.

Background and Discussion:

There are 1.6 million honey bee colonies needed to pollinate almonds in California every year. Most of these colonies must enter California through the California border stations. The inspection process can cause the trucks to be delayed for an hour, several hours, and on rare occasions, days. In order to maintain the honey bees' health, they should be watered regularly during these delays, especially on warm days.

The lack of water has been a major concern to those transporting live honey bees into the state of California for several years now, especially as the need for honey bee colonies has increased, and the border stations have increased delays at busy times. The fiscal crisis in California has

made it impossible for the State of California to make needed improvements.

The California State Beekeepers Association, Project Apis m., and the Almond Board of California joined forces in 2012 in support of this project to improve conditions at the border stations so that honey bees remain alive and healthy when they enter California.

In cooperation with California Department of Food and Agriculture, the most often used border stations were identified where the bee transport trucks passed. It was necessary to increase the number of the water hose bibs at those border stations. Due to the lengthy permitting process, only temporary bib additions were made at those stations in 2012 with the funds provided. With additional funding in 2013, water hose bib additions are completed as permanent structures at all crucial border stations.

Cooperating Agencies and Organizations:

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), California State Beekeepers Association (CSBA), Project Apis m. (PAm), and the Almond Board of California (ABC)