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A REPORT FOR THE CALIFORNIA CHERRY BOARD

SPECIFIC ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

CDFA Proposes Pest Rating

- On November 14, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) released a [pest rating proposal](#) for the pathogen *Phytophthora ramorum* (sudden oak death), which is known to affect some cherry trees.
- Currently, the pest is rated “Q”, indicating that a definitive assessment has not yet been conducted. The proposed rating is “A”, indicating that it is a pest of highest concern.
- Comments on the proposal are due by December 29.

Lower House of Japanese Diet Approves U.S.–Japan Agreement

- According to media reports, on November 19, the Lower House of the Japanese Diet (the parliament) approved the U.S. – Japan trade agreement, which will now move to the Upper House.
- If approved by the upper house before December 9, when the parliamentary session ends, the agreement is expected to enter into force on January 1, 2020.

GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

USTR to Conduct GSP Reviews for Nine Countries

- The office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [announced a hearing](#) for the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) reviews of Azerbaijan, Ecuador, Georgia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Thailand, South Africa, and Uzbekistan, and Laos. The hearing will occur on January 30, 2020.
- The countries under review, except Laos, currently receive preferential tariff treatment. Laos could qualify for preferential treatment for the first time under this review.
- Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan both produce and export fresh sweet cherries. In 2018, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan exported \$141 million and \$38 million in cherries, respectively.
- Comments are due by January 17 through the [Federal Rulemaking Portal](#). The Federal Register notice provides the docket number to use for each country.

Chilean Dockworker Strike Resumes with International Backing

- The Chilean Dockworkers’ Union will resume their strike as mass protests and nationwide strikes continue to slow Chilean exports, according to industry media.
- Furthermore, the International Dockworkers Council (IDC), which represents various port unions in different countries, announced that its members would join the strike by not accepting Chilean shipments at ports where it represents dockworkers. According to the IDC’s website, it has 100,000 members, primarily in North and South America and Europe. (*Continued on next page.*)

- In 2018, Chile exported \$1.08 billion in fresh sweet cherries, primarily to China. The Chilean cherry season typically begins in November.

