

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 3, 2019

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on July 3, 2019 over webinar by Chairman Keith Watkins.

Subcommittee Members Present:

John Gless*	Roger Smith*	Keith Watkins*
Zac Green*		

Subcommittee Members Absent:

Ted Grether	Kevin Severns
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CDFA Staff:

Jon Babineau*	Jason Leathers*	Lea Pereira*
Craig Hanes*	Ray Leclerc*	Maegan Salinas*
Victoria Hornbaker*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Nawal Sharma*
Gavin Iacono*	David Morgan*	Karlee Wyatt*
Sara Khalid*	Keith Okasaki*	

Guests:

Bob Atkins*	Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Curtis Pate*
Teri Blaser*	Jim Gorden*	Cressida Silvers*
Casey Creamer*	Melinda Klein*	Jason Schwartze*
Holly Deniston-Sheets*	Jessica Leslie*	Sylvie Robillard*
Rick Dunn*	Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich*
Colin Flippen*	Tracy Moehnke*	Sandra Zwaal*
Alyssa Houtby*		

*** Participated via Webinar**

Keith Watkins welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. He stated that there was a quorum for the meeting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB

Victoria Hornbaker stated that when working on the voluntary response plan, it became apparent that the Action Plan, having one response for both commercial and residential citrus, could cause confusion. The Action Plan was changed to have separate responses for commercial and residential properties. She explained that the response activities remained the same, but she added clarification for some of the commercial activities, including defining the commercial site as contiguous citrus with edges defined as spacing between plantings larger than a wind machine row and noting that if any portion of a site identification intersects with the 400-meter radius area surrounding the infected tree, the entire site identification is included in the survey and treatment area. She stated

that when a host plant tests positive for HLB in a commercial grove, the grower will be notified and be required to treat the tree with foliar insecticide to disinfect the tree of ACP before removing the tree. She explained that CDFA personnel will return within 48 hours of the end of the restricted entry interval (REI). If the tree is not removed, then CDFA will remove the tree through the abatement process. She confirmed that the owner would be billed for tree removal. Holly Deniston-Sheets presented a change to the Action Plan, going from two repeat treatments per commercial grove to one based on Holly's assessment that there was no difference in titer at different times of the year. Victoria noted that CDFA can perform discretionary actions and use its authority to abate a positive nymph following nuisance abatement procedures in the Food and Agriculture Code. The revised Action Plan will be submitted to the full Committee for approval.

Analysis of HLB Survey

Maegan Salinas stated that her previous presentation showed where delimitation and risk surveys overlapped and looked for identification areas to relocate for more effective surveying. Plant Data Analysis Services (PDAS) are awaiting data. She presented a revised time series map, explaining that PDAS was interested where *Candidatus Liberibacter* (CLAs)-positive ACP were found and how they were related to CLAs-positive tree detections. Victoria noted that a positive ACP find in Hacienda Heights led to the first CLAs-positive tree find. The map showed that HLB-positive ACP were found first in Anaheim, Riverside, Whittier, Norwalk and Westminster, proving to be a reliable indicator of the issue. She stated that five HLB-positive psyllids were not overlapped with tree detections. Magally Luque-Williams noted that San Bernardino was surveyed near the find three months ago, using a delimitation survey and two risk surveys. She stated that most HLB-positive ACP finds are adults, but that Luci Kumagai's data could provide more information on whether ACP finds are nymphs or adults.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP movement, Enforce Regulations

Regulatory Activities Update

Nawal Sharma stated that CDFA had meetings with growers, packing houses and transporters in 2018 and 2019 to educate them on compliance regulations. He noted that a common issue was that growers were not notifying the County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) of shipments and including an ACP Free Declaration Form describing mitigation methods used, which is a requirement of the compliance agreement.

He explained that during a random quality control inspections in May 2019 to see how growers are notifying CAC, CDFA found that 52 growers shipping 41,178 bins between ACP quarantine zones were under compliance during May, while 24 growers shipping 10,770 bins were out of compliance, either shipping without the ACP-Free Declaration and/or pre-notification to the CAC. He discovered that every county shipping between ACP regional quarantine zones had some shipments out of compliance except for Kern and Fresno. It was stated that a better job needs to be done training growers in following compliance protocols. It was suggested that the CAC staff audit packinghouses and notify growers of noncompliance, and then fine repeat offenders. It was noted that Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) is working with California Citrus Mutual (CCM) to reach unengaged growers and educate them on the systems approach. Nawal explained that bulk citrus movement compliance enforcement was delegated to the county level. Victoria noted that the Committee recommended utilizing CAC staff at packinghouses, since this coincided with their other inspections. She explained that CDFA was looking to secure dedicated enforcement staff for

the citrus program from general funds, but that she does not currently have staff available to perform compliance work. Keith Okasaki noted that some growers send ACP-Free Declarations 72 hours in advance due to bad weather or other uncertainties. Victoria suggested working with the packinghouse field departments through NST and CCM while Nawal's staff can work with the counties on grower engagement.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

DATOC Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) is working on the analysis of the grate cleaning alternative mitigation system. The data will inform what inspection level will be necessary to ensure inspection staff catch the bins with worst-case numbers of leaves. She stated that DATOC will complete the analysis and report next month. She explained that the DATOC report on defining exposure to CLAs in Southern California involved looking at density of infection on a city-by-city basis. She noted that by the time the report was complete, the data set was one year old with data up through May 2018. She explained that DATOC intends to update the report with more recent data to see if that will change the results and how those new results will compare to the pre-June 2018 data. Victoria noted that Tina Galindo should have completed an intensive resampling in San Gabriel. Holly stated that this would help DATOC to understand how effective the program's tree removal strategies are. She stated that DATOC was considering how to redesign the survey system based on current data. She further explained that Dr. Tim Gottwald ran the commercial risk-based survey for Southern California with the goal of designing areas with high risk to commercial citrus as a starting point. She also stated that report should be complete in August or September 2019.

Regional ACP Management

Bob Atkins stated that there is a change in staff upon starting the new fiscal year. He explained that Erin Betts was replaced by Jessica Leslie as the Southern Tulare Grower Liaison. He noted that San Diego is having an issue in Pauma Valley with a 200-acre ranch with an insufficient well, which is keeping the area from the 90 percent treatment compliance goal. He appealed to CACs to look at the Hispanic population for surveys. He explained that San Diego County is looking to make changes to the risk survey to help with this issue.

Biocontrol Update

Victoria stated that 2019 will see more release agents than in previous years. She noted that the Biocontrol program continues to release around HLB quarantine areas, along borders and trade routes, around area-wide management and in and around areas with newly established ACP populations. She explained that the Biocontrol program ceased production of *D. aligarhensis* and have released 1,693,878 *T. radiata* agents to date in 2019, with over 13,000,000 releases over the project period. Dr. David Morgan noted that since 2015, the Biocontrol program monitors 26 sites throughout Southern California every four weeks, looking at ACP numbers and flush patterns of citrus. He explained that the program found a pattern of decreases in urban area ACP. He noted an 80 percent decline from 2015 to 2018. He stated that flush this year was delayed by one month and that ACP didn't manage to get a foothold on the flush during wet weather.

It was asked if the sites being monitored are indicative of areas elsewhere, and David noted that there are vastly different varieties and production of citrus among urban areas. He explained that the Biocontrol program will retool their monitoring sites after the 2019 data sets and look at different sites. He noted that the ACP decrease could be due to predators adjusting to a new resource, disease, a lower quantity of flush, or aphids and other insects out-competing ACP for the flush. He stated that there is a MAC grant funded for Richard Stouthammer and Greg Simmons to conduct a study on biological control treatments including *Tamarixia* and generalist predators to discover what is causing the ACP decline.

CDFA Situation Status Maps

Colleen Murphy stated that the Situation Status (SitStat) data is not up on the server, but she demonstrated what risk-based data would look like online. She went through the Pest and Damage Record (PDR) database and input ACP or plant samples collected from 2016 onward. She noted that some map grids showed no samples collected, meaning the grid showed no symptomatic plants or ACP present. She stated that Sacramento and Placerville frequently had area surveyed but no samples taken. Colleen explained that the PDRs on the SitStat map included both plant and psyllid samples, but Victoria noted that PDRs can be plant or psyllid samples rather than both. She explained that this will be an additional dataset on the SitStat dashboard.

Colleen explained that she sent data as recent as March 2019 to Drs. Gottwald and Bartels, and to DATOC. She noted that she and Amber were attending an ESRI conference to assist with creating the SitStat maps. Victoria stated that she, Colleen, Ray, Tina and Magally have been engaged in a California Department of Information Technology stage gate process to develop an application called the citrus surveyor. She hopes the application will be ready before the end of 2019. The handheld application will be used to upload field data to the end user automatically. Victoria noted that Citrus Division will be hiring a dedicated research analyst mapping specialist that can generate maps and work with Colleen's staff on a regular basis. Colleen agreed that the SitStat record could include Gottwald's risk-based survey data. She noted that she could also produce a citrus collector app for Magally's team.

Mapping and Periods of Treatment

Ray Leclerc stated that he, Tina and Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell put together treatment maps that they will begin to work with in summer 2019. He produced a simple calendar of area-wide treatment dates as requested by the Committee. He explained that Tina is working on maps for the Full Committee meeting marking ACP detections, the citrus layer and area-wide treatment areas. He noted that she tried to capture the constraints in each region on the maps, including 90 percent treatment participation and ACP presence.

Beth stated that getting perfectly-coordinated treatments is a struggle. She suggested that some areas such as Ventura are requesting Pest Control Advisors (PCA)-triggered treatment timing rather than calendar area-wide treatments. She had some doubts that residential citrus was producing as many or more ACP than commercial citrus. It was noted that some growers have stopped doing treatments as a cost-cutting measure. There is a lack of PCAs and pest control operators (PCOs) to cover those areas, but growers do not want to work outside the system due to longstanding relationships with PCAs and PCOs. Beth noted that area-wide treatments may be effective four out of five times, but if applied hodgepodge changing year-by-year with compliance

levels then she isn't convinced it is an efficient use of funds. Victoria explained that buffer treatments were originally an incentive to get growers to engage in the area-wide treatment program. She stated that there was some discussion in 2018 on delegating to local Pest Control Districts (PCDs) but found that few are able to or interested in taking on the additional work. It was suggested that Beth consider other methods that may be worthwhile. It was suggested that Ray revise the map to include different levels of participation, rather than just the required 90 percent.

CLOSING COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

Keith stated that there are still large organizations that want to plant citrus trees around their facilities and aren't aware of the threat HLB poses.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The next Operations meeting will be held in Visalia, California on August 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.