

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee  
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting  
December 17, 2021 Minutes**

There was a quorum of the Executive Committee and the following were in attendance:

**Executive Committee Members:**

Bob Felts, Jr.	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins
Jim Gorden	Dr. Etienne Rabe	

**CDFA Staff:**

Carl Baum	Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki
Amelia Everett	Sara Kraft	Michael Soltero
Paul Figueroa	Zachary McCormick	Claudia Vasquez
David Gutierrez	David Morgan	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz	Jason Wu

**Other Attendees:**

Price Adams

**Opening Comments:**

Jim Gorden called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed the Executive Committee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

**Public Comments:**

No public comments were received.

**Finance Subcommittee Report:**

2020/2021 Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Alisha Garcia stated that fiscal year (FY) 2020/2021, expenditure year to date total is \$29,300,000. Ms. Garcia noted that October 2020 through July 2021 have closed in FI\$Cal, but August and September have not closed. Revenue year to date is approximately \$15,500,000, about 87 percent of the three-year average. Ninety-five percent of the projected revenue for FY 2020/2021 has been received.

2021/2022 Expenditure and Revenue Reports:

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that FY 2021/2022 expenditures are approximately \$2,000,000. Ms. Garcia noted that FY 2021/2022 estimated reports are on par with prior years. 2021/2022 revenue total was about \$421,000 in November.

Discussion of Realigning the Committee Fiscal Year:

Victoria Hornbaker stated that aligning the committee FY with the state FY was based on a recommendation by the Macias, Gini & O'Connell LLP group. Keith Watkins noted that the revenue will be difficult to align due to the unpredictability of the crop year. Ms. Hornbaker suggested waiting until September or October to project the total crop revenue.

**Motion:** To make a recommendation to the Full Committee to move the budget year to the state fiscal year.

**First:** Keith Watkins

**Second:** Mark McBroom

**Motion Carries:** 4 yeas (Jim Gorden, Bob Felts, Mark McBroom, Keith Watkins) and one abstention (Dr. Etienne Rabe)

### **Discuss January Executive Member Elections:**

Mr. Gorden stated that a candidate has not come forward to volunteer to be the new Secretary Treasurer for the Executive Committee. Mr. Gorden also stated that there are no updates on nominating a chair and vice chair for the Executive Committee.

### **Update on the California Environmental Quality Act**

Ms. Hornbaker stated that a contract with a consultant to work on the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) to correct deficiencies identified in the lawsuit is being considered. Ms. Hornbaker noted that there would be a cost associated for correcting the PEIR, which would be shared between the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division, the Pierce's Disease Control Program and all other programs under the Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division.

### **Operations Subcommittee Report:**

Mr. Watkins stated that the number of samples submitted are steadily increasing, and more positive infected trees have been reported in Orange County and the Southern Los Angeles area. Mr. Watkins noted that the merged quarantine zones in Riverside are starting to affect the production of organic growers.

### **Science Subcommittee Report:**

#### Strategic Plan/Program Review Progress Update

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that James Cranney held a grower meeting regarding potential uses of ethyl formate. The product could possibly be used to replace the spray and move activities, depending on the cost per bin. Dr. Rabe stated that a list of insecticides given for the spray and move activity included imidacloprid for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) control. He expressed concern that imidacloprid is primarily a systemic insecticide and may not be as effective to prevent adult ACP movement. Dr. Rabe addressed the quarantine zones for sweet orange scab (SOS), noting that an alternative triggering event should include detection of spores rather than positive polymerase chain reaction tests for the fungal DNA. The California Department of Food and Agriculture will request a one-mile quarantine radius during the formal rule making. A petition was sent to the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to lessen quarantine requirements and allow tarping for bulk citrus instead of stem and leaf removal, as well as working with APHIS to minimize packing house procedures in the quarantine zones. Dr. Rabe noted that a scientific review of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) will be conducted. The Science Subcommittee has created a document showing the history of ACP detections, risk-based surveys, and other activities for the Scientific Advisory Panel to review.

**Outreach Subcommittee Report:**

Price Adams stated that additional communication and outreach is being conducted in areas around the Imperial Valley due to increased ACP detections. Some detections in Riverside County are as far south as Coachella and the ACP detection dogs will be used to verify the findings. Ms. Adams noted the *Tamarixia* campaign has been a big success in the Asian American media outlets. She highlighted the upcoming outreach opportunities in February 2022, including the California Association of Pest Control Advisors conference and at California Citrus Mutual's Citrus Showcase.

**Closing:**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m. The next meeting will be held on March 24, 2022.