

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 8, 2021**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	Roger Smith	Keith Watkins
Brad Carmen		

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

John Gless	Zac Green
------------	-----------

CDFA Staff:

Fidan Aghayarova	Anmol Joshi	David Paynter
Kelley Aubushon	Marina Kaiser	David Phong
Karina Chu	Sara Khalid	Lydia Rodriguez
Kiana Dao	Daniel Lee	Briana Russell
Paul Figueroa	Betty Lee	Derek Schulz
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Michael Soltero
Victoria Hornbaker	David Morgan	Claudia Vazquez
Karla Huerta	Alex Muniz	Jennifer Willems
Laura Irons	Keith Okasaki	

Guests:

Laura Arellano	Alyssa Houtby	Jared Plumlee
Ruben Arroyo	Melinda Klein	Drew Posny
Teri Blaser	Jessica Leslie	Cressida Silvers
Melissa Cregan	Weiqi Luo	Krista Smith
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Jasmine Lopez	Stephanie Stark
Rick Dunn	Marcy Martin	Karen Westerman
Lisa Finke	Mia Neunzig	Qijun Xiang
John C Gless	Margaret O'Neill	Judy Zaninovich
James Gorden	Neil McRoberts	Sandra Zwaal
Subhas Hajeri	Curtis Pate	

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 8, 2021. Keith Watkins welcomed subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported that a *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was found in the City of Oceanside on July 26, 2021, and subsequently, additional CLas positive ACP and huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees have been detected. All find sites and adjacent properties have been sampled, all life

stages were observed, and a total of eight HLB positive trees have been identified and removed as of August 31, 2021.

Anmol provided updates on two research projects that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is assisting with. First, the Citrus Pest Detection Program's tissue and seasonality sampling two-year study will end on September 22. Second, a new survey project with Croptix will begin in September. This is an early detection technique using a broadband light sensor to examine infected leaves on HLB confirmed positive trees to determine if the sensor can be used to diagnose HLB in trees.

Anmol reported 77 HLB positive trees were found in the months of July and August. Of those trees, 70 were removed with seven trees pending removal.

Laboratory Update

David Gutierrez provided the laboratory update, reporting the total samples processed in July were 7,893 with 6,001 plant samples and 1,892 entomology samples. In August, 7,520 total samples were collected with 5,111 being plant and 2,409 being entomology samples. To date, 60,651 total samples have been submitted to the laboratory. Most of the samples were collected from Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties. Since the first HLB detection in 2012, 2,491 trees have been removed. It was noted that the primary challenge collecting samples is the lack of available workforce. Victoria Hornbaker indicated the Citrus Division has approximately 70 vacant positions and is actively looking to fill those positions.

HLB Risk Survey

David Phong reported that the HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021 is 65 percent complete with the Northern District being 100 percent complete. Surveys are complete in 26 of the 36 allocated counties. David reported a total of 32,904 properties that have been surveyed, with 6,978 entomology samples and 10,546 plant samples collected. The estimated completion date is November 30.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported that the 2020 county bulk citrus regulatory agreements are ending. Keith complimented the counties for increasing packing house inspections, hauler violations, and working with their growers.

Corner Fruit Sales

Keith Okasaki reported that CDFA issues compliance agreements to roadside vendors and that part of those requirements is ensuring fruit is free of stem and leaves. The counties also conduct inspections. CDFA will continue working with County Agricultural Commissioners and grower liaisons on better ways to regulate corner fruit vendors.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported HLB delimitation treatment is 100 percent complete in Colton, Norwalk, Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine, and Santa Ana. Areawide treatment is complete in San Bernardino with ongoing treatment in Ventura and the San Diego border buffer. Areawide treatment will begin in Hemet and Santa Barbara in September. Seven public meetings were conducted in July and August.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported detection trapping is ongoing in Madera and Fresno counties and delimitation trapping continues in Madera, Kern, and San Luis Obispo (SLO) counties. In July and August, there were eight new confirmed ACP detections in Kern County. These were in both commercial and residential locations. Jennifer reported that SLO ACP detections were confirmed on June 30 and July 21. The new SLO detections did not expand the current delimitation trapping area, and the grower treated on May 13 and July 20, 2021. All residential find sites have been treated in Kern County, and the growers in the area are in the process of treating. HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021 is ongoing. The ACP detection canine team worked with Fresno staff and will assist in Tulare and Kern counties in September.

Northern District

Amelia Wright reported year-round ACP detection trapping is ongoing in Placer, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus counties and traps are being serviced by the local Agricultural Commissioners' offices. Delimitation trapping continues in Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties. There have been no additional ACP detections in Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties. A total of 81,900 *Tamarixia radiata* have been released in the find areas. HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021 is now complete in the 19 counties. Cycle 1 2021 covered 118 square miles with 1,477 samples collected.

Regional/GL ACP Updates

Sara Khalid reported no new ACP finds in Fresno, Madera, and northern Tulare counties. With current ACP finds in the central valley, it is recommended growers with citrus blocks east and south of Bakersfield coordinate treatment with a systemic or a foliar application. Organic growers need to apply two rounds of an ACP approved material. Treatments are expected to be ongoing for some counties.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported production of *Tamarixia radiata* has been reduced due to a thrips infestation. University of California, Riverside (UCR) has also reduced their production. In mid-September, the Citrus Research Board will take over the isoline production from UCR. The facility in Riverside that rears the *Tamarixia* has gone through an ownership change and is undergoing ADA compliance improvements.

Santa Maria Area Buffer Treatments with SLO

Michael Soltero reported on operations in SLO by comparing Santa Barbara, which is generally infested with ACP versus SLO, which is considered not generally infested. In response to the July 21 detection within close proximity to the Santa Barbara County

line, 24 additional traps were placed with a bi-weekly service interval. This is in addition to the 39 delimitation traps already placed in SLO County. These additional traps went into the residential properties south of highway 101 and just south of the county line.

ACP Canine Detection Update

Jennifer Willems reported that the ACP detector canine teams worked with Fresno staff during risk surveys and that responses from homeowners was mostly positive. The ACP canine detection teams are scheduled to work with staff in Tulare and Kern counties in September. Lisa Finke reported 142 inspections were conducted in the Central Valley with no ACP detected. There were 40 inspections done along the border survey in Imperial County and 31 inspections in San Diego County. Four ACP were found in the San Diego border area.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – IMPROVE DATA TECHNOLOGY, ANALYSIS, AND SHARING

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets reported on DATOC's modeling of ACP hotspots. Weiqi Luo reported that he receives data from the Citrus Division's Data Analysis and Visualization Unit on a quarterly basis and can use that data to improve the risk based model. Additionally, other risk factors will be added annually to the model. Holly stated that the data dashboard on DATOC gets updated monthly based on the uploaded data.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reported the Kern County citrus layer is complete and anticipates the Tulare County layer will be complete in the next few days. The grove sampling program is a little lower than last year. This is mostly due to staffing and lower ACP numbers.

OTHER ITEMS

Frequency of Subcommittee Meetings and Closing

The subcommittee is now on a bi-monthly schedule. The next meeting is scheduled for November 3. The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.