

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

Meeting Minutes Wednesday, November 3, 2021

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	John Gless	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen	Zac Green	Keith Watkins

CDFA Staff:

Sebastian Albu	Marina Kaiser	David Paynter
Kelley Aubushon	Sarah Kraft	David Phong
Karina Chu	Daniel Lee	Lydia Rodriguez
Paul Figueroa	Betty Lee	Briana Russell
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Derek Schulz
Victoria Hornbaker	Zachary McCormack	Claudia Vazquez
Laura Irons	David Morgan	Jennifer Willems
Mathew Jian	Alex Muniz	
Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki	

Guests:

Laura Arellano	Dylan Lomanto	Drew Posny
Teri Blaser	Weiqi Luo	Cressida Silvers
Melissa Cregan	Marcy Martin	Leigh Sitler
Rick Dunn	Joey Mayorquin	Stephanie Stark
Lisa Finke	Neil McRoberts	Karen Westerman
John C. Gless	Mia Neunzig	Qijun Xiang
James Gorden	Margaret O'Neill	Judy Zaninovich
Subhas Hajeri	Sandra Olkowski	Sandra Zwaal
Melinda Klein	Curtis Pate	

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, November 3, 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 Huanglongbing (HLB) delimitation surveys are ongoing in Westminster, Rancho Cucamonga, Anaheim, Fullerton, Ontario, and Pico Rivera with 50, 22, 61, 86, 37, and 81 percent complete, respectively. Border sampling in Imperial County started late September and is 72 percent complete. There were 82 HLB positive trees detected in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego Counties, with 71 trees removed.

Laboratory Update

Sebastian Albu reported the total number of samples processed in September and October were 18,516, of which 12,322 were plant samples and 6,194 were entomology samples. Year-to-date, 79,150 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and plant samples have been submitted to the laboratory. Most of the samples were collected from Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. 343 positive trees have

been detected so far in 2021 bringing the total to 2,585 positive trees since 2012.

HLB Risk-Based Survey

David Phong presented details on the upcoming HLB risk-based survey cycle 2 2021. The cycle is comprised of 37 counties and 1,597 survey grids. The cycle will begin in November and end in April 2022. Risk cycle 1 2021 is 89 percent complete, with Northern and Central Districts having completed cycle 1 2021. There are 47 staff working on risk survey in the remaining counties and the survey should be complete in mid-November. Thus far, there were a total of 46,448 properties surveyed, with 10,278 entomology samples and 15,560 plant samples collected.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported the 2020 county bulk citrus regulatory agreements are complete. During the July 2020 – June 2021 agreement period, there were 347 Notice of Violations issued. Most of the violations are a result of haulers improperly covering the loads.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported that HLB retreatment is 100 percent complete in North Tustin, Orange, Huntington Beach, Santa Ana, Fullerton, Montebello, Whittier, and Pico Rivera. San Gabriel retreatments is 96 percent complete. The fall areawide treatment is complete in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The winter areawide treatment is scheduled for January 2022. Three public meetings were held in October.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that detection trapping is ongoing in Madera and Fresno Counties and delimitation trapping continues in Madera, Kern, and San Luis Obispo (SLO) Counties. In September and October, there were six new confirmed ACP detections in Kern County, both in commercial and residential locations. All residential treatments in Kern County are complete. Jennifer reported there have been no additional ACP detections in SLO since the last find on July 21. Additional traps were deployed in Santa Maria near the SLO county border. On average there were nine ACP per trap. A discussion was held regarding conducting treatments in Santa Maria. The subcommittee requested CDFA provide a plan for treatment in the city of Santa Maria. The proposed plan will include how treatment would be conducted, the estimated cost of treatments, and a plan for increased biological control releases.

Northern District

Zachary McCormack reported that year-round ACP detection trapping is ongoing in Placer, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties and traps are being serviced by the local County Agricultural Commissioners' offices. The counties with winter trapping programs have started to deploy traps. Delimitation trapping concluded October 15 in Contra Costa County. Santa Clara County delimitation trapping is ongoing with continual detections in the delimitation area. A total of 90,700 *Tamarixia radiata* have been released in the delimitation area. HLB risk-based survey cycle 2 2021 began and includes 20 counties.

Regional/GL ACP Updates

Briana Russell reported that there were no new ACP finds in Fresno, Madera, or Tulare Counties. Citrus growers within the 800 meters of the six ACP detections in Kern County

have completed all treatment requests. Ventura County growers are applying their second fall ACP areawide treatments through mid-November. Fall ACP areawide treatment is complete for Santa Barbara County and is ongoing for San Bernardino. Winter ACP areawide treatments are scheduled for mid-November in San Bernardino County. Santa Barbara and San Diego Counties are scheduled for January 2022.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported releasing a total of 2.4 million *Tamarixia* this year. Additional biocontrol agents have been released in Kern, SLO and Santa Barbara Counties due to the recent ACP detections. The University of California Riverside's production of *Tamarixia* has been taken over by the Citrus Research Board (CRB) at the Mount Rubidoux field station. Dedicated CRB staff have been hired for production of isolate colonies.

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

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Neil McRoberts reported they are actively looking to fill the position vacated by Holly Deniston-Sheets. The position has been posted on various job sites and at several universities. Neil is meeting with DATOC to discuss if the buffer zone around commercial citrus is sufficient.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reported the Tulare County citrus layer is complete and anticipates the Fresno County citrus layer will be completed soon. The revised commercial citrus layers and boundaries have been adjusted to show more accurate acreage using satellite imagery.

OTHER ITEMS

Economic Impact (Seasonal vs. Permanent)

Victoria Hornbaker reported on the economic impacts of both seasonal and permanent positions. Seasonal employment is limited to 189 days of work, pays close to minimum wage, and are not eligible to receive health benefits. As a result, staffing a program with a high number of seasonal positions creates an unsustainable work force and yields a low number of applicants. Permanent positions have no restrictions on the number of working days, offer higher wages, and are eligible for benefits. This leads to an increase in applications and more qualified candidates. Given the restrictions on the number of days a seasonal can work per calendar year, 36 permanent positions equate to 40 seasonal positions. A discussion was held regarding staffing and the number of positions allocated to the Division. An evaluation of positions and workload will occur in the summer. A recommendation was made to present this information to the full committee.

Frequency of Subcommittee Meetings and Closing

The next meeting will be on January 5, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.