

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)  
Science and Technology Subcommittee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes  
December 7, 2021**

There was a quorum of the Science Subcommittee and the following were in attendance:

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

Aaron Dillon	Dr. Melinda Klein	Ram Uckoo
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Etienne Rabe	Jack Williams

**CDFA Staff:**

Karina Chu	Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz
Kiana Dao	Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki
David Gutierrez	Zachary McCormack	Briana Russell

**Other Attendees:**

Dr. Jim Adaskaveg	Marcy Martin	Curtis Pate
Jim Cranney	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Keith Watkins
Rick Dunn	Dr. Sandra Olkowski	Sandra Zwaal
Dr. Jonathan Kaplan		

All attendees participated via webinar.

**Opening Comments**

Dr. Etienne Rabe called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Ethyl Formate Registration**

Jim Cranney from the California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC) provided an update on ethyl formate registration. CCQC previously held a webinar for growers to discuss ethyl formate and sent a survey to packinghouses to determine packer needs and potential ethyl formate applications. The price of the product has not been determined but will likely cost more than spray and move products, which cost approximately \$60 per acre. Registration is now expected during the first quarter of 2023.

**Preharvest Treatment Insecticide List**

Keith Okasaki stated that the list of insecticides available for spray and harvest is recommended to the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) by the University of California (UC) and is currently maintained by Dr. Monique Rivera. Commercial growers using the spray and harvest mitigation have reported using imidacloprid for spray and harvest to be excessive and harmful to beneficial insects. CDFA has requested Drs. Frank Byrne and Matt Daugherty with UC Agriculture and Natural Resources conduct a comprehensive review of the listed products and their efficacy.

Aaron Dillon would like the nursery treatment list to be reviewed and generic versions of approved insecticide products added to the list. Victoria Hornbaker stated the approved nursery insecticides are tied to the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) which is being revised. Any adjustments to approved products could delay revision and certification of the PEIR. Generic product recommendations for the nursery treatment list should be sent to Mr. Okasaki for review.

### **Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Working Group Update**

Dr. Rabe reported that the recommendation from the previous Science Subcommittee meeting was presented to the full CPDPC. The CPDPC concurred with the recommendation and moved to pursue rulemaking to establish an SOS interior quarantine, with the caveat that the SOS working group attempts to reduce the size of the quarantine area from the current five-mile radius to a one-mile radius based on SOS biology. Secretary Ross subsequently approved the motion.

Mr. Okasaki stated CDFA will continue to work with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to confirm the reduction to a one-mile radius quarantine area. The current USDA federal order for SOS does not specify a distance for a state interior quarantine radius. Dr. Jim Adaskaveg has provided peer reviewed research to justify the one-mile radius and will also provide supporting California specific weather data to USDA, via Mr. Okasaki. If rulemaking proceeds smoothly, the regulation may be in place by Fall 2022.

Additionally, members of the SOS working group will continue pursuing the following tasks:

1. Petitioning USDA to change the quarantine triggering event to detection of reproductive spores rather than a PCR-positive test. – Mr. Cranney is working with USDA and CDFA, Mr. Cranney, and Helene Wright from USDA will meet later this week to discuss further.
2. Petitioning USDA to lessen quarantine requirements to allow tarping in place of stem and leaf removal for growers. – Mr. Okasaki, Mr. Cranney, and Ms. Hornbaker are meeting with Ms. Wright from USDA later this week and will also discuss this item.
3. Continuing research to minimize packinghouse procedures. – Dr. Adaskaveg has a project with the Citrus Research Board and has submitted a permit request to study the SOS-positive samples collected by CDFA. The research project will evaluate SOS packinghouse procedures with the goal of reducing redundancies.
4. Begin working with USDA to establish an exit strategy to remove areas from SOS regulation through survey and adopt the standard of finding reproductive spores as the triggering event for establishing a quarantine. – Dependent on the result of the first action item for altering the triggering event to detecting reproductive spores.

### **Scientific Review of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP)**

CDFA has drafted a slide deck to present to the scientific advisory panel that encompasses the entirety of the CPDPP's activities. The draft slide deck was circulated to the Science Subcommittee for review and comments. Dr. Rabe suggested the slide deck be reviewed by the Science Subcommittee at an interim meeting in January, before it is provided to the panel.

Secretary Ross has selected panelists to serve on the scientific review panel in February or March 2022. Ms. Hornbaker has drafted an invitation letter that will be sent to the panelists.

### **Other Items and Adjournment**

Dr. Rabe adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.