

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, January 12, 2022**

**Committee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	John Gless	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Brad Carmen	John C. Gless	Gregorio Rundini
Aaron Dillon	Jim Gorden	Roger Smith
Bob Felts Jr.	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins

**Committee Members Absent:**

Craig Armstrong	Nick Hill	Jared Plumlee
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**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Kelley Aubushon	Laura Irons	Alex Muñiz-Chavez
Carl Baum	Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki
Fernando Berber	Marina Kaiser	David Phong
Karina Chu	Sara Khalid	Lydia Rodriguez
Kiana Dao	Sarah Kraft	Briana Russell
Paul Figueroa	Luci Kumagai	Heather Scheck
Alisha Garcia	Daniel Lee	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Jana Miscevic	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker	Dr. David Morgan	Jason Wu

**Guests:**

Price Adams	Melinda Klein	Cressida Silvers
Teri Blaser	Jasmine Lopez	Greta Varien
Melissa Cregan	Magally Luque-Williams	David Wirta
Rick Dunn	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Helene Wright
Marieke Fenton	Margaret O'Neill	Qijun Xiang
Lisa Finke	Dr. Sandra Olkowski	Judy Zaninovich
Brittney Goodrich	Curtis Pate	Sandra Zwaal
Subhas Hajeri		

**Opening Comments**

The committee meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. via webinar. Jim Gorden welcomed the committee, staff, and members of the public participating online. There was a quorum for the meeting.

**Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

The Consent agenda contained minutes from November 10, 2021, Committee meeting.

**Motion:** To approve the consent agenda as presented.

**First:** Mark McBroom

**Second:** John Gless

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

## **FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Review 2020/2021 Budget Expenditures and Revenue**

Alisha Garcia reported that since the previous meeting, September and October have closed in Fi\$Cal with an expenditure of \$2,357,172 and a total year-to-date expenditure of \$29,926,990 with a remaining balance of \$12,354,272 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21. She explained that a \$1,000,000 overage of administration expenditures was due to a reallocation of funds, causing many expenditures to fall under the administration budget. She also explained that the overage for treatment in the Northern District was due to staff tracking time as well as staff benefits and salaries. Bob Felts Jr. explained overbudgeting of many of the line items is due to contracts not yet being fully realized and incomplete staffing. Victoria Hornbaker added that although Fi\$Cal closed in September, post audits and redirects for office rentals are pending processing.

Alisha reported that revenue for FY 2020-21 has increased by \$19,938 since the previous month to a total of \$15,548,341 compared to \$18,012 in FY 2019-20. She noted the 10 percent variance in revenue was due to FY 2019-20 being assessed at \$0.09 per carton moving to \$0.08 per carton in FY 2020-21.

### **Review 2021/2022 Budget Expenditures and Revenue**

Alisha reported that November and December have not closed in Fi\$Cal, yielding an estimated year-to-date total expenditure for FY 2021-22 of \$5,268,647.

Alisha reported that revenue for FY 2021-22 has increased by \$996,061 for the month of November 2021 with a total revenue received year-to-date of \$1,417,282. She added that total revenue for FY 2021-22 is projected at \$12,911,500 at \$0.07 per carton at an increase of 4,000,000 cartons from the prior year.

### **Discussion on Realigning the Committee Fiscal Year**

Carl Baum explained that Macias, Gini, & O'Connell (MGO) had recommended realigning the Committee FY to align with the State FY. He explained that many reports built into Fi\$Cal are already based on the State FY, including the fund condition statement and the year-end close. He added that the budget projection drill to assess spending is also based on the State FY. He explained that revenue is currently based on the crop year, which is collected by financial services and entered in Fi\$Cal on the State FY. He also explained that by having an assessment program, there is a reserve in place that will help in making the adjustment to the State FY.

**Motion:** To move the budget year to the State FY.

**First:** Dr. Etienne Rabe

**Second:** Keith Watkins

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

Victoria thanked Alisha for taking the lead in collaborating with MGO to produce financial reports as well as completing the federal billing prior to the deadline. She also introduced Jason Wu, who is working on revenue and expenditure tracking.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

### **CPDPC Bylaws Discussion**

Victoria stated that there is an ongoing discussion about making edits to the bylaws in the Executive Committee meetings, but there was no consensus on making edits.

### **Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Update**

Victoria reported that the Third District Court of Appeals has remanded the decision back to the trial court and that CDFA is awaiting a revised writ that will provide direction on which activities will need to cease operating under the PEIR. Victoria explained that current Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division activities may proceed under alternative California Environmental Quality Act compliance. She added that CDFA may hire a consultant and is currently seeking additional contract funding.

### **Election of New Committee Officers**

Jim stated that a Nominating Committee consisting of Roger Smith and John C. Gless was assembled to nominate candidates for each office. Roger announced that due to officers being able to serve only two terms, a new Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary Treasurer must be elected. The Nominating Committee nominated Mark McBroom for the position of Chairman. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** To elect Mark McBroom as Chairman of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC).

**First:** Kevin Ball

**Second:** Keith Watkins

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee nominated Dr. Etienne Rabe for the position of Vice Chairman. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** To elect Dr. Etienne Rabe as Vice Chairman of the CPDPC.

**First:** Roger Smith

**Second:** John Gless

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

The Nominating Committee nominated Keith Watkins for the position of Secretary Treasurer. There were no other nominations.

**Motion:** To elect Keith Watkins as Secretary Treasurer of the CPDPC.

**First:** Roger Smith

**Second:** Dr. Etienne Rabe

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

Roger Smith explained that consolidating the Secretary Treasurer and Finance Subcommittee Chairman positions was discussed, but that it was ultimately decided to not consolidate the two positions.

### **Filling Committee Vacancies**

David Gutierrez reported that two candidates have submitted their names for election to each of the Committee vacancies.

**Motion:** To continue to recruit for the Fresno County committee member vacancy on the CPDPC.

**First:** Roger Smith

**Second:** Keith Watkins

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

**Motion:** To elect Franco Bernardi to fill the public member vacancy on the CPDPC.

**First:** Mark McBroom

**Second:** John Gless

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

## **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai presented the laboratory update for the huanglongbing (HLB) testing program from the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center. She reported that the monthly totals of plant samples received for 2021 averaged at 5,500, peaking in May, October, and December. Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples averaged at 2,700 samples per month, also peaking in May, October, and December. For 2021, the combined plant and ACP total samples received was 99,840. The tally of positive detections reflected 2,891 residential trees, 2,037 sites, and 388 ACP positive samples. Most of the detections were from Orange County. The tally of positive trees by city for 2021 showed 649 trees reported with 15 percent confirmed as positive root detections. A spike in positive detections occurred in November and December with 306 positive trees. 223 of the 306 trees are from Orange County, mostly from Anaheim, Santa Ana, and Garden Grove. 72 of the 306 trees are from San Bernardino, mostly from Ontario. The spike increased the overall positive detections in 2021 to 0.97 percent compared to 0.69 percent in 2020. 402 new sites and 64 positive ACP samples were added to the tally in 2022, mostly from Orange County. ACP positive detections decreased in 2020 and 2021, but ACP sampling has also decreased after 2019, which may contribute to the perceived decrease in positivity. Lucita stated that the increase in 2021 positive detections may be due to replicated detections in high-find areas.

### **HLB Risk Survey**

David Phong presented data for 2021 risk survey cycle 1 and cycle 2. Cycle 1 2021 was completed in December 2021 with a total of 1,642 grids and 55,194 properties surveyed and 27,824 properties sampled in 36 counties. 12,946 entomology Pest Damage Records (PDRs) and 19,379 plant PDRs were collected. Cycle 2 2021 began in November 2021 and is at 12 percent complete with 2 of 37 allocated counties and 4,836 properties surveyed. Samples were collected from 2,230 properties, with 1,167 entomology samples and 1,546 plant samples collected. In Northern California, 4 staff members from 2 offices have completed risk survey for 8 percent of 147 assigned grids with risk survey completed in Stanislaus County. In Central California, 14 staff members from 4 offices have completed risk survey for 22 percent of the 460 assigned grids with risk survey completed in Monterey County. In Southern California, 43 staff members from 7 offices have completed risk survey for 12 percent of 990 assigned grids.

### **CDFA Operational Update**

David Gutierrez presented the operational update including HLB delimitation survey and treatment areas for the Southern, Central, and Northern Districts. HLB delimitation survey and treatments were completed in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties with 189 trees removed in the months of November and December. The 2021 commodity survey was completed at the end of December with a total of 7,500 acres of citrus groves surveyed for different pest and diseases in Imperial, San Diego, Riverside, Orange, and San Bernardino Counties. 1,844 total quadrant samples were taken in Orange, Los Angeles, San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties in November and December. Public meetings were held in each of these counties. Monthly delimitation trapping is in progress in Santa Clara County for 27 delimitation grids and 598 delimitation traps total. Ongoing biocontrol releases continue throughout the county. In Tulare County one adult ACP was confirmed on a Visalia residential property on December 10, 2021. Treatment was conducted in a 50-meter radius on December 30, 2021. In Fresno County one adult ACP was confirmed at the Fowler packing house on December 23, 2021, which was determined to be a regulatory incident. In Monterey County one adult ACP was confirmed on a Salinas residential property. Delimitation trap deployment was conducted during the first week of January 2021. Delimitation trapping for

Kern, Madera, and San Luis Obispo is ongoing. Treatment is being conducted in all residential areas within 50 meters of the find sites in Kern and Tulare Counties. A 50-meter treatment was scheduled in Monterey County, scheduling for the public meeting and weather permitting. Central District staff completed the citrus commodity survey for the Fall 2021 survey period. In Santa Maria, delimitation trapping is in progress in San Luis Obispo County with a new ACP detection confirmed on December 23, 2021. This detection extended delimitation trapping for an additional year. In response, staff has placed traps in both Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties to monitor ACP averages. San Luis Obispo County has requested treatment and the Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner has granted CDFA permission to begin treatment in Santa Maria. Jennifer Willems reported that treatment was originally estimated to cost \$50,000 if all 24 trap sites contain at least one ACP detection and if 70 percent of all properties contain at least one citrus tree. Of the 24 trap sites, only 8 contained ACP and require treatment.

**Motion:** To approve funding up to \$50,000 to treat ACP detections in the Santa Maria area of Santa Barbara County.

**First:** Kevin Ball

**Second:** Bob Felts Jr.

**Motion Carries:** The motion passed unanimously.

### **CDFA Regulatory and County Agreement Update**

Keith Okasaki presented the county monthly activity report for July through October 2021. He reported that counties are on track with their spending rates and that inspection rates for this time align with prior years. Counties are doing a great job of communicating concerns from the field to ensure that regulations are being enforced uniformly. Grate cleaning inspections were performed in early 2021 and again in August 2021. Counties are exceeding the expectation to have 10 percent of all bins inspected. The inspections in early 2021 yielded high stem to leaf numbers, resulting in warnings and violations being issued. Fruit is now being grate cleaned in Ventura County before being moved to the Central Valley. More recent inspections show that grate cleaners are doing a great job of following the regulations. Monterey County also conducts regular inspections of their grate cleaners who are doing a great job cleaning fruit moving into Ventura and Central Valley. Riverside County is working with grower liaison Tom Mullen and Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) to schedule a grower meeting to discuss recent quarantine expansion and requirements.

### **Grower Liaison Update**

Jessica Leslie is continuing to update and reach out to Psyllid Management Area team leaders. In Kern County, there was one confirmed adult ACP in a commercial grove in Bakersfield on December 2. Growers were notified by Judy Zaninovich and are cooperating with treatments. There have been 18 total detections for 2021. In Ventura County, growers applied a second round of treatments in mid-November. Winter ACP emergency response treatments have yet to be determined. New leadership is expected for the ACP Task Force in early 2022. Cressida Silvers followed up with growers for properties that had no record of fall treatment. Growers were notified of the ACP detection in San Luis Obispo by Cressida Silvers. In San Bernardino County, growers are applying winter treatments. Trees are being treated on a 25+ properties within 250 meters of a confirmed HLB positive tree finds. Sandra Zwaal is updating the citrus layer information for San Diego County. In Santa Barbara County, growers are treating early for broad mite and ACP detections. In Imperial County, the ACP canine detection team alerted to multiple ACP detections in 8 orchard hedgerows in December 2021. ACP samples from the Imperial County Citrus Pest Control District traps and canine finds were sent to the University of California, Riverside (UCR) for testing. All of the samples were negative for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*.

### **Biocontrol Update**

Dr. David Morgan presented the ACP biocontrol update for January 2022. He reported that

releases have been impacted due to staffing issues, COVID-19, supply-chain issues, thrips outbreaks, and taking over the iso-line population from UCR. Despite challenges, staff have released 23,369,338 *Tamarixia* from 2011-2021, with 3,020,625 released in 2021 alone. 1,606,828 *Tamarixia* were released in Los Angeles and Orange Counties around HLB find areas and along major highways. There have also been releases in newer find areas in Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and San Luis Obispo Counties. All find areas, except for San Luis Obispo, are now on a monthly schedule for releases. 81 percent of releases are concentrated around HLB areas in an effort to suppress ACP populations. The combined number of eggs, nymphs, and adult ACP is down to 0.2 percent per flush compared to 53 percent per flush in 2015. Statistical analysis shows that this decrease in ACP numbers is due in part to biocontrol efforts.

## **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Ethyl Formate Registration Update**

Etienne explained that James Cranney advised the Science Subcommittee regarding administrative issues with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency review of ethyl formate, however registration is still expected in Summer of 2022.

### **Neonicotinoid Risk Mitigation Update**

Nothing to report.

### **Spray and Move List Review**

Keith Okasaki stated that CDFA has reached out to Dr. Byrne to perform a review. He added that the topic would be discussed at the Science Subcommittee Meeting on February 8, 2022.

### **DATOC Update**

Dr. Neil McRoberts reported that the DATOC secure server is being updated. An Information Technology is evaluating whether a software or hardware update is needed. Dr. Sandra Olkowski is providing interim oversight of DATOC while recruitment for a coordinator to replace Holly Deniston-Sheets continues. Briana McGuire is working with CDFA staff to perform data download and cleaning activities. Neil also reported that based on a request from Judy Zaninovich at the prior Operations Subcommittee meeting, a review of the spray radius used in response to ACP detections in the Southern San Joaquin Valley is in progress to determine if the radius is large enough to effectively eradicate ACP.

### **Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Biology and Regulation Update**

Keith Okasaki reported that the SOS rulemaking packet is still being finalized, including regulation, the notice to propose action, economic analysis, and the initial statement of reason. Information and documentation to request a smaller quarantine radius has been submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for consideration. While waiting for a response, CDFA plans to proceed with the Office of Administrative Law to establish an interior quarantine.

### **Science Advisory Panel Update**

Etienne reported that a list of names for the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) was submitted to Secretary Ross for selection and approval. All nine members selected from the list have agreed to serve. A meeting will be planned for March or April, preferably in Sacramento. Victoria introduced Harold Browning and Beth Grafton-Cardwell as Co-Chairs of the SAP. She also introduced Don Seaver, Dave Bartels, Georgios Vidalakis, Mamoudou Setamou, Judith Brown, Bob Shatters, and Rodrigo Almeida as SAP members. Price Adams added that NST is currently working on a read-ahead and agenda for the upcoming Science Advisory Panel meeting.

## **OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

Price Adams reported that leveraging biocontrol media coverage gained over 18 printed publications and online radio stories in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean. This included a Central Coast feature which secured 5 broadcast segments on 3 different news stations in Santa Barbara County, focusing on increased ACP detections and what residents can do to help. Outreach efforts have also included coordinated Facebook ads and doorhangers urging homeowners to cooperate with agricultural officials and how to inspect their trees. In-person outreach events are slowly returning, including the California Association of Pest Control Advisers Spring Summit, The World Ag Expo, and the California Citrus Mutual Citrus Showcase. Citrus Insider remains a top resource for industry members for the latest news and information which recently included a letter from Jim Gorden urging participation in Winter area-wide treatments and updated treatment dates. The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) recently had a presence at the California State Association of Counties and League of California Cities conferences. Ongoing outreach efforts are being made to cities in and near HLB quarantine areas with city-owned citrus trees. The November Citrus Hero Award was presented to the Imperial County Agriculture Commissioner's Office. NST is continuing to assist Riverside County Agriculture Commissioner's Office and Riverside Grower Liaison, Tom Mullen in organizing a grower meeting. A refresh of CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org is in progress, including improved user experience and search engine optimization.

### **USDA UPDATE**

Helene Wright reported that USDA is looking into ACP suppression and cost-benefit analysis of the pest management in Mexico. USDA will likely be reaching out to CDFA and members of the citrus industry to discuss the program.

### **CITRUS PEST DETECTION PROGRAM REPORT**

Dr. Subhas Hajeri presented the San Joaquin Valley Pest Control District updates for the Citrus Pest Detection Program by Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency. He explained that survey efforts must move in a progression from macro to micro through state and regional, section, block and property, and tree levels of ACP/HLB risk-based survey. At the block level, ACP is the primary focus with 3D traps and leaf inspection being conducted around the perimeter of a block. Plant material is not being collected for lab testing unless symptomatic leaves and branches are identified. For ACP survey, traps are left in a block for 4 weeks and serviced every 2 weeks. Vials are then returned to the lab for inspection. The plan is to deploy 10,000 traps to all districts during FY 2021-22. No ACP has been identified in the 3D traps thus far.

### **RECAP OF ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS MEETING**

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Victoria will present a budget for FY 2022-2023 at the Finance Subcommittee Meeting on March 1, 2022.
- Proposed bylaw changes will be reviewed at the Executive Committee meeting on March 25, 2022.
- Committee members requested that David Phong present risk survey historical data for last 3-5 years at the Operations Subcommittee meeting on March 2, 2022.
- Grate cleaning inspections will be discussed at the Operations Subcommittee meeting on March 2, 2022.
- David Gutierrez will invite Lisa Finke to provide an update on the canine detection teams at the Operations Subcommittee meeting on March 2, 2022.

### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

There were no closing comments. The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.