

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Franco Bernardi	John C. Gless	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen	James Gorden	Keith Watkins

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

Kevin Ball	Jared Plumlee
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**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Fidan Aghayarova	Mathew Jian	David Paynter
Kelley Aubushon	Marina Kaiser	Grace Radabaugh
Karina Chu	Sara Khalid	Lydia Rodriguez
Kiana Dao	Betty Lee	Briana Russell
Paul Figueroa	Daniel Lee	Michael Soltero
Jorge Garcia	Magally Luque-Williams	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Zachary McCormack	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz	Amelia Wright
Laura Irons	Keith Okasaki	

**Guests:**

Ruben Arroyo	Melinda Klein	Curtis Pate
Teri Blaser	Weiqi Luo	Drew Posny
Natalie DeAngelo	Joey Mayorquin	Cressida Silvers
Rick Dunn	Mark McBroom	Leigh Sitler
Lisa Finke	Neil McRoberts	Judy Zaninovich
Nick Hill	Margaret O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal
Scott Hudson	Sandra Olkowski	Qijun Xiang

**Opening**

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Operations Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 2, 2022. John C. Gless welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING**

**HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal**

Anmol Joshi reported that huanglongbing (HLB) delimitation surveys are ongoing in Westminster, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Jurupa Valley, the city of Riverside, Ontario, La

Mirada, and Paramount with 30, 74, 65, 96, 93, 69, 17, and 93 percent complete, respectively. Quadrant samples totaled 2,597 for 2022. Detections of HLB positive trees totaled 227 with 200 trees removed. There are 132 pending tree removals. HLB border buffer risk survey is ongoing in San Diego and Imperial Counties.

### **Laboratory Update**

David Gutierrez reported that 8,579 samples were processed in January from the Citrus Research Board and CDFA's laboratories combined. HLB positive trees totaled 3,069 since 2012, with Orange County having the most detections.

### **HLB Risk-Based Research Survey**

Daniel Lee reported the HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 2 is 39 percent complete with 20,113 properties visited. Survey was completed in 11 of the 37 counties. 9,113 properties were sampled with 6,620 plant and 3,980 entomology PDRs generated. The reduction in the number of properties surveyed and samples collected in 2020 was directly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS**

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki reported that the counties have spent 40 percent of their contract budgets and are on track for the agreement period. County inspection numbers have increased and Notice of Pending Actions have decreased.

### **County NOV, Tracking, and Activities**

Keith reported that the number of Notice of Violations are significantly lower than from January 2021.

### **Grate Cleaning Update**

Keith reported the counties are continuing to inspect grate cleaning. The approval process for grate design is working effectively. CDFA and county staff review each design independently.

### **Fruit Movement and Fruit Sellers**

Ruben Arroyo, Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner, reported on challenges regulating fruit movement and fruit sellers. The only requirement for fruit sellers is that fruit must be cleaned and free of stems and leaves, except for mandarin. The compliance agreement states that cleaning the fruit is done *prior* to selling, but it does not specify the location. He compared the mitigation requirements between fruit growers and fruit sellers. Subcommittee members discussed the inequities between the fruit seller and fruit growers' compliance agreements. Keith Okasaki is evaluating these inequities and will establish a working group to assess the effectiveness of grate cleaning in areas with high ACP populations. Keith will present a comparison of the fruit seller and fruit growers' compliance agreements at the full committee meeting.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION**

### **Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates**

#### *Southern District*

Anmol Joshi reported HLB delimitation treatments are ongoing in Ontario, Montebello, and Westminster. Treatments around commercial groves are complete in San Bernardino and Imperial Counties. Treatment around the University of California, Riverside; Hemet; Coachella; and the border buffers in San Diego and Imperial Counties are ongoing.

#### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported treatments are complete for the two Tulare County detections and the one detection in Monterey County. CDFA finished the weekly delimitation trap servicing in Salinas, and monthly delimitation trap servicing was transferred to Monterey County. Delimitation trapping is ongoing in San Luis Obispo (SLO) County. Traps along the Santa Barbara and SLO County border averaged nine ACP on eight traps. A motion was passed by the full committee in January to fund the treatment in Santa Maria, Santa Barbara County. Treatment activity started the beginning of February and was completed on February 25, 2022. The final cost will be presented at the next subcommittee meeting. Biocontrol releases of *Tamarixia radiata* are ongoing in Kern, SLO, and Santa Barbara Counties.

#### *Northern District*

Zachary McCormack reported detection trapping is ongoing in 26 counties. Delimitation trapping in Alameda and Santa Clara counties are ongoing with one Santa Clara County delimitation ending in March. *Tamarixia radiata* releases in Santa Clara County are ongoing. Risk-based research survey continues and is 20 percent complete.

### **Regional/GL ACP Updates**

Sara Khalid reported that Teri Blazer assisted at the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division's (CPDPD) booth at the World Ag Expo. Sandra Zwaal and Cressida Silvers continue to update the citrus layer for Ventura County. Winter area-wide treatment is ongoing in Ventura County with an expected completion on March 7. Sandra will be giving an ACP presentation for the Farm Bureau in San Diego County. Since the beginning of 2022, San Bernardino County has had ten HLB positive trees detected.

### **Biocontrol Updates**

Grace Radabaugh reported that 200,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in February bringing the total to 400,000 for this year. Over four million *Tamarixia radiata* are projected to be released in 2022. Seventy five percent of the releases were in HLB find sites specifically within Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Releases continue in the Santa Maria area where ACP detections have occurred.

### **Canine ACP Detection Update**

Lisa Finke gave a summary of canine detection team. She worked with the Coachella Valley Pest Control District, conducting canine inspections in commercial orchards.

Lisa continues to work with the Imperial County Pest Control District, conducting canine inspections at both residential and commercial properties.

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

##### **Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update**

Dr. Olkowski reported that DATOC will begin evaluating the effectiveness of eradication around new detection sites. Additionally, DATOC is assisting the Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency, in collaboration with CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostic Center, conducting tissue positivity analysis. DATOC is also evaluating the *Candidatus* *Liberibacter asiaticus* positivity rates to see if it is related to historical changes in the delimitation radius.

##### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn reported the Fresno County citrus layer is complete, consisting of 4,426 blocks totaling 53,398 acres. The commercial grove trapping samples continue to be consistent with prior years.

#### **OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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

Victoria Hornbaker stated the CPDPD continues to conduct activities under California Environmental Quality Act. CDFA is contracting with a consultant to correct the PEIR.

##### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on May 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.