

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 4, 2022**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	John C. Gless	Roger Smith
Franco Bernardi	James Gorden	Keith Watkins
Brad Carmen	Jared Plumlee	

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

None

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Kelley Aubushon	Anmol Joshi	Alex Muniz
Karina Chu	Marina Kaiser	Keith Okasaki
Kiana Dao	Sara Khalid	David Paynter
Paul Figueroa	Lucita Kumagai	Lea Pereira
Jorge Garcia	Betty Lee	David Phong
David Gutierrez	Dr. Magally Luque-Williams	Claudia Vazquez
Victoria Hornbaker	Zachary McCormack	Jennifer Willems
Laura Irons	Dr. David Morgan	Amelia Wright

**Other Attendees:**

Craig Armstrong	Jessica Leslie	Gregorio Rundini
Ruben Arroyo	Dr. Weiqi Luo	Cressida Silvers
Teri Blaser	Mark McBroom	Leigh Sitler
Natalie DeAngelo	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Stephanie Stark
Rick Dunn	Mia Neunzig	Dr. Gregory Simmons
Lisa Finke	Margaret O'Neill	Karen Westerman
Ariana Gehrig	Dr. Sandra Olkowski	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Curtis Pate	Sandra Zwaal
Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Drew Posny	

**Opening**

John C. Gless called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 4, 2022.

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

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

Anmol Joshi reported two new huanglongbing (HLB) positive tree detections in Los Angeles County, one in the city of Carson, and one in the city of Monrovia. The trees were detected through HLB risk-based survey (RBS) and are in the process of being removed. Delimitation survey and treatment activities are ongoing in the 250-meter delimitation areas. HLB delimitation surveys are ongoing in the cities of Garden Grove,

Westminster, Santa Ana, and Anaheim with 26, 53, 27, and 83 percent complete, respectively. HLB delimitation surveys have been completed in the cities of La Mirada, Ontario, and Corona. Approximately 700 quadrant samples were collected and submitted in April 2022. Of the 700 samples, approximately 300 were collected from Los Angeles County and approximately 400 were collected from Orange County. Additionally, HLB delimitation treatments have been completed in the cities of Anaheim, Westminster, Santa Ana, Duarte, San Gabriel, Montebello, and Ontario but continue in Corona and La Mirada. In March and April 2022, staff removed 188 trees and 79 trees are pending removal. The lab identified 159 new HLB-positive trees. Staff plan to resurvey and sample in the Woodcrest area of Riverside County where a *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas)-positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was detected in 2020.

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai reported that 4,946 plant samples and 2,756 ACP samples were received by the CDFA and Citrus Research Board (CRB) labs in April. To date, an average of 5,800 plant samples and 2,500 ACP samples have been received per month in 2022. Year to date for 2022, 33,000 combined plant and ACP samples have been tested for HLB. To date, HLB has been detected in 3,257 trees, 75 percent of which were in Orange County. CLas-positive ACP samples totaled 406 as of April 2022, with 64 percent detected in Orange County. A total of 417 HLB-positive trees have been detected in 2022.

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

David Phong reported that RBS 2021 cycle 2 is 63 percent complete with 33,879 properties visited. Survey has been completed in 18 of the 37 counties. 15,091 properties were sampled generating 11,173 plant and 6,150 entomology Pest and Damage Records.

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

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki reported that regulatory staff created a new fruit seller compliance agreement in the HLB quarantine and will be sent to the affected counties by May 9.

### **County Notice of Violation, Tracking, and Activities**

Keith reported that the number of Notice of Violations and Notice of Proposed Actions are significantly lower this year compared to 2021, while the number of inspections are higher compared to 2021.

### **Grate Cleaning Update**

Keith reported that counties have been provided with grate cleaning guidelines to aid in inspection and enforcement.

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

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

#### **Southern District**

Residential treatments around commercial groves have been completed for the winter cycle and the next treatment cycle is scheduled to begin in August 2022.

A discussion ensued among the subcommittee members about using the canine detection team as an ACP verification method. Victoria Hornbaker stated that CDFA cannot take regulatory action based on a dog alert.

### **Central District**

Jennifer Willems reported there were no new ACP detections in the Central District as of April 28. However, ACP was identified on five traps from Tulare County on May 3. These traps were positioned at a packing facility in Woodlake, therefore the detections may be classified as a regulatory incident with no treatment activities necessary. An Incident Command System call for these detections is scheduled for May 5.

An ACP Detector Canine working group meeting was held April 27 and the next meeting is scheduled for early June. Delimitation and detection trapping are ongoing in Fresno, Madera, and Kern Counties. Biocontrol releases of *Tamarixia radiata* in Kern County are ongoing. RBS is completed for all grids assigned in the Central District. Staff are also assisting with RBS in Southern California, as well as conducting citrus canker survey. Staff will also be participating in citrus commodity surveys until June 30, weather permitting.

Jennifer reported residential treatment in the city of Santa Maria was completed in February. In Santa Maria, 1,227 properties were surveyed, 639 properties were treated, 73 properties refused treatment, 496 properties did not have hosts, and 19 properties were unable to be contacted. Originally, CDFA estimated 70 percent of properties in the treatment area would have a single citrus tree, which proved to be too low. As a result, the Santa Maria treatment was \$21,818 over budget.

### **Northern District**

Amelia Wright reported winter detection trapping in 20 counties are complete, with all winter traps collected by the end of April. Year-round trapping continues in Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Placer Counties. Delimitation trapping is ongoing in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. Biocontrol releases of *Tamarixia radiata* in the delimitation areas of Santa Clara County is ongoing, with 134,700 total released at 326 properties as of April 4. Seven ACP were detected in a new area of Santa Clara County on April 14, resulting in the deployment of delimitation traps resulting in additional detections. Treatment of find sites and adjacent properties occurred on April 26. A public meeting will be held May 5 with treatments beginning May 10 and expected to last three weeks. Staff also assisted in citrus canker survey in San Luis Obispo County.

### **Regional/Grower Liaison ACP Updates**

Sara Khalid reported there have been no new residential ACP detections in Fresno, Madera, Tulare, or Kern counties since the last find in Tulare. Grower liaison's (GL) Teri Blaser and Jessica Leslie continue to work with the Pest Management Area team leaders in Fresno, Madera, and Tulare Counties. GL Judy Zaninovich continues to

advise growers and Pest Control Advisors on the importance of keeping ACP numbers low in Kern County. GLs Sandra Zwaal and Cressida Silvers distributed a 2022/23 ACP area-wide treatment schedule for growers in Ventura County. In San Luis Obispo County, grower treatments have been completed from the January ACP detection. In San Bernardino County, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker is creating new banners that will be placed across highways to inform the public about HLB detections. GLs Sandra Zwaal and Tom Mullen are coordinating a field day for growers in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties in May. Sandra is also coordinating a field day for growers in San Diego County to encourage participation in upcoming ACP area-wide treatments from May 16 - 30. GL Curtis Pate is working with the Agricultural Commissioner's office to encourage growers to be diligent about ACP treatment.

### **Biocontrol Updates**

Dr. David Morgan reported that 250,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in April, bringing the total to 950,000 releases for 2022, and 24 million releases since the start of the biocontrol program. Thirteen percent of releases are along trade routes, while 73 percent of releases are in HLB find areas. Biocontrol staff participated at the Orange Show Festival and Insect Fair in San Bernardino County educating participants on the benefits of biocontrol.

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

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

Dr. Neil McRoberts reported that DATOC is continuing to work with Dr. Subhas Hajeri on analyzing CLAs data sets to identify detection efficiencies. DATOC also gathered data for the Science Advisory Panel that met in mid-April.

### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn reported that CRB continues to provide data to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources ACP WebMap. Growers were encouraged to make sure their grove is mapped correctly and that its location in relation to pest detections and biocontrol releases are accurate. Rick is continuing to revise the statewide commercial citrus layer. The layers for Fresno, Monterey, Madera, Kings, and San Luis Obispo Counties are complete. As of April 28, there are currently 9,262 sentinel tree sample sites active for the commercial grove sampling program.

## **OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**

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

David Gutierrez reported that the California Department of Justice is waiting for the contractor signature to begin work on revising the PEIR.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on July 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 10:54 a.m.