

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 6, 2022**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

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

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

Jared Plumlee

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

Kelley Aubushon	Lucita Kumagai	David Paynter
Karina Chu	Sara Khalid	Lea Pereira
Jorge Garcia	Cheolmin Lee	David Phong
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Briana Russell
Victoria Hornbaker	David Morgan	Claudia Vazquez
Laura Irons	Alex Muniz	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki	Amelia Wright
Marina Kaiser		

**Guests:**

Ruben Arroyo	David Finke	Sandra Olkowski
Teri Blaser	Ariana Gehrig	Greg Parra
Casey Creamer	Alyssa Houtby	Curtis Pate
Melissa Cregan	Roberto Johnson	Cressida Silvers
Natalie DeAngelo	Melinda Klein	Qijun Xaing
Aaron Dillon	Deborah Larmon	Judy Zaninovich
Rick Dunn	Mark McBroom	Sandra Zwaal
Lisa Finke	Margaret O'Neill	

**Opening**

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. John C. Gless welcomed the Subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

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

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

Anmol Joshi reported two new *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive Asian citrus psyllid detections in San Diego County and one huanglongbing (HLB) detection in San Bernardino County. A sample of adult ACP collected in the Pauma Valley area of San Diego County was confirmed positive for CLAs on June 27, 2022. The sample was collected during Commodity Survey from an organic commercial citrus grove. The

owner was contacted, and visual survey of the grove has been completed. ACP samples were collected and sent to the lab for testing. A second CLas positive ACP sample was detected at a residence in the City of Vista in San Diego County on June 29, 2022. The delimitation survey is ongoing and will be completed by next week. An HLB positive tree was detected in the City of Fontana. This is the first HLB detection in Fontana.

Anmol reported multiple HLB detections in Orange and Los Angeles Counties the last week of June. The one-mile survey for citrus canker (CC) is complete in the Cities of Chino and San Diego. The CC survey is ongoing in Huntington Beach due to a trace forward investigation from the state of Nevada. Anmol also reported 470 quadrant samples were collected through June 20. Detections of HLB positive trees totaled 219 with 180 trees removed. A question was raised about the status of a CLas positive ACP detection in the Woodcrest area of Riverside County. Anmol stated the survey was completed the week of May 23. All samples came back negative for CLas and HLB.

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai reported the monthly averages of processed samples are about 5,700 plant and 3,000 ACP. This is up from last year's averages. The Citrus Research Board lab is processing all nursery samples. The CDFA laboratory has processed 51,694 samples for 2022, up 13 percent from last year. HLB positive trees total 706 to date for 2022 and 3,546 since 2012, with Orange County having 71 percent of the detections.

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

David Phong reported the HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 2 is 86 percent complete. There are 24 counties that are complete from the 37 counties that were assigned survey grids. Over 49,000 properties were surveyed with 12,123 entomology and 16,974 plant samples submitted. The Northern and Southern Districts are 80 and 83 percent complete, respectively. The new 2022 cycle 1 survey consists of 42 allocated counties with 1,246 survey grids. This cycle is expected to be completed by December 2022.

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

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki reported 2021-2022 fiscal year inspections of growers, haulers, and fruit sellers are up from last year. County inspections at packing houses are down from last year, however, several counties have yet to report activities.

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

Keith stated the number of Notice of Violations and Notice of Proposed Actions are lower than last year.

### **Grate Cleaning Update**

Keith reported that there were 101 grate inspections done in 2021-2022 fiscal year. Ninety-five of those inspections had less than five leaves per bin. Keith confirmed that

when counties conduct inspections for stems and leaves, they also inspect for ACP. The counties will report when ACP are found. Currently, no ACP have been found during these inspections.

A question was raised regarding detections at packinghouses and what determines a regulatory incident. Victoria Hornbaker responded that any ACP detection will trigger a visual survey of the packing house. If there are no additional ACP or life stages found, then it is determined to be a regulatory incident. A full treatment response will be required if additional ACP are found. Keith added that regulatory staff will conduct a records inspection of the packinghouse.

A question was raised on compliance agreements and whether they should expire or have a mandate for continuing education. Keith stated the last time the compliance agreements were reviewed was in 2018-2019. It was suggested to have an outreach program in place before revamping compliance agreements. Victoria will bring the suggestion to the next Outreach Subcommittee meeting.

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

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

##### *Southern District*

Anmol Joshi reported HLB treatments are complete, and Los Angeles and Orange Counties have regular monthly public meetings. They are facing difficulties in attracting candidates for seasonal positions in the district. Management is using limited-term (LT) Pest Prevention Assistant positions to attract more candidates. The LT position offers higher pay, plus benefits compared to seasonal positions.

##### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported on 11 new detections: three in Fresno, six in Kern, and two in Tulare County. There are two public meetings scheduled the beginning of July 2022. Treatment will begin after the public meetings are held. The ACP canine detector teams accompanied CPDPD staff or county staff at several of the detection areas. There have been no new ACP detections in San Luis Obispo (SLO). On May 26, 8,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in the Woodlake area of Tulare County and the subcommittee approved additional releases through the fall. The Subcommittee also requested *Tamarixia* releases around the City of Orange Cove, Fresno County. *Tamarixia* releases are ongoing in Kern and Santa Barbara Counties. HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 2 is complete and staff have started the new cycle.

##### *Northern District*

Amelia Wright reported detection trapping is ongoing in three counties until November 2022. Delimitation trapping is ongoing with no new detections in Alameda County. There are continued detections within the Santa Clara County delimitation with no new expansions. As of June 28, approximately 148,000 *Tamarixia* have been released in the Northern District.

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

Sara Khalid reported that the Central District had several ACP detections and the growers cooperated with treatment. The Citrus Research Board citrus layer for Santa Barbara and SLO Counties was updated. Fall 2022 ACP grower area-wide treatments will start in July and continue throughout the fall, depending on the county. Sandra Zwaal will update the grove and grower contact for San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. She is also planning a field trip with help from the University of California, Riverside for San Bernardino, San Diego, and Riverside growers to show them how to identify, monitor, and manage ACP. Imperial County had ACP detections through inspections from pest control advisors, pest control district personnel, and the ACP canine teams.

### **Biocontrol Updates**

Dr. David Morgan reported that *Tamarixia* production is going very well in 2022. In 2022, there have been over 1.5 million *Tamarixia* released and over 25 million releases since 2011. Releases are concentrated in HLB quarantine areas, borders, trade routes and where new ACP detections occur in areas that are not considered generally infested. Dr. Morgan stated that the subcommittee should be assessing the risks of having one production facility since there are no other locations in the U.S. that do biocontrol if the program needed to stock up, however, UC Riverside, Cal Poly Pomona and Arvin facilities can be used in the future. Dr. Morgan also reported that a new peer-reviewed paper was released reflecting biological control for ACP.

### **Canine ACP Working Group Update**

Jennifer Willems reported the working group met in April and June. The working group reviewed the status of the canine team, federal funding, chain of custody, official samples vs. non-official samples, and sanitation practices to prevent the spread of various pathogens. A standard operating procedure has been drafted and is being reviewed. Libby Ouellette from Fresno County joined the June meeting and offered her experience with dog team inspections. It was suggested that dog team inspections be done at the point of origin.

Lisa Finke reported that the point of origin inspections can be managed at both packinghouses and groves, however, the packinghouse will need food safety certification. Training is complete for the dog handlers to recognize parasitized nymphs. The parasitized nymph data is being sent to Dr. Morgan. The dog team surveyed 1,753 trees around the Woodlake and Lemon Cove detections. The dog team surveyed 3,704 trees around the Orange Cove detection and had four alerts. Fresno County personnel collected and submitted those samples. Lisa presented a two-year budget comparing costs with and without federal funding. The budget proposal includes funding for two additional dog teams.

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

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

Sandra Olkowski provided an update on two projects: tissue type testing and analyzing

the 50-meter response in the San Joaquin Valley. Sandra referenced a question by the Science Subcommittee to determine if rapid detection could underestimate CLas transmission. Sandra suggested integrating the two projects with the new request from the Science Subcommittee. They are not opposed to integrating these into one study but would defer the request to the next Science Subcommittee.

### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn reported he continues to work with area-wide task force groups along with revising the statewide commercial citrus layer. Rick is working with CDFA's Plant Data Analysis Services and CPDPD's Data Analysis and Visualization Unit to find a replacement for the NOMAD GPS units that are currently used. He reported that the Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties citrus layers are complete.

## **OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**

### **Multi-Pest Survey**

Victoria Hornbaker reported on October 1, 2021, CDFA incorporated a multi-pest survey with the ACP/HLB risk survey to encompass other citrus pathogens. In March 2022, there was a citrus yellow vein clearing virus detection, the first in the Western Hemisphere. There are now over 300 positive detections in the City of Tulare. CPDPD is working closely with the United States Department of Agriculture to determine next steps.

### **PEIR Update**

Victoria Hornbaker reported that deficiencies in the Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) are being reviewed by a contractor. CPDPD will continue working under the alternate California Environmental Quality Act compliances to conduct activities.

### **Adjournment**

The next meeting will be on September 7, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.