

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 7, 2022**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball*	Brad Carmen*	Roger Smith*
Franco Bernardi*	John C. Gless*	

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Jared Plumlee	Jim Gorden
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California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Kelley Aubushon*	Anmol Joshi*	Keith Okasaki*
Karina Chu*	Marina Kaiser*	David Paynter*
Kiana Dao*	Lucita Kumagai*	David Phong*
Paul Figueroa*	Sara Khalid*	Grace Radabaugh*
Alisha Garcia*	Betty Lee*	Briana Russell*
David Gutierrez*	Zachary McCormack*	Claudia Vazquez*
Victoria Hornbaker*	David Morgan*	Jennifer Willems*
Laura Irons*	Alex Muniz*	Amelia Wright*

Guests:

Price Adams*	Melinda Klein*	Curtis Pate*
Teri Blaser*	Weiqi Luo*	Etienne Rabe*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Mark McBroom*	Cassandra Silvers*
Rick Dunn*	Neil McRoberts*	Karen Westerman*
Lisa Finke*	Mia Neunzig*	Judy Zaninovich*
Ariana Gehrig*	Margaret O'Neill*	Sandra Zwaal*
John J. Gless*	Sandra Olkowski*	Qijun Xiang*
Subhas Hajeri*		

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2022. John C. Gless welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

Review Science Advisory Panel Report

Victoria Hornbaker reported that the Science Advisory Panel report was sent to the subcommittee members for their review. Report details will be presented to the Science Subcommittee for discussion on September 16.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported that the Pauma Valley delimitation survey is complete. The majority of plant and insect samples have been processed and are negative for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas). The Vista delimitation survey is complete with no additional CLas positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detections. In July, a CLas positive ACP was detected for the first time in the City of Pomona and on August 19, an Huanglongbing (HLB) positive tree was detected in Pomona. 2,781 quadrant samples were collected in July and August.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported the laboratory tested 13,241 plant samples and 6,667 ACP samples in July and August. Year to date, 72,381 combined plant and ACP samples have been tested for CLas, which is an increase of 20 percent from last year. Since 2012, a total of 3,735 HLB positive trees have been detected, with Orange County having 74 percent of the detections.

HLB Risk-Based Research Survey

David Phong reported the 2022 HLB risk-based research survey cycle 1 is 25 percent complete. Four of the 42 counties with assigned risk survey sites are complete. Over 7,000 properties were surveyed with 1,879 samples submitted. 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 counties are doing a good job with consistent inspections. Keith stated that there was an increase in hauler and fruit seller inspections and a decrease in NOVs and Notice of Proposed Actions (NOPA) issued.

HLB Retail Nursery Discussion

Keith reported there are six CDFA approved nurseries and three Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) approved nurseries in the HLB quarantine zone. Out of the nine nurseries, only the three APHIS nurseries can ship out of the quarantine zone and out of state. Keith explained that when a quarantine is either established or expanded, CDFA regulatory staff go to each nursery, place holds on all citrus trees, and discuss the nurseries' options for meeting regulatory requirements.

Review County Regulatory Scope of Work (SOW)

Keith reviewed an example of a county regulatory SOW, noting that counties can only charge for services in their SOW. There are currently 14 counties that hold cooperative agreements for ACP regulatory enforcement. Each year the counties are provided the SOW and asked to project their regulatory work and proposed budget. Keith confirmed that any added work the county performs would need to be in the SOW, including training. CDFA regulatory staff provide guidance to counties regarding regulatory activities, as needed.

A question was brought up regarding the difference in county agreement amounts relative to the amount of work performed. Keith explained it's a result of varying sizes of each county's citrus industry as well as counties having different wages and cost of living. The hours spent working on complex regulatory issues is quantified in inspection, NOV, and NOPA numbers reported to the committee. For example, Riverside spends time addressing regulatory issues that are billed as trace-back and trace-forward hours under the agreement that are not reported to the Committee.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported HLB delimitation treatments are complete, except for Whittier at 93 percent and Santa Ana at 84 percent. Public meetings were conducted in July and August for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Treatment of residential properties around commercial citrus in response to ACP detections will begin in late September.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that there was an ACP confirmed from a trap at a packing house in Woodlake on July 26. A 400-meter survey was completed with the canine detection team and no additional ACP were found. This was deemed a regulatory incident, however, on August 25, a second detection at the same packing house was confirmed. The second detection triggered CDFA's response plan; survey was completed, delimitation traps were deployed, and the two residential properties within the 400-meters will be treated. An additional ACP at the packing house was confirmed on August 31. Tulare County agreed to service the regulatory traps on a weekly basis for the first four weeks of the delimitation. The grove traps in this area were screened and no ACP were identified.

Subcommittee members discussed concerns over multiple detections at the same packing house within a short timeframe, questioning if there is a population of ACP in the area or if additional ACP were introduced from transported fruit. Keith Okasaki confirmed additional shipments were received from Southern California, and the fruit was sprayed with an appropriate pesticide prior to movement. It was asked if counties have the authority to exclude a shipment. Keith responded that counties cannot stop the movement as it falls under the performance standard mitigation and that the county does not have any authority if the shipment meets the federal requirements. A question was raised if CDFA could restrict the movement of fruit. Victoria stated this was brought up when the regional ACP quarantine zones were discussed. It was determined that packing fruit where it was grown would not work due to capacity issues and the practice would impede commerce within the industry. Keith stated counties conduct audits on regulatory incidents. Keith will conduct a more in-depth review with the counties involved and present the findings at the next Subcommittee meeting.

Jennifer also reported that an ACP was confirmed on August 19 in Arroyo Grande on a county detection trap on a residential property. An additional detection at the same

location was confirmed on August 23. The find site and adjacent properties were treated and delimitation traps were deployed. A live ACP was found during trap deployment at a second location in Arroyo Grande and confirmed on August 25. Biocontrol releases of *Tamarixia radiata* are ongoing in Kern and Santa Barbara Counties. There were also *Tamarixia* releases around the find sites in the Cities of Orange Cove and Woodlake. The citrus commodity survey will begin in late September. Citrus yellow vein clearing virus (CYVCV) survey is on hold temporarily until the weather is consistently below one hundred degrees.

Northern District

Amelia Wright reported that staff are preparing to train county employees on trapping. Detection trapping is ongoing in three counties. In November, winter trapping will begin in 20 counties. Delimitation trapping is ongoing in Alameda and Santa Clara Counties. As of August 31, 158,900 *Tamarixia* have been released in the Northern District. The Northern District has completed four allocated counties out of 24 counties assigned for 2022 HLB risk-based research survey cycle 1.

Regional Grower Liaison Updates

Teri Blaser reported that Fresno and Madera Counties have not had any additional detections, however, Tulare County has had several detections. Growers in the delimitation area were contacted and are working on treating their groves. Judy Zaninovich reported that Kern County had ten detections this year, primarily on residential traps. Cressida Silvers reported fall 2022 ACP grower area-wide treatments have started in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. A Ventura County ACP/HLB Grower meeting is scheduled for September 28. The ACP/HLB task force is working closely with the Farm Bureau and county staff to find better ways to serve the Spanish speaking growers. Sandra Zwaal reported the San Bernardino task force and Farm Bureau meetings are monthly. The San Diego County detection in Pauma Valley impacted five commercial groves. Only two commercial growers are treating, and two smaller grove owners are reluctant to treat. Sandra stated that grower liaison updates are provided at the San Diego, Hemet, and Coachella Valley Pest Control District meetings. Curtis Pate reported that grower area-wide treatments in Imperial County will start September 18, with completion by the end of October.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported over 25,800,000 *Tamarixia* have been released since program inception. Since the program began, 77 percent of the releases have been in HLB detection counties. Last month CDFA released 230,000 *Tamarixia*, over half of the releases were concentrated in and around the HLB detection sites in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The current heat wave may be reducing the ACP populations based on monitoring locations that have showed a decline in ACP.

Canine ACP Working Group Update

Jennifer Willems reported that the canine detection team working group met on August 19 and the next meeting will be in October. Lisa Finke reported that the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Institute of Food and Agriculture grant was

not funded. Lisa discussed the potential to use the dog teams at packing houses, noting that Tulare and Ventura Counties expressed interest. Lisa reported that in Imperial and Ventura Counties, and in the Coachella Valley, the canines alerted 73 times, 63 of the alerts had ACP visually confirmed. She reported the canine teams inspected the Orange Cove detection site on July 8, 14, 15, and 25 with no alerts. Several commercial groves were inspected near the Woodlake/Lemon Cove detection site on July 25 and 29. There were no alerts.

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

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

David Gutierrez reported that DATOC is working with CDFA staff on a comprehensive data set that links ACP numbers over time to the original Pest Damage Report. This data will be analyzed to determine the appropriate radius for delimitation and treatment around ACP detections in the Central Valley.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn continues to update the statewide commercial citrus layer, with Riverside County nearly complete. The Citrus Research Board (CRB) supports the regional ACP/HLB task force by providing data and mapping services. CRB is working with CDFA to develop an application for tracking trap servicing.

OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT

PEIR Update

Victoria Hornbaker reported that the contractor is addressing all concerns raised by the appeals court and reviewing CDFA activities.

CYVCV Update

Victoria reported that there are over 500 trees confirmed positive for CYVCV in the City of Tulare. USDA and CDFA made a joint decision to suspend CYVCV survey. USDA's lab has been analyzing data from CDFA's lab and noticed a link between the excessive heat and lower virus titer levels, which supports scientific literature. Work will commence after one week of temperatures under 100 degrees. USDA has updated the delimitation protocol to include a 7-mile arc survey with 100 percent sampling of citrus hosts.

Discuss Grower Treatment Options for ACP

This was added to the agenda to discuss spray and move and application timing in different areas. Victoria noted that currently there isn't anyone at the University of California (UC) that is willing to review and make recommendations, but the UC Riverside position vacated by Dr. Rivera will be back filled. Once there is a replacement for Dr. Rivera, CPDPD will work with them to get the review completed. recommendation.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be on November 2, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.