

CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Craig Armstrong*	John Gless*	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Kevin Ball	John C. Gless	Rod Radtke
Franco Bernardi	Jim Gorden	Gregorio Rundini*
Brad Carmen	Mark McBroom	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon	Jared Plumlee*	Keith Watkins
Bob Felts Jr.		

Committee Members Absent:

Nick Hill

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Kelley Aubushon*	Sara Khalid*	Lea Pereira*
Fernando Berber	Sarah Kraft*	David Phong
Karina Chu*	Luci Kumagai*	Grace Radabaugh*
Paul Figueroa*	Betty Lee*	Briana Russell*
Tina Galindo*	Daniel Lee*	Heather Scheck*
Alisha Garcia*	Dahmoon Maesomy*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez	Dr. David Morgan*	ThuyVy Truong*
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muñiz*	Jennifer Willems*
Laura Irons*	Colleen Murphy	Amelia Wright*
Anmol Joshi*	Keith Okasaki*	Jason Wu*

Guests:

Price Adams*	Jasmine Lopez*	Cressida Silvers*
Teri Blaser	Maureen McGuire*	Kirsten Skala*
Casey Creamer	Dr. Neil McRoberts*	Jacob Villagomez*
Melissa Cregan*	Mia Neunzig	David Wirta*
Ariana Geuhrig*	Margaret O'Neill*	Helene Wright*
Dr. Subhas Hajeri*	Sandra Olkowski*	Qijun Xiang*
Melinda Klein	Curtis Pate*	Judy Zaninovich
Jessica Leslie*	Paige Shewmaker*	Sandra Zwaal*

**Attended the meeting virtually.*

Opening Comments

Mark McBroom called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Mark McBroom welcomed the committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and 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 July 13, 2022 Committee meeting, the 2022-2023 Committee and Subcommittee Calendars, the CDFA/CCTEA Memorandum of Understanding, the 2022-2023 Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) budget, the revised Biocontrol Greenhouse Renovation budget, and CPDPC member term renewals.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Nothing to report.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Review 2021/2022 and 2022/23 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

Bob Felts Jr. reported that fiscal year (FY) 2021-2022 expenditures increased by \$3,876,034 since the last Full Committee Meeting scheduled September 2022 bringing the year-to-date total to \$30,363,110, leaving a remaining balance of \$14,225,700. The Financial Information System of California (FI\$Cal) has closed out the FY and the thirteenth month for financial reporting. CPDPD will perform an internal post-audit reconciliation, but does not anticipate significant expenditure total changes for the FY.

Bob reported that 2021-22 FY revenue increased by \$510,441 since the last September 2022 meeting bringing the total to \$10,987,278. CPDPD anticipates revenue to slightly increase due to packing houses report for the month of September 2022, anything following reports after September 30, 2022, will be credited to FY2022-2023. The projected revenue total will be short by \$1,528,722 likely due to the short crop year.

Bob reported that FY2022-2023 expenditures have yet to be counted due to FI\$Cal closing out prior year FY2021-2022. CPDPD expects to present FY2022-2023 expenditures once July 2022 closes in FI\$Cal.

Set 2022/2023 Assessment Rate

Bob reported that projected production was roughly 188,000,000 cartons with the number of navel oranges reduced by 4,000,000 to 76,000,000 and the number of mandarins reduced by less than 2,000,000 to 40,000,000 following the release of the citrus objective report. At \$0.07 per 40 pound equivalent, the projected revenue is

\$13,160,000. A Fund Condition Statement (FCS) was previously prepared by Carl Baum based on the previous year's FCS and manually calculated in active funding for an estimated total of \$27,500,000 carry in. A current FCS may be available for the November CPDPC meeting.

Motion: To set the 2022/2023 assessment rate at \$0.07 per 40 pound equivalent.

First: Dr. Etienne Rabe

Second: Keith Watkins

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

REVIEW AND APPROVE SCIENCE ADVISORY PANEL (SAP) REPORT

Dr. Etienne Rabe presented the recommendations from the SAP report. The goal of the SAP is to keep huanglongbing (HLB) out of California's commercial citrus groves. The recommendations were presented at the September Operations and Science subcommittees for advancement to the full committee. A strategy and prioritization session is planned with the CPDPC in November. Followed by meetings with working groups and possibly a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to develop implement plans for the agreed upon recommendations. For risk-based survey, the SAP recommended splitting it into Northern/Central and Southern California regions, shifting from emphasizing historic find to residential and commercial interfaces, and assessing whether the different genotyping impact management activities. For Southern California, the panel recommended weighting the risk-based model to focus survey activities near commercial citrus while continuing survey in the core area. The SAP also recommends invoking the commercial risk-based survey model in Southern California to provide more emphasis on commercial trees. For the Central Valley and Northern Districts, the panel recommended focusing on residential areas near commercial citrus and they have recommended examining the 50 and 400 meter treatment areas for residential finds in order to harmonize delimitation areas to match Southern California. For nurseries, the panel recommended establishing a working group involving all major stakeholders to address several concerns regarding risk of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and HLB movement on nursery stock. For communications, the SAP recommended engaging data analysis experts to work with Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) to suggest changes in outreach strategies. In general, the panel recommended improved coordination, harmonization of data sets and data collection between different entities, involving commercial growers in sample submission, pooling of samples to increase coverage and include asymptomatic leaf collection, revisiting the HLB response plan for residential and commercial finds and ensuring that it's well-publicized, considering establishing and regularly convening a TAC, considering the use of "non-messy" traps, and developing a flow chart to outline suggested revisions to the program. These recommendations will be discussed at the November CPDPC meeting, including its financial, regulatory, implementation, and strategic plan implications.

Motion: To recommend that Secretary Ross accept the Science Advisory Panel Report as presented.

First: Bob Felts Jr.

Second: John C. Gless

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To recommend that Secretary Ross provide recognition to the Science Advisory Panel for their efforts in supporting the California citrus industry and CDFA.

First: Dr. Etienne Rabe

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai presented the laboratory update for the HLB testing program from the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center. She reported that 6,511 plant samples and 3,715 ACP samples were received in August. The monthly total of plant samples received by CDFA for 2022 have averaged at 6,000 and at 3,000 per month received by Citrus Research Board (CRB). For 2022, the combined plant and ACP samples received by CDFA was 72,381 with a projected total of 108,000 samples by the end of the year. The tally of positive detections reflected 3,785 residential trees, 2,597 sites, and 472 ACP positive samples. 74 percent of positive trees, 71 percent of positive sites, and 60 percent of ACP positive samples were found in Orange County.

HLB Risk-based Survey

David Phong presented data for 2022 Risk Survey cycle 1. Cycle 1 2022 began in June 2022 and is 30 percent complete with 7 of the 42 allocated counties completed with 9,879 properties visited. 2,624 properties were sampled generating 833 entomology and 1,989 plant samples. In Northern California, 5 staff members from 2 offices have completed risk survey for 38 percent of 178 assigned grids with risk survey completed in 4 counties. In Central California, 18 staff members from 4 offices have completed risk survey for 50 percent of the 566 assigned grids with risk survey completed in 3 counties. In Southern California, 27 staff members from 6 offices have completed risk survey for 19 percent of 502 assigned.

CDFA Operational Update

David Gutierrez presented the operational update including ACP and HLB delimitation survey and treatment areas for the Southern, Central, and Northern Districts.

Southern District

Delimitation Survey and treatments were conducted in Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties. On August 19, the first HLB positive tree was detected in Pomona, Los Angeles County. A total of 242 HLB positive trees were removed in July and August. In San Diego County, 140 samples were taken from Vista and Pauma Valley areas and sent to the lab. All plant and insect samples were negative for HLB.

Central District

Since July, there was one ACP detection in Kern County, 7 ACP detections in Tulare County, 3 ACP detections in San Luis Obispo County. There were no new detections in Fresno County. ACP detection trapping is ongoing in Fresno and Madera Counties with

delimitation trapping ongoing in Fresno, Kern, Tulare, and San Luis Obispo Counties. ACP treatment for San Luis Obispo and Tulare Counties were conducted in response to the ACP detections. *Tamarixia radiata* were released in Fresno, Kern, Santa Barbara, and Tulare Counties. Citrus yellow vein clearing virus (CYVVCV) survey was halted due to high temperatures but will resume when temperatures cool in the fall.

Northern District

ACP detection trapping is ongoing in Placer, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties. Winter ACP trapping will resume in November 2022 and training will be provided to county pest detection supervisors and trappers. ACP delimitation trapping is ongoing in Alameda County with no subsequent detections. Delimitation trapping is also ongoing in Santa Clara County with detections ongoing and traps serviced monthly. Biocontrol releases are continuing in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with an average of 6,500 *Tamarixia* released monthly.

Santa Clara County Update

Kyle Young presented the Santa Clara County update and stated that the county has demographics and international ports of entry that make the area susceptible to ACP and HLB introductions. A decision was previously made by the committee to stop treating due to the lack of commercial citrus and focus on delimitation trapping and biocontrol releases. ACP delimitation Area 1 was established in July 2020 with 560 traps serviced monthly over 27 square miles. ACP delimitation Area 2 was established in April 2021 with 175 traps serviced monthly. Delimitation for Area 2 ended in April 2022. The delimitation area was expanded by four grids in April 2022 due to additional ACP detections. There have been detections at four new properties since June 2022. Biocontrol releases have been conducted from July 2020 through September 2022 with 165,000 *Tamarixia* released at 376 properties. A deeper dive will be presented at the November meeting.

Tree Removal Contracts

Anmol Joshi presented information on the tree removal contracts in Southern California. There are five tree removal contracts, one for each of the counties where HLB has been confirmed (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego). Two companies cover all five counties. Each contract is for two years and contractors need to provide adequate staff to remove up to 40 citrus trees per week. Usually, two to three contractor employees conduct the HLB infected tree removals, but a second crew is requested in case there is a need to remove more trees in a week. CPDPD staff oversee the entire tree removal process. CPDPD staff make the initial contract by visiting the property and informing the resident about the detections of an HLB positive tree. After receiving consent from the homeowner, the tree removal date and time is scheduled as early as possible. CPDPD staff mark the infected tree and conduct foliar treatment to mitigate adult ACP. The contractor must be notified every Wednesday on which trees are to be removed the following week. The contractor conducts a Dig Alert on the scheduled properties 72 hours in advance. Staff meet with the crew and the homeowner on the day of removal. All the remaining host trees are placed on a hold and quadrant survey of the remaining trees is conducted if needed. Staff oversee and assist the tree removal team and remain at the property until the trees are removed and

chipped. The chipped plant debris are transported to the approved green waste facility. The current contract for Los Angeles and Orange Counties will expire on May 30, 2023. The next bidding process will begin six months prior to the end date of the contract.

Cdfa Regulatory and County Agreement Update

Keith presented the county monthly regulatory activity report for July 2021 through June 2022. For this period, transporter and fruit-seller inspections have increased while grower and packing house inspections have remained the same in comparison to the prior year. Notice of violations and notice of proposed action numbers have also decreased. Counties have been performing tracebacks due to detections at packing houses in addition to issues observed while performing their own inspections. Mark McBroom suggested that all parties handling fruit be required to have compliance agreement.

Clean Nursery Stock Program

Keith Okasaki reminded the Committee that CPDPD will be taking over the clean nursery stock program from the Plant Health Division's Nursery Services Program.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan reported that 232,000 parasitoids were released in August in Central and Southern Districts for a total of 2,000,000 released in 2022 and 26,000,000 released since the start of the program. Releases are projected to be higher than the previous year. CRB will also assist with biocontrol production. Releases are prioritized around HLB find sites with 75 percent of all biocontrol agents allocated to areas where HLB has been detected and where trees have been removed. Cdfa will concentrate on new release locations and look at PDRs for ACP finds and focus efforts at those locations. Staff from the County Agricultural Commissioners' offices, CPDPD, and treatment coordinators have been assisting in conducting releases at locations specified by biocontrol staff. This year in Fresno, Kern, and Tulare Counties, 85,000 insects have been released for a total of 500,000 since the start of the program. In Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties, 227,000 insects have been released. In Santa Clara, 57,000 insects have been released.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ethyl Formate Registration Update

Dr. Etienne Rabe reported that the United States Environmental Protection Agency is anticipated to approve the use of ethyl formate in early 2023.

Neonicotinoid Risk Mitigation Update

Casey Creamer reported that there was confusion about the Department of Pesticide Regulations prohibition of the use of neonicotinoids on citrus. He noted that a second draft was released to improve the exception process. Under the revised draft, the mitigations under the citrus category do not apply if neonicotinoids are being used on a quarantined pest. Pesticide use is allowed if a pest control advisor signs off that use is to control a quarantine pest.

Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Regulation Update

Keith Okasaki reported that CDFA is working to investigate nursery stock coming into California and establishing an SOS regulation. Victoria Hornbaker reported that CDFA regulatory staff met with the USDA SOS Cross-Functional Working Group and where it was determined that the state cannot go to one mile quarantine but to keep it a 5 mile quarantine to mirror the existing regulated areas.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Price Adams presented the recent outreach activities. Price explained that according to polls, 75 percent of consumers trust advertising, opinions, and product placements from influencers. Therefore, NST has been continuing working to create Citrus Pest & Disease Prevention Program (CPDPP) partnerships on Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok. CPDPP social media accounts have shared content on tips for growing, harvesting, and sharing homegrown citrus to prevent the spread of HLB and ACP. NST has also been supporting several community events including the Chula Vista Lemon Festival. NST was also secured billboard placement between Orange and Riverside Counties. The collective industry outreach team helped to promote Citrus Pest Management Field Days, hosted by University of California, Riverside (UCR), and Grower Liaison Sandra Zwaal in San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. In response to the detections in Pauma Valley, NST coordinated the crisis communications team in late June and early July and has been developing a response guide for HLB positive finds in a commercial grove. Coordination with USDA about outreach inquires and responses regarding CYVCV are ongoing. NST staff attended the League of California Cities Conference, met with County Agricultural Commissioners, scheduled a presentation for the Monrovia, Arcadia, and Duarte City Councils, and conducted a deskside briefing with Public Information Officers in Ventura County. For FY 2021-22, NST secured 228 total media stories with over half of content coverage earned during National Garden month. Thirty targeted ads were deployed and received 867,569 impressions at the cost of \$2.33 per 1,000 impressions. There were 16 industry meetings and conferences supported and attended, over 4,800 CPDPP annual reports distributed, and 119 new Citrus Insider email sign ups. NST attended four conferences and 26 municipalities shared CPDPP social media content. Upcoming activities include outreach at the Goleta Lemon Festival, a Master Gardener Summit webinar, assisting the SAP in finalizing and distributing recommendations, a Central Coast packinghouse meeting, the Citrus Association of Pest Control Advisors conference, scouting for a field crew supervisor to head the Spanish language trainings, and the San Diego Farm Bureau Annual Farm and Nursery Expo.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) REPORT

Helene Wright reported that the proposal requests for Farm Bill Plant Protection Act (PPA) 7721 closed. She endorsed the Citrus Commodity Survey to supplement the multi-pest survey due to receiving commodity survey funds from PPA 7721. She is also working with CDFA regarding e-commerce shipments that have come from an out of state nursery. Leo Donovall will be fulfilling the role of National Operations Manager following the retirement of Leon Bunce.

California Citrus Mutual (CCM) Report

Casey Creamer reported that CCM has been working with Victoria and USDA to conduct outreach to growers and to seek additional funding for CYVCV. Victoria was able to secure some funding from CDFA while USDA secured some federal funds. CCM will work to increase the general fund allocation for FY 2022-23 and has been working with State colleagues in Texas and Florida for the FY 2022-23 appropriation's cycle.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report

Marcy Martin announced that CRB will host the International Research HLB Conference in 2024. Additionally, CRB's Citrus Conference will be on October 19 at the Visalia Convention Center. The CRB lab is currently running at 40 percent capacity. Up to 1,000 ACP and tissue samples may be processed per week at full capacity. CRB's crop estimate has projected 70,110,000 navels, 19,000,000 valencias, 45,125,000 lemons, 8,500,000 grapefruits, and 45,000,000, for a total of 187,735,000 total citrus.

Citrus Pest Detection Program (CPDP) Report

Dr. Subhas Hajeri presented the pest control district updates for San Joaquin Valley from April through September 2022. He explained that the CPDP uses the commercial grove risk-based survey model to deploy 3-D traps and conducting visual and perimeter survey for HLB symptoms. Plant material is only be collected if symptomatic leaves are identified. Traps are set within a block for two weeks and then collected for inspection. Each crew deploys 100 traps during the two-week window. Subhas suggested routinely testing ACP for CLAs and monitoring trees as methods for preventing HLB from being established in Central California. CPDP is in the process of renewing their non-regulatory diagnostics laboratory permit for CLAs testing.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Update

Victoria stated that CDFA has secured a contractor and CDFA is providing information on field operations. There is an aggressive timeline to recertify the PEIR within one year.

CYVCV Update

Victoria reported that CYVCV survey was halted due to high temperatures during the summer months because symptom expression is temperature dependent. Now that temperatures are decreasing below 100 degrees Fahrenheit for an extended period, survey for CYVCV will resume on September 26. The focus will be to deemphasize surveying the core area in the city of Tulare. CDFA has worked with USDA's Cross-Functional Working Group to develop a revised survey expanding to a 7-mile area and surveying every property bisected by the arc. Samples will be collected from all citrus trees, regardless of observable symptoms. If no detections are found, the area will be reduced to a 6-mile arc. If detections are found, the area will be expanded to an 8-mile arc. Determining the extent of infestation will permit the engagement of regulatory work. A hold notice has been established on each property where a positive tree detection has been found, barring the property from moving plants, fruit, or any materials from the property. CDFA has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Tristeza

agency so that they may partner with Dr. Ray Yokomi on a transmissibility study. There has been a lot of media interest in CYVCV, but CDFA has been working with USDA and NST to ensure communications are coordinated.

The meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 9, 2022 in Visalia, California.