

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 5, 2022**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	John Gless	Keith Watkins
Brad Carmen	Roger Smith	

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Zac Green

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Kelley Aubushon	Mathew Jian	David Paynter
Fernando Berber	Marina Kaiser	David Phong
Karina Chu	Sara Khalid	Lydia Rodriguez
Kiana Dao	Lucita Kumagai	Briana Russell
Amelia Everett	Daniel Lee	Michael Soltero
Paul Figueroa	Magally Luque-Williams	Claudia Vazquez
Alisha Garcia	Zachary McCormack	Jennifer Willems
David Gutierrez	Alex Muniz	
Victoria Hornbaker	Keith Okasaki	

Guests:

Teri Blaser	Jasmine Lopez	Drew Posny
Melissa Cregan	Weiqi Luo	Cressida Silvers
Rick Dunn	Marcy Martin	Stephanie Stark
Lisa Finke	Mark McBroom	Judy Zaninovich
James Gorden	Margaret O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal
Subhas Hajeri	Sandra Olkowski	Qijun Xiang
Melinda Klein	Curtis Pate	
Jessica Leslie	Jared Plumlee	

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022. Keith Watkins welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported that *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive trees were detected in Jurupa Valley on November 24 and in Riverside on November 30, 2021. These detections merged both huanglongbing (HLB) quarantines together. Additionally, there were multiple HLB detections in the Ontario and Anaheim delimitations. HLB delimitation surveys are ongoing in Westminster, Rancho Cucamonga, Anaheim,

Riverside, Ontario, and Pico Rivera. There were 1,844 quadrant samples taken in November and December 2021. Most of the samples came from Orange and San Bernardino counties. There were 241 HLB positive trees in November and December, with 165 trees removed. Weather and homeowner availability during the holiday season impacted tree removal. HLB border buffer risk survey in San Diego and Imperial counties were completed.

Anmol discussed the procedure for refusal properties and stated that the first two weeks after a detection staff will visit the property several times and leave notifications. After multiple attempts with no response, an outreach letter is mailed. To increase contact for these properties, some staff work on Saturdays.

A discussion ensued on whether compensation is an option for tree removal. Victoria Hornbaker stated that providing compensation would set precedent for other programs. For example, the fruit fly program does not provide compensation for fruit removal. Since there is no cure for HLB infected trees, removal of the dying tree is a free service for residents provided by CDFA.

Laboratory Update:

Lucita Kumagai reported that in 2021, approximately 100,000 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) and plant samples were analyzed. In 2021, there were a total of 598 CLAs positive trees detected, bringing the total of infected trees to 2,840 since 2012. The majority of the positive detections are in Orange County. The positivity rate has increased slightly, to 0.9 percent positive, in 2021.

Repairs to the laboratory facility will begin January 18, 2022 and last approximately four weeks. Equipment will be moved to areas in the lab not affected by construction and will not impact the preparation of plant samples. Victoria confirmed the Citrus Research Board (CRB) lab is certified to process both plant and ACP samples, and can be utilized in an emergency.

Risk Research Survey

David Phong reported HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 1 is 100 percent complete. Survey spanned from March 2021 to December 2021 across 36 counties with 55,194 properties surveyed, 12,946 ACP samples collected, and 19,379 plant samples collected. HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 2 started in November 2021 and covers 37 counties and is ten percent complete with 3,862 properties surveyed. Stanislaus and Monterey counties are complete. The total properties sampled are 1,878 with 1,047 ACP samples and 1,279 plant samples collected.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported that for the first four months of the 15-month agreement period, the counties' budgets are on track and the number of inspections is comparable to last year.

County Tracking and Activities

Keith stated that the number of Notices of Violation (NOV) and Notices of Proposed Action has increased over the last year. Counties are doing a good job communicating with the CDFA staff and each other to maintain consistency.

Grate Cleaning Update

Keith reported that majority of grate cleaning inspections occurred at the beginning of the year and in August, depending on the season. CDFA expects counties to inspect ten percent of grate cleaned bins, which the counties have met and exceeded. Some inspections had higher leaves present in the bins at the beginning of 2021, resulting in NOVs and warnings. When asked by packing houses, CDFA has provided suggestions on how to improve the grate cleaning process.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported that inclement weather caused a delay in treatment in December 2021. Emergency treatment near commercial citrus groves will start at the end of January or early February 2022. In November and December 2021, three public meetings were held with two more scheduled in January. Treatment is complete in the city of Orange. Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Anaheim are ongoing at 81, 77, and 87 percent complete, respectively.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported four ACP detections in Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Monterey counties. The 50-meter survey was completed for the detection in Tulare County, delimitation traps were deployed, and treatment is ongoing with only one residence remaining. The Fresno County detection was deemed a regulatory incident having occurred at a packing house. The 50-meter survey, delimitation trap deployment, and treatment preparations were underway for the ACP detection in Monterey County. Delimitation trapping in Kern and San Luis Obispo (SLO) counties are ongoing. Detection trapping is ongoing in Fresno and Madera counties.

Santa Barbara border traps averaged 17 ACP per trap in November, prompting SLO County to request treatment along the Santa Barbara border, with permission from the Santa Barbara Agricultural Commissioner's office. Treatment is estimated at \$50,000. Roger Smith made a motion to present the \$50,000 budget increase for treatment in Santa Maria in Santa Barbara County to the full committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Biocontrol releases continued in Kern and SLO Counties, including Santa Barbara County near commercial groves and in the city of Santa Maria. Dr. David Morgan will work with Santa Barbara County Agricultural Commissioner's office to begin a monitoring program for Santa Maria to establish effectiveness of biocontrol releases. Staff finished citrus commodity surveys for 2021.

Northern District

Zachary McCormick reported that ACP detection trapping has started in 21 counties. Santa Clara has ongoing detections and has 598 traps deployed across 27 delimitation grids. A new ACP detection in Alameda County at an industrial park resulted in 110 delimitation traps. HLB risk-based research survey 2021 cycle 2 started in November consisting of 20 counties covering 1,597 square miles.

Regional/GL ACP Updates

Sara Khalid reported that Fresno, Northern Tulare, and Kern Counties each had one ACP detection. Kern County had 18 detections in 2021. Winter area-wide treatments are scheduled to begin January 2022. ACP canine teams were in Imperial County and had ACP detections in eight citrus groves with all testing negative for CLAs.

Additionally, Victoria Hornbaker is working on a consultation to invite tribal representatives to an informational session to learn about the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division and the benefits of the citrus program.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported that inclement weather and COVID-19 slowed activities in December yet the program managed to release 266,000 *Tamarixia*. These releases were in Los Angeles, Orange, Ventura, Kern, San Diego, Imperial, San Bernardino, Santa Clara Counties, and in Arizona. Over three million *Tamarixia* were released in 2021. Eighty one percent of releases were around HLB detection areas. The monitoring shows a reduction in ACP populations. In 2015, the average ACP found per flush was 53 compared to 0.2 in 2021. A scientific article was recently published on how controlling Argentine ant populations leads to *Tamarixia*'s effectiveness.

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

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Dr. Sandra Olkowski reported that CRB is actively recruiting for the DATOC program manager. The third quarter sampling data is being analyzed. The Kern County buffers are being analyzed and will meet with grower liaisons to discuss a path forward.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn continues to work on the Fresno County citrus layer. He will update Southern California's citrus layer after Fresno County is complete. The December 2021 grove sampling program saw a drop in ACP collections due to weather, illness, and holidays.

OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Update

Victoria Hornbaker continues to work with the Legal Office on the PEIR. Major impacts to field activities are not anticipated as the team continues to identify alternate paths for California Environmental Quality Act compliance.

At the request of the Subcommittee, CDFA will present the expansion of the HLB quarantine over time at the full committee meeting on January 12.

Adjournment

The next meeting will be on March 2, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.