

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

Operations and Science Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball*	Jim Gorden	Rod Radtke
Franco Bernardi	Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Roger Smith*
Brad Carmen	Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Ram Uckoo*
Aaron Dillon*	Jared Plumlee*	Keith Watkins
John C. Gless*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*	

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Kelley Aubushon	Marina Kaiser*	Lea Pereira*
Carl Baum	Sara Khalid*	David Phong*
Karina Chu*	Lucita Kumagai*	Grace Radabaugh*
Kiana Dao*	Daniel Lee*	Briana Russell*
Samuel Ferris*	Betty Lee*	Siv Rathkiry*
Paul Figueroa*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez	Dr. David Morgan*	Claudia Vazquez*
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz*	Nilan Watmore
Anmol Joshi	David Paynter*	Jennifer Willems*

Guests:

Craig Armstrong*	Karen Lowerison*	Curtis Pate*
Teri Blaser	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Cressida Silvers*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Marcy Martin*	Leigh Sitler*
Daniel Delgado*	Joey Mayorquin*	Ellen Way*
Rick Dunn	Mark McBroom*	Karen Westerman*
Lisa Finke	Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich*
Ariana Gehrig*	Daniel Nelson*	Sandra Zwaal*
Scott Hudson*	Mia Neunzig*	Qijun Xiang*
Jessica Leslie*	Margaret O'Neill*	
Jasmine Lopez*	Sandra Olkowski*	

* Participated via webinar.

Opening

John C. Gless called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee joint Operations and Science Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2023. John C. Gless welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

RISK-BASED SURVEY DESIGN

Dr. Weiqi Luo reported on adjusting the risk-based survey model strategy for both residential and commercial survey in California. Considering the densities of huanglongbing (HLB) infected trees, the intensity of Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) populations, and the ACP dispersal curve, the Science Advisory Panel (SAP) had several recommendations to make the risk-based survey more effective. The first recommendation is splitting the state into two risk-based surveys: Northern/Central and Southern California. There is a significant difference in ACP and HLB management between the two areas and each warrant a separate survey. The second recommendation is that each risk-based survey model should be weighted differently to increase effectiveness. The SAP also suggested increasing the number of residential properties surveyed around commercial citrus groves. The final recommendation the SAP made was to invoke commercial risk-based survey in Southern California. Subcommittee members had many questions and concerns about the weightings for various factors and proposed a higher weighting on the vicinity to packing houses, organic citrus production locations, and locations ACP breeding populations. Victoria Hornbaker will establish a working group to discuss the model weighting for Southern and Northern/Central California. The working group will include several Science Subcommittee members and CDFA staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported a new positive HLB tree was detected in Rancho Bernardo, in San Diego County, on January 24, 2023. There was a total of six trees that tested positive for HLB and they have all been removed. The delimitation survey and response are complete in San Diego 1 and 2 but are ongoing in San Diego 3. HLB positive trees have been found for the first time in Costa Mesa, Brea, Buena Park, Stanton, and Midway City, all of which are in Orange County. Delimitation survey is ongoing in Duarte, Norwalk, Pomona, La Mirada, San Diego, Corona, Ontario, Fontana, Chino, Westminster, Placentia, the city of Orange, Santa Ana, and Anaheim. The two-mile HLB buffer risk survey on the California-Mexico border, including San Diego and Imperial counties, is ongoing. In January and February, quadrant survey samples totaled 3,038, with 417 HLB positive trees detected. 274 of those HLB positive trees were removed. Warrants were obtained to remove HLB positive trees when the homeowners refused. The majority of the remaining HLB positive trees have been scheduled for removal over the next few weeks or are in the process of obtaining a warrant.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported the laboratory tested 71,830 plant and 35,853 ACP samples in

2022. Since 2008 through February 28, 2023, there have been 3,292 sites sampled with positive HLB trees and/or *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive ACP, 4,607 HLB positive trees, and 670 confirmed CLAs positive ACP samples. The HLB and CLAs positive samples have been increasing since 2015, with 2022 being the highest. In 2022, the ACP positivity rate for CLAs was 0.46 percent and 0.27 percent for HLB plant samples. The Operations Subcommittee requested a slide showing CLAs positive ACP per city and the positive HLB tree samples. CDFA will provide a map with the new CLAs positive ACP detections. Currently, 92 percent of the CLAs positive ACP samples were collected in Orange County.

HLB Risk Survey

David Phong reported the HLB risk survey cycle 1 2022 is 89 percent complete. There are 31 counties completed out of the 42 allocated counties. To date, 37,920 properties were surveyed, with 9,078 entomology samples and 9,698 plant samples collected. The inclement weather and treatment activities over the last few months have caused a delay in cycle 1 2022 being completed. David reported the HLB risk survey cycle 1 2023 is currently in progress in counties that have finished their prior cycle. There are 34 counties allocated with 436 survey grids. The estimated time of completion for cycle 1 2023 is May 2023.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update and HLB Working Group

Kiana Dao reported the sweet orange scab (SOS) rulemaking is open for comments until April 10, 2023. The projected effective date of the SOS state interior quarantine will be July 1, 2023. County ACP agreements are all enacted and in the first three months of this year's agreements, counties have seen several issues, including a lack of notification prior to shipment as well as dirty shipments. Counties have been following up with these issues and diligently communicating with CDFA. County agreements for fiscal year 2023-2024 are in the renewal process. Kiana reported that Keith Okasaki and Brad Carmen are forming a working group in response to the SAP report to evaluate HLB quarantine mitigation and requirements from a scientific perspective.

Grate Cleaning Movement and Discussion

John C. Gless asked if the grate cleaning method is an effective form of mitigation when moving citrus in and across quarantine zones, and if mitigation was necessary within an HLB quarantine zone. Discussion commenced with several Subcommittee members stating their opinion and perspective on this topic. It is a concern that ACP are still found on citrus fruit in bins after grate cleaning is performed. Victoria Hornbaker reported that grate cleaning is not a preapproved mitigation measure, rather it is approved on a case-by-case basis. The working group that Keith and Brad are forming can address the effectiveness of grate cleaning in highly infested areas.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported CDFA staff conducted nine public meetings in January and February for Southern California. HLB delimitation treatments are complete in Fontana, Duarte, Pico Rivera, Pomona, and Costa Mesa. Treatment is ongoing in Corona, Riverside, Chino, Jurupa Valley, Bell Flower, Rosemead, Irvine, the city of Orange, Anaheim, and Santa Ana. Treatment along the Mexican border is ongoing in both San Diego and Imperial counties. Treatment near commercial groves is ongoing in Coachella and near the University of California, Riverside. Southern California has 32 vacant positions, with six being permanent positions.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported 33 ACP detections from December 7, 2022, to March 3, 2023, of which 25 detections were in Monterey County. Recent weather activities have hampered detection and delimitation trapping, which are ongoing. Several public meetings were conducted for ACP treatment. A total of 84,200 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in six counties from December 2022 to February 2023. The majority were released in Kern County, which will continue to be the area of focus. The Central District has 10 vacant permanent positions.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported winter and year-round trapping is ongoing. Delimitation is ongoing in Los Arboles. ACP treatment in the San Jose area was completed at 36 properties on December 13, 2022. HLB risk survey cycle 1 2022 is 92 percent complete, with an estimated completion at the end of March. The Northern District has four vacant permanent positions.

Regional/GL ACP

Teri Blaser reported no new ACP detections in Northern Tulare, Fresno, or Madera counties. The focus has been recruiting new team leaders for the Pest Management Areas in Fresno and Madera counties. Jessica Leslie reported no new ACP detections in Southern Tulare County for 2023. Judy Zaninovich reported several ACP detections occurred in Kern County in January and February, in which only one detection had commercial citrus close by. All growers were contacted, and treatment was applied. Cressida Silvers reported no new ACP detections in San Luis Obispo since early December. The grower file for 2023 is being updated for Santa Barbara County. Sandra Zwaal reported the Rancho Bernardo HLB detection has over 45 commercial groves located in the five-mile quarantine area. There are HLB hotspots in both Corona and Jurupa Valley of Riverside County and in Ontario and Fontana in San Bernardino County. None of these hotspots have commercial groves in the delimitation area. Curtis Pate reported winter-area wide treatment has concluded with high compliance. ACP detections continue to happen at low levels, and growers retreated where needed. All grower liaisons sent grower updates via email, as well as attended and presented at various meetings.

Biocontrol

Dr. David Morgan reported 3,160,300 *Tamarixia* were released in 2022. Most of the releases were around HLB quarantines in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. Other release areas included borders, trade routes, area-wide management, and newly established ACP populations. In 2022, there have been fewer releases, but larger amounts released at a time. Additionally, releases were focused around canine alerts and detections. The renovation at the Mt. Rubidoux facility was completed, which will increase production numbers. The Arvin facility will be going through a renovation, but it is still in the early planning stages.

ACP Canine Report

Lisa Finke reported 2,534 residential trees and 133,432 commercial trees were inspected in California in 2022 by the ACP detection canines. Most of the inspections occurred in Imperial County, Fresno County, and Coachella Valley. Lisa was asked by the ACP canine working group to develop a budget, a standard operating procedure, and a food safety risk assessment to address concerns of canine teams working in packing houses and/or in commercial citrus groves.

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

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reported revisions to the statewide citrus layer are complete in Imperial County and ongoing for San Diego County. Collaboration is still ongoing with CDFA staff on the NOMAD™ replacement system. The new replacement system in development is near the beta testing stage. Rick discussed the current area-wide buffer trapping schedule that the Cooperative Agricultural Support Services (CASS) staff perform and proposed a modification to the trapping schedule. He suggested only placing the traps one to two months prior to a treatment window, allowing CASS staff to increase ACP sampling in non-trapping months, which will increase testing for CLAs in commercial citrus. A motion was made to present a reduction in the months for CASS area-wide buffer trapping in southern California to the full committee. Keith Watkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote of the Operations Subcommittee was taken, the motion passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:31 p.m. and the next meeting will be on May 10, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.