

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 12, 2023**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Brad Carmen*	Jim Gorden*	Keith Watkins
John C. Gless*	Roger Smith	

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Kevin Ball	Franco Bernardi	Jared Plumlee
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California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Paul Figueroa*	Daniel Lee*	Lea Pereira*
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams*	Rathkiry Siv*
Victoria Hornbaker	Andrew Mitchell*	Michael Soltero*
Laura Irons*	Dr. David Morgan*	Patty Tran*
Anmol Joshi	Alex Muniz*	Fabian Velasco
Lucita Kumagai*	Lauren Murphy	Nilan Watmore
Betty Lee*	Keith Okasaki*	Jennifer Willems

Guests:

Casey Creamer*	Jessica Leslie*	Curtis Pate*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Jasmine Lopez*	Rod Radtke
Daniel Delgado*	Karen Lowerison*	Cressida Silvers*
Rick Dunn	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Leigh Sitler*
Lisa Finke*	Marcy Martin*	Karen Westerman*
Ariana Gehrig*	Mark McBroom*	Qijun Xiang*
Dr. Subhas Hajeri*	Daniel Nelson*	Judy Zaninovich*
Logan Henderson*	Mia Neunzig*	Sandra Zwaal*
Melinda Klein*	Margaret O'Neill*	

*Participated via webinar

Opening

John C. Gless called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee Operations Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, July 12, 2023. John C. Gless welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported 36 total huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees were detected in Rancho Bernardo, San Diego County. All detections were within the same area and all trees have been removed. Delimitation surveys and treatments were completed, however twelve refusal properties remain. There were two HLB positive trees detected in the city of Los Angeles, which extended the quarantine boundary. Los Angeles County had two *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive Asian citrus psyllids (ACP) in the cities of Claremont and Santa Fe Springs. The Woodcrest grove CLAs positive ACP detection from 2020 has been resurveyed annually since, with no new detections. The Palma Valley grove CLAs positive ACP detection from 2022 was just resurveyed with sample results pending. HLB delimitation surveys are ongoing in Rosemead, Artesia, La Puente, Paramount, El Monte, San Diego, Ontario, Tustin, Orange, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Anaheim, Fullerton, Westminster, Yorba Linda, and Placentia. Delimitation surveys have been completed in Corona and Fontana. In May and June, quadrant survey samples totaled 4,564. There were a total of 589 HLB positive trees, with 186 removed and 636 pending removals in Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported the laboratory tested 18,839 plant and 767 ACP samples in May and June. Total samples tested for 2023 is 41,784 plant and 5,920 ACP samples. As of June 30, there have been 3,831 sites with positive HLB and/or CLAs detections, 5,562 HLB positive tree detections, and 714 CLAs positive ACP. The year-to-date positivity rate of infected samples was 3.82 percent for plant samples and 2.79 percent for ACP samples.

HLB Risk Survey

Nilan Watmore reported the updates for the HLB risk survey cycle 1 2023. All assigned grids were completed in both the Northern and Central Districts. Supplemental risk folders were added in July. Cycle 1 2023 began in February and is 58 percent complete statewide. There were 14 counties completed out of the 41 allocated counties. To date, 8,169 properties have been surveyed, with 853 entomology samples and 1,883 plant samples.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported that regulatory activity is comparable to prior years. There was a drop in notice of violations and notice of proposed actions, while fruit seller inspections have increased. CDFA regulatory staff continue to follow up and investigate e-commerce and residential nursery activity around the state, especially in the HLB quarantine zones. The sweet orange scab regulations have been approved and will go into effect on October 1, 2023.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported HLB delimitation treatments are complete in Jurupa Valley, Eastvale, Ontario, Chino, El Monte, La Mirada, and San Diego. HLB treatments are ongoing in Corona, Hacienda Heights, Pico Rivera, Whittier, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Westminster. Public meetings for delimitation treatments were held for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties last month.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported trapping is ongoing in the Central District. In June, there was one ACP detection in a commercial citrus grove in Tulare County. Treatment in both Kern and Monterey Counties were completed and each county is servicing the delimitation traps. A total of 23,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in Kern, Santa Barbara, and Monterey Counties in May and June.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported trapping is ongoing in the Northern District. In June 6,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in Santa Clara County. The supplemental folders for HLB risk survey cycle 1 2023 were issued to five additional counties.

Biocontrol

Dr. David Morgan reported *Tamarixia radiata* production is going well. HLB areas received 77 percent of the *Tamarixia* releases, with Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside Counties releasing a total of 685,000 *Tamarixia*. The new process on release locations is running great. Staff access the Pest Diagnostic Report database to determine new detection locations for releases. *Tamarixia* continues to be provided to Arizona for releases along the border. Mexico is not currently receiving *Tamarixia*. Citrus flush increased earlier this year due to high moisture, however, in June, the flush was greatly reduced due to the high heat. Low flush corresponds to lower ACP populations.

A question was brought up regarding communication with the Government of Mexico regarding HLB/ACP activity on the Mexico border. Victoria Hornbaker stated that she reached out to the United States Department of Agriculture to resume bilateral communication that had stopped during the COVID-19 outbreak.

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

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reported that staff continues to assist with the statewide commercial citrus layer maintenance, updating the University of California, Agriculture and Natural Resources interactive web map with ACP, biocontrol, CLAs positive ACP detections, and HLB positive detection data. The previous proposal for modifying the trapping schedule, approved by the committee, will begin in August 2023, implementing the first dormant period. Work continues on developing an iPhone trapping application with the Plant Data Analysis Services and Data Analysis and Visualization Unit. The beta testing

phase is near completion.

OTHER ITEMS

ACP Trap Comparison Summary

Daniel Lee reported the results of an efficacy test comparing three types of ACP traps: yellow panel, no-mess, and 3-dimensional (3D) traps. Comparisons were based on ACP counts for each trap. The 3D trap and no-mess trap did not attract as many ACP as the yellow panel trap. The no-mess traps allow easy removal of ACP at the laboratory and may allow CLas testing up to two weeks longer, however, they cost five times more.

Victoria Hornbaker added that the 3D traps contain anti-freeze that is used as a fixative agent. If 3D traps were to be used, it would need to be analyzed for California Environmental Quality Act compliance.

HLB Quarantine Nursery Proposal

Victoria Hornbaker provided an update from Aaron Dillon on the progress of the proposal to allow citrus nursery stock (CNS) to be sold in the HLB quarantine zone. The proposal has several requirements that nurseries will have to meet, including, CNS would need to be stored within a structure, quantity limitations, and duration. A recommendation was made by Roger Smith and, after some discussion, revised to recommend the full committee approve a limited distribution program of clean CNS to no more than 250 trees per store, following the compliance agreements that would be issued. Jim Gorden seconded the recommendation. After additional discussion and a roll call vote, the recommendation did not pass.

ACP Canine Detection

Subcommittee members discussed the utility of the ACP canines. Given the budgetary constraints for the current fiscal year, it was decided to not fund the ACP canine detection team and that growers and/or PCDs are encouraged to use the canine services as they deem necessary.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. and the next meeting will be on October 11, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.