

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball*	John C. Gless*	Roger Smith*
Franco Bernardi*	Jim Gorden*	Keith Watkins*
Brad Carmen*		

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Jared Plumlee

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Paul Figueroa*	Zachary McCormack*	Lea Pereira*
David Gutierrez	Dr. David Morgan*	David Phong*
Christina Huggins*	Alex Muniz*	Michael Soltero*
Victoria Hornbaker	Lauren Murphy*	Jemellee Urbino*
Laura Irons*	Raymond Niem*	Fabian Velasco*
Anmol Joshi*	Keith Okasaki*	Nilan Watmore*
Lucita Kumagai*	David Paynter*	Jennifer Willems*
Daniel Lee*		

Guests:

Laura Arellano*	Derek Knobel*	Margaret O'Neill*
Casey Creamer*	Jessica Leslie*	Curtis Pate*
Aaron Dillon*	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Steve Scholle*
Rick Dunn*	Mark McBroom*	Cressida Silvers*
Lisa Finke*	Brianna McGuire*	Greta Varien*
Ariana Gehrig*	Neil McRoberts*	Qijun Xiang*
Dr. Subhas Hajeri*	Daniel Nelson*	Judy Zaninovich*
Melinda Klein*	Mia Neunzig*	Sandra Zwaal*

*Participated via webinar

Opening

John C. Gless called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, October 11, 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 that three additional huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees were detected and removed in Rancho Bernardo, San Diego County. Warrants for the 12 treatment and survey refusal properties in Rancho Bernardo are in process. There have been multiple HLB detections in Ontario, Corona, Anaheim, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, City of Orange, Irvine, Pico Rivera, Duarte, Downey, and El Monte. HLB delimitation surveys were completed in Temple City, Claremont, Fontana, Chino, San Diego, and Jurupa Valley. Delimitation surveys are ongoing in Duarte, city of Los Angeles, Ontario, Corona, Pico Rivera, Rosemead, City of Orange, Santa Ana, Cypress, Tustin, Anaheim, and Buena Park. Since July's subcommittee meeting, 2,464 quadrant survey samples have been conducted. HLB positive tree detections from July thru September totaled 806, with 803 trees removed and 672 trees pending removal.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported that 17,965 plant and 942 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples were submitted for analysis from July through September. Year-to-date, the Plant Pest Diagnostic Center has received a total of 56,760 plant samples and 33 ACP samples, and the Jerry Dimitman laboratory received 2,989 plant samples and 6,829 ACP samples. This brings the overall total to 59,749 plant samples and 6,862 ACP samples. Since 2012, there have been 4,377 sites with positive HLB and/or *Candidatus* Liberibacter asiaticus (CLAs) detections with 6,481 HLB positive tree detections and 751 CLAs positive ACP samples.

HLB Risk-Based Research Survey

David Phong reported the HLB risk survey cycle 2 started in August 2023 and is currently 11 percent complete. There is one county completed out of the 34 allocated counties. To date, 803 properties have been surveyed, with 22 entomology samples and 73 plant samples.

Roger Smith asked about low plant sample numbers compared to the number of sites that have been surveyed. Victoria Hornbaker stated that the current protocol is to only collect samples when symptomatic plant tissue is observed. A request for a lab capacity analysis was made to determine the maximum number of samples the lab can process. Lucita Kumagai will address this at the next full committee meeting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported regulatory activities were completed for the 2022-2023 agreement period. Overall, the counties increased their inspection numbers, had better communication for more consistent regulation, and focused on prioritizing inspections based on perceived risk. The new Ventura County HLB quarantine went into effect on October 3, 2023, and is roughly 101 square miles. The sweet orange scab regulation went into effect on October 2, 2023, and the quarantine areas follow a five-mile radius from each detection.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported HLB delimitation treatments were completed in Claremont, Chino, Duarte, Placentia, Yorba Linda, Costa Mesa, and Jurupa Valley. HLB treatment is ongoing in Corona, Ontario, and the City of Los Angeles. All HLB delimitation treatment activities for find sites and adjacent properties were completed, except in Santa Ana and Stanton. Public meetings were held for Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties since the last subcommittee meeting.

Central District

There were no ACP detections reported in the Central Valley since the last meeting. Jennifer Willems also reported that detection and delimitation trapping activities were ongoing. The Cooperative Agricultural Support Services (CASS) grove traps were removed as of September 13, 2023. CDFA started deploying grove traps on September 18, 2023. Placement of the CDFA grove traps are one-quarter mile away from any glassy wing sharpshooter traps. Staff assisted Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division on the *Tau* fruit fly eradication project in Santa Clarita from July through September 2023. Multi-pest survey is ongoing, and commodity survey will resume for the fall cycle. On September 19, 2023, a CLas positive ACP was confirmed in Santa Paula, Ventura County, on a residential property. Treatment activities for the find site and adjacent properties were completed. A public meeting was held for Santa Paula on October 4, 2023, and treatment for the 250-meter treatment boundary will start the week of October 9, 2023. The 250-meter delimitation survey resulted in a total of 13 HLB positive trees, which were scheduled to be removed on October 10 and 11, 2023.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported CDFA winter traps were deployed. Delimitation trapping is ongoing with no new detections. The HLB risk survey Cycle 2 2023 is ongoing and is three percent complete.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported that 28.7 million *Tamarixia radiata* have been released since the beginning of the program. To date in 2023, 1.7 million *T. radiata* were released. The current focus is on Ventura County due to the new HLB positive tree detections. Since 2015, the biocontrol program has been monitoring 27 sites for ACP, *T. radiata* and flush. In the last year, no ACP have been found on any of those sites.

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

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn reported that he continues to assist with the statewide citrus layer maintenance. Work on the statewide citrus layer is ongoing, with Tulare County near completion. Nancy Ying is currently working on the Kings County citrus layer. Rick continues to work with the Psyllid Management Area group activities, the grower

liaisons, and the regional ACP/HLB task force groups, particularly in San Joaquin Valley. CASS has ten grove trappers and one supervisor in the Southern California area. Monterey and Placer Counties will be continuing to service grove traps in their respective areas.

OTHER ITEMS

Trapping and Survey Analysis

David Phong reported on the Southern California grove trapping dashboard. The dashboard was designed to enhance the subcommittee's ability to make optimized decisions around commercial groves. The dashboard shows HLB quarantine zones the locations where multi-pest survey, citrus commodity survey, and the CASS sentinel grove sampling survey are conducted. David also explained that the sentinel grove sampling program has approximately 9,000 set citrus trees that are sampled two times each year. The sentinel trees are in commercial groves where CDFA conducts citrus commodity survey. To further reduce expenditures, an analysis was conducted that showed discontinuing the sentinel grove sampling survey will save approximately \$500,000 a year. The citrus division will continue to provide broad and more intensive surveys year-round throughout Southern California.

Jim Gordon asked to define the different types of surveys and what they entail. This will be provided to the subcommittee members.

HLB Quarantine Zone Mitigation Options

Mark McBroom reported on the mitigation options with the new HLB quarantine zone in Ventura County. Growers had questions regarding the mitigation options to allow the movement of fruit. The effectiveness of the mitigations and distances within and across the HLB quarantine zones were discussed. An analysis of the effectiveness of the mitigation was requested. Keith Okasaki stated that with the help of the science subcommittee, a comprehensive look into the mitigations will be presented at the next full committee meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m., and the next meeting will be on January 10, at 9:00 a.m. via webinar.