

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
October 25, 2023, Minutes**

There was a quorum of the Executive Committee, and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members:

Bob Felts, Jr.*	Mark McBroom*	Keith Watkins*
John C. Gless*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*	

Executive Committee Members Absent:

CDFA Staff:

Paul Figueroa*	Sarah Khalid*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez*	David Morgan*	ThuyVy Truong*
Victoria Hornbaker*	Keith Okasaki*	Jennifer Willems*
Laura Irons*	David Phong*	Jason Wu*
Anmol Joshi*		

Other Attendees:

Kevin Ball*	Natalie DeAngelo*	Mia Neunzig*
Georgios Vidalakis*		

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Mark McBroom called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m., welcoming Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

Ventura HLB Detections:

Victoria Hornbaker reported there have been 22 huanglongbing (HLB) detections in Ventura County, with 12 more detections found in recent days. The new detections are within the 250-meter delimitation area. Dr. Etienne Rabe asked if strain identifications were done and Victoria advised that California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) does not normally do strain identifications, but she will inquire about sending the samples to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) laboratory.

Keith Okasaki reported the Santa Paula quarantine includes four times more citrus acreage than all the other HLB quarantines combined. Keith advised that the regulatory team is proposing three mitigation requirement changes. The first is that other than tarping, there would be no mitigation requirement for bulk citrus moved within a contiguous HLB quarantine and the same original Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine zone. This means that if the growers harvest the fruit within the HLB quarantine, they can move the (tarp) fruit to a packinghouse within the same quarantine area, without additional mitigation efforts.

Keith advised the second proposed change is for fruit moving from an HLB quarantine to a non-contiguous HLB quarantine. One mitigation would be required to move fruit rather than the dual mitigation or wet wash that is currently required.

Keith added the third proposed change is for fruit moving outside of a quarantine area. The current regulations require two mitigations or a wet wash. The proposed change is that only one mitigation would be required for fruit moving from an HLB quarantine area to a non-HLB quarantined area if within the same county. Fruit moving from a quarantine area to a non-quarantined area in a different county would still require two mitigations or a wet wash. As with the other proposed changes, the tarping requirement remains the same and is not counted as one of the mitigation efforts.

Victoria Hornbaker reminded the committee these are only proposals for their consideration. There was concern expressed that lessening the mitigations may appear unfair to growers in some of the affected areas. John C. Gless stated he feels onerous mitigation requirements lead to growers being afraid to test in their groves for fear that they will trigger a quarantine, John feels the revised regulations could encourage the growers to test more, leading to better HLB containment. Dr. Etienne Rabe added that he feels many of the current requirements are not scientifically sound and should be reevaluated.

Southern California Fruit Fly Detections:

Victoria Hornbaker reported there have been over six hundred fruit fly detections in recent months, a significant increase from the usual one hundred detections per year. Victoria advised that various species of fruit flies have been detected and triggered quarantines in Los Angeles, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. The Oriental Fruit Fly quarantine in parts of San Bernardino and Riverside counties has included over four hundred fruit fly detections and covers two hundred and eight square miles, affecting commercial citrus growers. Victoria reminded the committee that citrus can be a vector for fruit flies and as such, Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) is now supporting CDFA's Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Division (PHPPS) effort against fruit flies. CPDPD is assisting with trapping and treatment activities, as well as amending contracts to help hire trapping staff. Victoria added costs incurred for this assistance will be reimbursed by PHPPS. There was concern mentioned by the Committee about the implications of the possibility of fruit flies becoming established in California.

Outreach Subcommittee Report:

Natalie DeAngelo reported that Nuffer, Smith, Tucker (NST) is working with Ventura County officials to assist with media inquiries they may receive and finalizing the HLB response guide video. Kevin Ball added the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner put out a notice asking the public in the Stevenson Ranch find area to not leave out carved pumpkins due to the fruit fly threat. Kevin added that he spoke to NST about putting out public service announcement-style information regarding both fruit flies and ACP so that the public knows to look for both.

Finance Subcommittee Report

2022/23 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts, Jr. reported 2022/23 expenditures were \$36.2 million compared to \$36.1 million the prior year. Bob added there may be approximately \$50,000 in redirects from CPDPD staff assisting PHHPS. Revenue increased by \$1,015,806 to \$12,705,939, which was just short of anticipated revenue. With more revenue coming in from Valencia orange harvests, Bob anticipates we will get close to the projected revenue numbers.

2023/24 Expenditure and Revenue Reports

Bob Felts, Jr. reported that July 2024 expenditures were \$1,453,244 compared to \$1,502,937 the prior year. August 2024 expenditures were \$3,854,773, compared to \$3,860,470 the prior year. HLB-related activities in the Southern district account for a large part of the expenditures. Bob also advised there was a carry-in of \$7.5 million from prior year.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

John C. Gless stated most of the updates from the Operations subcommittee were given at the start of the meeting and there is nothing further to report.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Etienne Rabe reported additional issues have arisen with the ethyl formate approval and it appears there will be no movement on the matter for the next few months. Dr. Rabe and Mark McBroom expressed disappointment that it has not passed final approval since they feel ethyl formate would help eradicate many current citrus threats.

Other Business:

Victoria Hornbaker reported the Republic of Cypress had its first ACP detection recently and their officials have reached out to CPDPD's Dr. David Morgan and University of Riverside's Dr. Mark Hoddle for assistance. CPDPD and Dr. Mark Hoddle will hold a virtual meeting with the Cypress officials to help them develop their own ACP response.

Closing:

The next committee meeting was moved from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on December 13th, 2023, to accommodate attendance at another industry meeting. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.