

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Franco Bernardi	John C. Gless*	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen*	Jim Gorden	

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

Kevin Ball	Jared Plumlee	Keith Watkins
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**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Fidan Aghayarova*	Laura Irons*	David Paynter*
Ravneet Behla*	Anmol Joshi*	David Phong*
Karina Chu*	Marina Kaiser*	Briana Russell*
Kiana Dao*	Sarah Kraft*	Michael Soltero*
Samuel Ferris*	Lucita Kumagai*	Patty Tran*
Paul Figueroa*	Betty Lee*	Jemellee Urbino*
Stephanie Fragoso*	Daniel Lee*	Nilan Watmore*
David Gutierrez	Zachary McCormack*	Jennifer Willems
Christina Huggins*	Dr. David Morgan*	

**Guests:**

Price Adams*	Dr. Subhas Hajeri*	Sandra Olkowski*
Teri Blaser*	Jonathan Kaplan*	Curtis Pate*
Casey Creamer*	Melinda Klein*	Jason Schwartz*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Jessica Leslie*	Cressida Silvers*
Daniel Delgado*	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Leigh Sitler*
Aaron Dillon	Marcy Martin*	Judy Zaninovich*
Rick Dunn	Neil McRoberts*	Sandra Zwaal*
Lise Finke	Mia Neunzig*	Qijun Xiang*
Ariana Gehrig*	Margaret O'Neil*	

\*Participated via webinar.

## **Opening**

John C. Gless called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Operations Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, May 10, 2023 and 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 there are 21 huanglongbing (HLB) detections in San Diego. Eighteen of the HLB positive trees have been removed, with the three most recent trees scheduled to be removed this week. Delimitation survey and treatment in San Diego County are nearing completion with one area remaining. A public meeting is scheduled for the last area in San Diego, on May 11, 2023. There are 100 properties in San Diego and treatment will take one to two weeks to complete. For the first time, a *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) was detected in West Covina and an HLB positive tree was detected in the City of Industry. HLB delimitation surveys are ongoing in Paramount, La Puente, El Monte, San Diego, Corona, Ontario, Chino, La Habra, the city of Orange, Santa Ana, Anaheim, Fountain Valley, and Fullerton. Delimitation surveys are completed in Fontana and Costa Mesa. In March and April, quadrant survey samples in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernadino, and San Diego Counties totaled 3,896, 352 HLB positive trees were detected, and a total of 372 HLB positive trees were removed, with 264 pending removals. Next month, warrants will be issued to refusal properties. Anmol also reported that the tree removal contract expired on April 30, 2023, and a new contract is underway.

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai reported the laboratory tested 13,534 plant and 1,341 ACP samples in March and April. Year-to-date, the CDFA laboratory received a total of 21,915 plant and 33 ACP samples, and the Citrus Research Board (CRB) laboratory received 1,028 plant and 5,120 ACP samples. This brings the overall total to 28,096 plant and ACP samples year-to-date. Since 2012, there have been 3,540 sites with positive HLB and/or CLAs detections, 5,007 HLB positive tree detections, and 709 CLAs positive ACP. A question was brought up about why there was a reduction in ACP samples collected. Anmol Joshi stated the reduction in ACP samples was due to the suspension of risk survey in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Staff are being redirected to work on delimitation surveys instead.

### **HLB Risk Survey**

Nilan Watmore reported the HLB risk survey cycle 1 2023 is 43 percent complete. There are 14 counties completed out of the 34 allocated counties. To date, 3,466 properties have been surveyed, with 577 entomology samples and 913 plant samples collected.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS**

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Briana Russell reported that regulatory inspections are ongoing. Compliance agreements are being issued and collected for farm labor contractors, and the deadline

for those is June 15, 2023. A total of 71 agreements have been received so far. The sweet orange scab regulations will be adopted July 1, 2023, pending no delays. A regulatory path forward is being developed for citrus yellow vein clearing virus. Staff are following up on e-commerce and residential nursery leads in the HLB quarantine zones.

### **HLB Retail Nurseries and Discussion**

Aaron Dillon reported the current regulatory restrictions on retail sales of citrus nursery stock (CNS) are making it very difficult for homeowners to obtain citrus trees within the HLB quarantine zones. This has caused an increase in the illegal production of citrus trees. A working group was developed through the Science subcommittee to find potential solutions. Drafts of a new compliance agreement have been created and made available to the working group and some county agricultural commissioners (CAC). Feedback on the new agreements has been received from several CAC offices. The proposed compliance agreements for the sale of CNS at retail locations within the HLB quarantine zones would include a measure to have citrus trees inside a building and only available for 90 days, with an option to re-treat the CNS and keep it for sale for an additional 90 days. The goal of this compliance agreement is to minimize the illegal production of citrus trees. A recommendation was made by Roger Smith and seconded by Jim Gorden, and further supported by the subcommittee to move this topic to the full committee for discussion.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION**

### **Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates**

#### *Southern District*

Anmol Joshi reported HLB delimitation treatments are complete in San Diego, Whittier, Rosemead, Downey, La Mirada, Long Beach, Bell Flower, Pico Rivera, La Puente, Anaheim, and Buena Park. HLB delimitation treatments are ongoing in Ontario, Fontana, Norwalk, and Garden Grove. Public meetings were conducted in March and April for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties.

#### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported five new ACP detections, three in Kern County and two in Monterey County. Most of the Kern County treatments are complete, with only refusals and no contact properties remaining. The weather has impacted treatment in King City, Monterey County. Treatment has resumed and is expected to be completed by the end of May 2023. In March and April, a total of 37,600 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in Kern, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Barbara Counties.

#### *Northern District*

Nilan Watmore reported that in the Northern District that ACP delimitation trapping is ongoing. The Northern District is 18 percent complete with HLB risk survey cycle 1 2023.

### **Regional/Grower Liaisons**

Teri Blaser reported no new detections in Fresno, Madera, and Northern Tulare counties. Jessica Leslie reported no new detections in southern Tulare County in 2023.

Judy Zaninovich followed up with the Kern County grower with the ACP detection . The grower is cooperating and has already completed the first ACP treatment and has a second treatment planned. Cressida Silvers reported monthly updates and areawide treatment reminders were sent out. There were no new detections in San Luis Obispo County. Areawide ACP summer treatments started in Ventura County. Sandra Zwaal reported that there were no additional commercial properties in the HLB 250-meter delimitation or the HLB quarantine area in San Diego County. There are HLB detections in both Corona and Jurupa Valley of Riverside County and in Ontario and Fontana of San Bernardino County. Curtis Pate reported there was one ACP trap detection on May 8, 2023. The ACP canines have detected some ACP and they have also been used to help with bio releases of lacewings. Overall, ACP trap detections in Imperial County have been low.

### **Biocontrol**

Dr. David Morgan reported that a total of 650,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in 2023 and 27.6 million released since 2011. The majority of releases, 74 percent, occur around HLB detection areas, and the remaining *T. radiata* are released near the U.S./Mexico border and in new ACP detection locations. Flush monitoring has shown a reduction in new flush, from 90 percent in March to 50 percent in April 2023.

### **ACP Canine Report**

Lisa Finke reported that the ACP detection canine working group met to discuss the budget and food safety documentation. The food safety risk assessment was completed and submitted to Primus Global Food Safety for pre-approval. An expense analysis was conducted for one dog team, which has an annual cost of \$319,405. The annual cost for training a new canine and team is \$396,900. The ages of the current canines range from five to seven years old. The United States Department of Agriculture will automatically retire a detection canine at nine years old. A recommendation was made by Roger Smith and seconded by Jim Gorden, and supported by the subcommittee, to propose to the full committee to discuss funding one dog team for the next fiscal year.

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

### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn reported the statewide commercial citrus layer continues to be updated. Kern and San Diego Counties were completed and Tulare County is underway. CRB continues to support the regional ACP/HLB task force by providing data and mapping services. The modifications to the areawide buffer trapping program were approved at the last full committee meeting. Traps will be placed from June through August and again in November and December, this will allow staff to focus on other tasks in months where there is no trapping activities occurring.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 a.m. and the next meeting will be on July 12, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.