

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 10, 2024**

**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:**

Ravneet Behla*	Daniel Lee*	David Phong*
Ariana De la Torre*	Zachary McCormack*	Rathkiry Siv*
Paul Figueroa*	Dahmoon Maesomy*	Michael Soltero*
David Gutierrez*	Lauren Murphy*	Fabian Velasco*
Victoria Hornbaker*	Deborah Nardo*	Nilan Watmore*
Lucita Kumagai*	Keith Okasaki*	Jennifer Willems*

**Guests:**

Alejandro Alaniz*	Melinda Klein*	Ivan Milosavljevic*
Craig Armstrong*	Jessica Leslie*	Mia Neunzig*
Rob Clark*	Karen Lowerison*	Sandra Olkowski*
Daniel Delgado*	Dr. Weiqi Luo*	Rodney Radtke*
Rick Dunn*	Marcy Martin*	Paige Shewmaker*
Dhiraj Gautam*	Mark McBroom*	Cressida Silvers*
Ariana Gehrig*	Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich*
Veronica Herrera*	Alex Mendenhall*	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 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, January 10, 2024. 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**

Michael Soltero reported a total of 15 huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees detected in Valley Center, in San Diego County. All detections were at the same residential parcel. Delimitation surveys and treatment were completed, and the infected trees have been removed. There are now three HLB quarantine areas in San Diego County which are

Oceanside, Rancho Bernardo, and Valley Center. Additionally, there have been multiple HLB detections in Santa Ana, Anaheim, Westminster, Garden Grove, Irvine, Duarte, Jurupa Valley, Corona, and Ontario. The cities of Norco in Riverside County and Azusa in Los Angeles County had their first detections of HLB positive trees. The HLB delimitation survey is complete in San Gabriel. Delimitation surveys are ongoing in Duarte, Ontario, Valley Center, Jurupa Valley, Corona, Irvine, Yorba Linda, Brea, and Costa Mesa. The Division conducted 15,381 quadrant survey samples in 2023. Between October 2023 to December 2023, there were 658 new HLB positive tree detections, 977 HLB positive trees were removed, and a cumulative total of 400 HLB positive trees are still pending removal. Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVCV) was detected for the first time in Hacienda Heights, in Los Angeles County on November 22, 2023. Coincidentally, this was the same property where HLB was first detected in 2012. The one-mile delimitation survey was completed with a total of 179 suspect plant samples submitted to the lab and are pending. The visual survey for the two-mile delimitation arc is ongoing with approximately 573 properties.

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai reported a total of 87,696 samples were submitted for analysis in 2023. The Plant Pest Diagnostic Center received a total of 72,732 plant samples and 39 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples. The Jerry Dimitman laboratory received a total of 5,086 plant samples and 9,839 ACP samples. Since 2012, there have been 4,741 sites with positive HLB and/or *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) detections. The current total number of HLB positive tree detections is 7,213 and the current total for CLAs positive ACP samples is 778.

### **Multi-Pest Survey Update**

David Phong reported the multi-pest survey cycle 2 started in August 2023 and is currently 39 percent complete. The survey is complete in 9 of 34 allocated counties. To date, 4,467 properties have been surveyed, and 1,014 of those properties have been sampled. Of the properties sampled, 389 entomology samples and 728 plant samples were collected.

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

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki reported that the new agreement period just started and most of the regulatory efforts have focused on the new quarantine zones in Ventura and San Diego Counties. Staff are implementing the changes to the rules for moving fruit, as voted on by the committee in November.

### **Revising ACP Quarantine Movement**

Keith Okasaki proposed a change to the mitigation requirements for moving fruit into an HLB quarantine zone. Currently, moving across ACP zones requires one mitigation unless it's from the immediate adjacent surrounding ACP zone into an HLB zone. The proposed change would allow the unmitigated movement of fruit with safeguarding from any ACP zone to any HLB zone for packing. Discussion followed, and Kevin Ball and

Roger Smith recommended to move this proposal to the full committee.

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

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

##### *Southern District*

Michael Soltero reported HLB delimitation and treatments are complete in Temple City, Los Angeles, and Valley Center. HLB delimitation and treatments are ongoing in Corona, Jurupa Valley, Ontario, Duarte, and Irvine. All public meetings were held for Riverside, San Bernadino, San Diego, Los Angeles, and Orange Counties.

##### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported that there were four ACP detections in the Central Valley (two residential detections in Fresno County, one residential detection in Kern County, and one regulatory detection at a packinghouse in Tulare County). Treatment activities were completed for the residential detections. Detection, delimitation, and grove trapping remain ongoing. Multi-pest survey is ongoing for Monterey and San Luis Obispo Counties. Staff resumed CYVCV survey in Visalia and Tulare. Staff continue to assist Pest Detection and Emergency Projects on fruit fly eradication projects in Riverside and San Bernadino Counties. The 250-meter delimitation survey area and the 5-mile quarantine in Santa Paula has expanded several times since the first HLB positive tree detection.. In total, 1,117 properties have been surveyed, 429 properties have been treated, and 35 properties have refused survey and/or treatment activities. A total of 67 trees have tested positive for HLB, 44 trees have been removed, and 13 trees are pending removal. Staff will begin working with a tree removal contractor beginning in January.

##### *Northern District*

Nilan Watmore reported that there were no new ACP detections in San Joaquin and Sonoma Counties in the past year. The delimitation traps for both counties will be converted over to winter traps beginning January 2024. Additionally, there have been 24 new ACP detections in Santa Clara County.

##### *Santa Clara Hotspot Analysis*

Dr. Ravneet Behla reported that in 2014, Santa Clara County had its first confirmed ACP. As of December 2023, there have been 609 confirmed ACP Pest Damage Records submitted, demonstrating there are ACP hotspot areas in Santa Clara County. Ravneet presented the estimated cost analysis detailing that Northern District staff can conduct the treatment with almost no additional cost to the Division and the Santa Clara County Agricultural Commissioner supports spot treatments. The Program requested approval of spot treatments at find sites and adjacent properties with evidence of breeding ACP populations. Roger Smith recommended to move the request forward to the next full committee meeting. It was seconded by Kevin Ball and further supported by the subcommittee.

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

## **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn continues to assist with the statewide citrus layer and work with the Psyllid Management Area group activities and regional ACP/HLB task force groups in various counties with mapping support services. Work is ongoing on the statewide citrus layer for Fresno and Kings Counties and Tulare County was completed. Monterey and Placer Counties continue to service grove traps in their respective areas.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **Sweet Orange Scab Action Plan**

Victoria Hornbaker reported on the sweet orange scab (SOS) action plan that Keith Okasaki and his team prepared, noting that pest specific action plans are helpful because pests require different responses in terms of regulations and treatment. Victoria and Keith have discussed the SOS action plan with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and if changes are made by USDA to the Federal Order, the action plan will be updated. Kevin Ball recommended to move the SOS action plan forward to the full committee. The recommendation was seconded by Keith Watkins and further supported by the subcommittee.

### **Update from Victoria on Fruit Flies and PDEP Work**

Victoria reported that staff continue to assist with the invasive fruit fly infestation in Southern California. Victoria has been directed by the Secretary to assist with outreach for the fruit fly activities. The fruit fly quarantines are expected to last through the summer of 2024, if not longer. The quarantines will be lifted when no additional life stages are detected by trapping or visual surveys for three life cycles after the last detection within a quarantine area. Life cycles are weather/temperature dependent. Roger posed a question regarding Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) staff assisting on fruit fly work. It was discussed that commercial citrus growers in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties are significantly impacted. Victoria stressed that the work provided by CPDPD staff is temporary and funded by the Plant Division, which is a cost savings to CPDPD.

### **Winter Trapping Analysis**

David Phong reported on optimizing the winter ACP trapping in Marin, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Yolo, and Yuba Counties. ACP trapping is only done in the winter because the Pierce's Disease Control Program conducts glassy wing sharpshooter (GWSS) trapping in these counties the remaining months of the year. GWSS traps on citrus hosts are secondarily screened for ACP. A request was made to adopt a rotating year trapping strategy (alternating grids every other year) in low-risk grids that require more than two hours of driving time per day. This strategy reduces winter trapping efforts by up to 30 percent. Keith Watkins recommended to move this request to the full committee. Roger Smith seconded the recommendation and further supported by the subcommittee.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m., and the next meeting will be on April 10, at 9:00 a.m. via webinar.