

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 10, 2024**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball*	Jim Gorden*	Kurt Metheny*
Roger Smith*		

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

Brad Carmen	John C. Gless	Jared Plumlee
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**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Carl Baum*	Lucita Kumagai*	Keith Okasaki*
Dr. Ravneet Behla*	Zachary McCormack*	David Phong*
Kiana Dao*	Dahmoon Maesomy*	Michael Soltero*
Ariana De la Torre*	John Mansfield*	Fabian Velasco*
Paul Figueroa*	Andrew Mitchell*	Nilan Watmore*
David Gutierrez*	Dr. David Morgan*	Jennifer Willems*
Anmol Joshi*	Alex Muniz*	Jorge Garcia*
Sarah Kraft*	Deborah Nardo*	Raymond Niem*

**Guests:**

Price Adams*	Peter Gomez*	Mia Neunzig*
Alejandro Alaniz*	Subhas Hajeri*	Margaret O'Neill*
Victor Alves*	Logan Henderson*	Sandra Olkowski*
Franco Bernardi*	Melinda Klein*	Curtis Pate*
Rob Clark*	Jessica Leslie*	Cressida Silvers*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Mark McBroom*	Qijun Xiang*
Daniel Delgado*	Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich*
Lisa Finke*	Ivan Milosavljevic*	Sandra Zwaal*
Dhiraj Gautam*		

\*Participated via webinar

## **Opening**

Kevin Ball called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, July 10, 2024. Kevin Ball 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 a total of 453 positives trees detected in the last three months in Southern California, with 63 percent in Orange County, 19 percent in Los Angeles County, 13 percent in Riverside County, and five percent in San Bernadino County. The city of Commerce in Los Angeles County had its first huanglongbing (HLB) positive tree detection. HLB delimitation survey is ongoing in Duarte, Costa Mesa, Irvine, Yorba Linda, Brea, Ontario, Jurupa Valley, and Corona. From April 2024 to June 2024, 482 trees have been removed, and 220 are pending removal. Warrants will continue to be issued to remove trees from refusal properties.

### **Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai reported the total number of plant and Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples submitted from January 2024 to June 2024. The total number of plant samples submitted is 36,130, which shows a 16 percent decrease compared to this time last year. The average is about 6,000 plant samples submitted per month. The total number of ACP samples submitted this year is 1,623, which is much lower than the previous year. Since 2012, there have been 5,273 sites with positive HLB and/or *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) detections, 8,144 HLB positive tree detections, and 812 CLas positive ACP detections. Most positive detections were from Orange County.

### **HLB Risk-Based Research Survey**

David Phong reported the 2024 cycle one multi-pest survey began in May and is currently 41 percent complete. The survey was completed in two of the 30 allocated counties. To date, approximately 8,500 properties have been surveyed. Within those surveyed properties, 683 had ACP samples and approximately 1,300 had plant samples. In the Northern district, 33 percent of the 93 assigned grids were completed. In the Central district, 63 percent of the 252 assigned grids were completed. In the Southern district, 39 percent of the 188 assigned grids were completed. Multi-pest survey activities have picked up since April and should increase the number of plant samples. The 2024 cycle one multi-pest survey is expected to be completed by the end of summer to early fall.

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

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki reported a compliance agreement was recently revoked by Tulare County due to repeated non-compliance. The counties have been working hand-in-hand with their local growers, especially in Southern California to help ensure fruit is moved free from ACP. Additionally, the County Agricultural Commissioners in Los Angeles, Orange,

and San Diego, have been working closely with CDFA to respond to illegal home nurseries, or nurseries operating in violation of quarantine regulations. The regulatory team is working with counties to prepare work plans if CDFA were to implement budget reductions.

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

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

##### *Southern District*

Anmol Joshi reported delimitation treatments are ongoing in Corona, Ontario, Duarte, Yorba Linda, and Irvine. Public meetings to treat delimitation areas were conducted in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties.

##### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported there was one adult ACP in Fresno County confirmed on May 2, 2024, but was deemed a regulatory incident thus no action from CDFA. Detection trapping, delimitation trapping, grove trapping, and multi-pest survey are on-going. The citrus yellow vein clearing virus surveys in the cities of Tulare and Visalia are on pause until temperatures fall below 90 degrees. There is a total of 74 HLB positive trees in Santa Paula. Of these 74 trees, 64 have been removed and 10 are refusals.

##### *Northern District*

Nilan Watmore reported ACP trapping is ongoing in the Northern district. In Santa Clara County delimitation trapping is also ongoing. There have been four new detections since the last Subcommittee meeting. The multi-pest survey is ongoing and is 30 percent complete. Winter trapping analysis was conducted and the team has spoken with Northern district counties to discuss possible reduction and repositioning of winter traps.

##### *Santa Clara Hotspot Analysis*

Dr. Ravneet Behla reported that a public meeting for the Santa Clara hotspot was held on June 5, 2024. Treatment activities were conducted June 10 through June 25, 2024. Follow up treatment activities will be conducted in the fall based on the University of California recommendations for the area. There were a total of 75 properties, of which, 54 were treated, 19 had no hosts, one was a refusal, and one was a no contact.

##### *Biocontrol*

Dr. David Morgan reported *Tamarixia radiata* continue to be released in Orange and Los Angeles Counties all the way to Santa Clara, and in HLB quarantine areas, trade routes, and new ACP detections. Annual productivity is approximately three million insects reared and released.

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

#### **Data Management Report**

David Phong and his team are working with Monterey and Placer Counties to train their staff to use the ACP trapping iPhone application to record grove trap servicing data.

This will allow county and CDFA staff to use the same platform and allow data sharing.

## **OTHER ITEMS AND ADJOURNMENT**

### **Winter Trapping Analysis**

David Phong provided analysis on winter trapping optimization. Phase one consisted of analyzing the risk of ACP introduction and establishment in five northern California counties where winter trapping occurs. David reported that phase two consisted of a cost analysis. The annual total spent on ACP winter trapping contracts for 15 counties is \$690,000 for 5,530 traps. This project proposes a reduction of ACP traps by 45 percent. CDFA and county staff have spoken on possible reduction and repositioning of traps.

### **Budget and Operational Impacts**

David Gutierrez and Carl Baum reported that the new state budget may include an 8 percent reduction and position sweeps, however, the details are not currently known. David and Carl discussed potential budget reductions and operational realignments for the 2024-25 fiscal year and beyond. Various options were suggested to reduce expenses while meeting the program's strategic goals. Options discussed include winter trapping, treatment contracts, county contracts, regulatory contracts, and outreach contracts. Members of the subcommittee discussed those options and requested further details. Detailed budgets and operational scenarios will be provided to the full committee.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m. The next meeting will be held on October 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. via webinar.