

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
September 25, 2024, Minutes**

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

Executive Committee Members:

Kevin Ball*	John C. Gless*	Keith Watkins*
Bob Felts, Jr.*	Mark McBroom*	

Executive Committee Members Absent:

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum*	Jana Miscevic*	ThuyVy Truong*
Dr. Ravneet Behla*	Lauren Murphy*	Nilan Watmore*
Paul Figueroa*	David Phong*	Jennifer Willems*
David Gutiérrez*	Alisha Rios*	Jason Wu*
Anmol Joshi*	Michael Soltero*	

Other Attendees:

Natalie DeAngelo*	Nia Neunzig*
Saurabh Gautam*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Keith Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, welcoming Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

a. 2023/2024 Expenditure and Revenue Report:

Bob Felt, Jr. stated that June 2024 expenditures were \$3.65 million, bringing the total to \$35.7 million for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024. July and August added an additional \$900,000, bringing year to date expenditures to \$36.6 million. Bob inquired about August's numbers, Carl Baum replied the program is still waiting for redirects from Pest Detection Emergency Project for May and June. Since July, nearly \$6 million has been liquidated from FY 2023/2024. In August Plant Division informed Citrus Division of new cost for the Clean Citrus Program. Prior year cost needs to be moved from Plant Division and will be reflected once finalized. The federal fiscal year will end September 30. If the Plant Laboratory doesn't fully expend its budget, additional costs can be moved from the Agriculture Fund to the federal agreement to achieve additional savings.

FY 2023/2024 HLB E-Fund Ventura, little change occurred. CYVCV-LA fund, no change occurred.

FY 2023/2024 revenues increased by approximately \$2.2 million, bringing the total to \$17.7 million: \$1.5 million over projected revenue.

Waiting on a revised fund condition statement from CDFA's Budget Office. After the reductions were approved at the August Full-Committee meeting, the current budget is at \$38.35 million, however, additional cost savings will need to be identified.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

Kevin Ball noted no update since the full committee meeting. Many questions on budget issues regarding operational needs were asked, including measuring the effectiveness of funding specific operations, the evolution for making budget reductions, prioritizing and redirecting funds, and what is the appropriate amount of staffing get work successfully accomplished.

Mark McBroom voiced concerns about the revised budget, specifically at the reductions in Imperial County. He suggested looking strategically at how to realign funding to commercial areas, for example, in Imperial, San Diego and along the border where cooperation with Mexico has been minimal. Mark noted that if we do make adjustments from the core areas, then emphasis needs to be placed on commercial citrus. Imperial County is currently the only county without HLB/ACP positive trees. Keith Watkins noted that the upcoming strategic planning meeting will discuss the implications of moving funds from core areas and potentially towards the PCDs to do some of the work and thus benefitting Imperial County.

Kevin noted that there was a quick push to lower the budget and wants additional details on operational targets. This will allow to appropriately move staff into these target areas to continue completing our core mission. Keith reiterated the importance of moving the program forward and details will be discussed at the strategic planning meeting.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that the science subcommittee reviewed and ranked questions to be answered by the Technical Review Team. Dates for the Technical Review Team meetings will be determined. David Phong would be the CDFA liaison to the Technical Review Team, including Dr. Rabe and Price Adams.

Bob Felts expressed his concern of potentially walking away from areas infested with HLB and leaving a pool/population of bacteria in trees behind. He stated that we can shift the interface more towards commercial groves, but that completely abandoning removal will be detrimental, and the program cannot and should not walk away from specific HLB infested areas.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Natalie DeAngelo will update the doodle poll to include additional dates for the strategic planning meeting. NST will focus activities on the Fallbrook HLB detection in San Diego County. A grower meeting, led by grower liaison Sandra Zwaal, Alex Muñiz, and Keith

Okasaki is currently happening to discuss the new expanded quarantine for Fallbrook. Fallbrook has received much media interest and was able to secure handful of stories, both on broadcast, digital and radio. Worked with San Diego County to get information out in both English and Spanish. NST also stated upcoming events include the Goleta Lemon Festival and California Association of Pest Control Advisers annual conference. NST will continue with the "Don't Move Citrus" campaign for the upcoming holiday season.

Price will work with Dr. Rabe on the upcoming strategic planning facilitated session.

Other Business/Adjourn:

With Bob Felts' retirement at the end of September, Keith Watkins will act as the Finance Subcommittee Chair until a new chair is selected.

David Gutiérrez noted that CDFA is still waiting on final details regarding the vacancy sweeps and budget reductions.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 am. The next committee meeting will be at 10:00 am on December 11, 2024.