

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)  
Operations Subcommittee Meeting**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 16, 2024**

There was a quorum of the Operations Subcommittee, and the following were in attendance:

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	Jim Gorden	Roger Smith*
Brad Carmen	Kurt Metheny*	
John C. Gless*		

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Dr. Sebastian Albu	Zachary McCormack	Keith Okasaki
Deborah Ayala	Andrew Mitchell	David Phong
Kiana Dao	Dr. David Morgan	Michael Soltero
David Gutierrez	Alex Muniz	Fabian Velasco
Anmol Joshi	Lauren Murphy	Nilan Watmore
John Mansfield	Raymond Niem	Jennifer Willems

**Other Attendees:**

Franco Bernardi	Jessica Leslie	Paige Shewmaker
Dr. Rob Clark	Dr. Weiqi Luo	Cressida Silvers
Aaron Dillon	Marcy Martin	Keith Watkins
Lisa Finke	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Dr. Qijun Xiang
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Margaret O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal

All attendees participated via webinar

\*Subcommittee members declared their inability to use a camera

## **Opening Comments**

Kevin Ball was not available at the beginning of the meeting and would join later. Keith Okasaki called the CPDPC, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2024. Keith 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 highlighted major events that occurred since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting, which included a *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas)-positive Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detection in the Hemet area of Riverside County, and a new Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine area in the Fallbrook area of San Diego County. Anmol also reported a total of 676 positive trees were detected in the last three months (July, August, and September) in Southern California. Of the positive trees, 52 percent were in Orange County, 23 percent in Los Angeles County, 10 percent in Riverside County, 10 percent in San Bernadino County, and 5 percent in San Diego County. HLB delimitation survey is ongoing in Brea, Corona, Costa Mesa, Duarte, Fallbrook, Irvine, Ontario, Rancho Bernardo, Riverside, and Yorba Linda. From July through September 2024, 442 trees have been removed and 431 trees are pending removal. Warrants continue to be issued to remove trees from refusal properties.

### **Laboratory Update**

Dr. Sebastian Albu reported the number of plant and ACP samples submitted from July through September 2024. The number of plant samples submitted from July through September is 19,773. In 2024, 55,908 plant samples have been submitted, with the average being roughly 6,200 plant samples submitted per month. The total number of ACP samples submitted this year is 3,178, which is much lower than the previous year and may be attributed to the reduced delimitation sample area in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Since 2012, 8,836 HLB positive trees and 845 CLas-positive ACP have been detected on a total of 5,686 sites.

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

David Phong reported that the 2024 multi-pest survey cycle one, which began in May, is currently 89 percent complete. The survey is completed in 21 of the 30 allocated counties. To date, approximately 18,900 properties have been surveyed, from which approximately 1,400 ACP and 2,800 plant samples were collected and submitted. In the Northern district, 94 percent of the 93 assigned grids are complete. In the Central district, nearly 100 percent of the 387 assigned grids are complete and staff are beginning the second cycle of 2024. In the Southern district, 80 percent of the 192 assigned grids are complete.

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

### **Regulatory Activity Update**

Keith Okasaki provided an update on illegal home nurseries in HLB quarantine areas. The issue is still ongoing, but Southern district staff are continuing their efforts to find

illegal nurseries and take appropriate action. Keith also provided an update on county agreements. Due to the Committee's approval to minimize the reduction of the regulatory budget, additional funds will be made available to some counties based on historic activity, risk, industry within the county, and other factors.

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

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

##### *Southern District*

Anmol Joshi reported that delimitation treatments are ongoing in Corona, Costa Mesa, Duarte, Irvine, Ontario, Rancho Bernardo, and Yorba Linda. Public meetings were conducted in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties to treat delimitation areas. Actions taken to reduce costs in the Southern district include retrofitting fleet vehicles into treatment trucks and revising the survey contract with Imperial County to reduce multi-pest survey activities from three cycles per year to two.

##### *Central District*

Jennifer Willems reported that two adult ACP were confirmed on August 16 and 21, 2024 in a packinghouse in Lindsay in Tulare County. The detections were deemed a regulatory incident thus no action from CDFA, however *Tamarixia radiata* were released. Multiple adult ACP were confirmed on September 6 and 12, 2024 at a packinghouse and the nearby residential properties in Lemon Cove in Tulare County. These ACP triggered a 400-meter treatment area, which was completed on September 27, and *Tamarixia* were also released. On October 9, an adult ACP was detected on a yellow panel trap in a commercial grove in Mettler in Kern County. The grove owner confirmed the grove was in the process of being treated. Detection, delimitation, grove trapping, and multi-pest survey are on-going. Three counties will have their detection agreement funding reduced, and one county's ACP detection activities will be defunded. Treatment contracts will be reduced as Central district staff will conduct most treatment activities. In Santa Paula in Ventura County, there is a total of 82 HLB-positive trees, of which 79 have been removed and 3 are pending.

##### *Northern District*

Nilan Watmore reported that the number of county agreements to conduct ACP winter trapping was reduced from 15 counties to 12, and number of traps was reduced from 5,530 to 3,090. Staff are finishing the 2024 multi-pest survey cycle one, which is 94 percent complete, and cycle two is anticipated to start mid-October. Delimitation trapping in Santa Clara County is ongoing.

##### *Santa Clara Treatment*

Nilan Watmore reported there have been 28 ACP detections in Santa Clara County since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting, resulting in a five-grid expansion of delimitation traps, which added 232 traps (720 to 952). A second residential treatment, which includes both foliar and systemic treatment, is currently in progress.

##### *Biocontrol*

Dr. David Morgan reported *Tamarixia* continues to be released in and around HLB

quarantine areas, borders, trade routes, area-wide management, and new ACP detections. Approximately 780,000 *Tamarixia* were released in the past month and two million *Tamarixia* have been released in 2024.

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

##### **Data Management Report**

David Phong and his team are working on three notable projects. Dr. Marina Kaiser is working on an internal-facing desktop application that will run trapping reports and perform quality checks on CDFA trapping data. Secondly, David has been working with Dr. Melinda Klein to provide data for the Technical Review Team, which is reviewing questions posed by the Scientific Subcommittee prior to the strategic planning meeting to be held in December. Lastly, David and his team are working on finalizing the 2024 multi-pest survey cycle two for field staff to begin.

##### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. The next meeting will be held on January 22, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. via webinar.