

CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Craig Armstrong	John C. Gless	Rod Radtke
Franco Bernardi*	Jim Gorden	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins
Bob Felts Jr.	Kurt Metheny	

Committee Members Absent:

Kevin Ball	Jared Plumlee	Etienne Rabe
Aaron Dillon		

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Carl Baum*	Anmol Joshi*	Raymond Niem*
Ravneet Behla*	Sarah Kraft*	Keith Okasaki*
Fernando Berber	Luci Kumagai*	Phong, David*
Kiana Dao*	Zack McCormack*	Alisha Rios*
Ariana De la Torre*	David Morgan*	Rathkiry Siv*
David Gutierrez	Alex Muñiz*	Nilan Watmore*
Victoria Hornbaker	Deborah Nardo	Jason Wu*

Guests:

Price Adams*	Ariana Gehrig*	Cressida Silvers*
Alejandro Alaniz*	Subhas Hajeri*	Makayla Thompson*
Korinne Bell*	Jessica Leslie*	Greta Varien
Rob Clark*	Peggy Mark*	Helene Wright*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Sarah Mellor*	Qijun Xiang*
Rick Dunn	Ivan Milosavljevic*	Judy Zaninovich*
Lisa Finke*	Mia Neunzig*	Sandra Zwaal*
Dhiraj Gautam*	Margaret O'Niell*	

**Attended the meeting virtually.*

Opening Comments

Mark McBroom called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Mark McBroom welcomed the committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. There was a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments

Victoria Hornbaker requested that all presentations and read-ahead information that will be used at the full CPDPC meeting be submitted 15 days prior to each CPDPC meeting

for posting with the agenda in accordance with requirements set by the Bagley-Keene Act.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The consent agenda contained the following items:

1. Minutes from the November 8, 2023 Committee meeting.

Motion: To approve the consent agenda with the following correction, add Marcy Martin, Casey Creamer, and Ivan Milosavljevic as in attendance.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Rod Radtke

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Close 2022/23 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

Bob Felts Jr. reported that there were no additional expenditures for the 2022-23 fiscal year (FY) with the year closing in Fi\$Cal at \$36,239,404 and \$8,210,350 remaining in the budget. The total expenditures for prior FY 2021-2022 closed at \$36,071,668. Bob reported that FY 2022-2023 revenue closed at \$13,022,888 at a \$0.07 per carton rate for approximately 186,000,000 cartons compared to the projected 188,000,000 cartons. The total revenue at \$0.07 for the prior FY 2021-2022 closed at \$11,000,939.

Review 2023/2024 Expenditures and Revenue

Bob reported that expenditures in October 2023 were \$2,668,800, expenditures in November were \$2,980,646, and expenditures in December were \$2,980,646, bringing the year-to-date expenditures to a total of \$14,296,149. The total expenditures for the same time frame during prior FY 2022-2023 was a total of \$17,668,105. Budget cuts and reallocations have helped to reduce expenditures by approximately \$3,000,000 for FY 2023-2024. Bob reported that that FY 2023-2024 revenue received through January 2024 was \$3,656,564 for approximately 40,600,000 cartons at a \$0.09 per carton rate. Additionally, the clean citrus nursery stock program has a balance of \$255,000 and is a fee for service program.

FY 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Revision

Bob presented a proposed revision to the FY 2023-2024 budget due to recent huanlongbing (HLB) detections in Ventura County and a Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVCV) detection in Los Angeles County. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) granted the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) an additional \$250,000 for CYVCV operations along with an approved increase in CDFA emergency funding of \$1,627,235 for Ventura HLB response activities.

Motion: To revise the Committee Budget to add \$1,627,235 for HLB response in Ventura and \$250,000 for CYVCV in Los Angeles.

First: Bob Felts Jr.

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Assessment Rate Discussion

Bob recommended leaving the assessment rate at \$0.09 per carton. Committee members agreed to keep the assessment rate at \$0.09 per carton for the remainder of FY 2023-2024 and will consider assessment rate changes at a future meeting while aggressively disencumbering unspent encumbrances when possible.

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai presented the laboratory update for the huanglongbing testing program from the Plant Pest Diagnostics Center. She reported that as of December 2023, the lab received an average of 6,500 plant samples per month and received an average of 900 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples per month for a combined total of 88,108 total samples received in 2023. In January 2024, the lab received 5,038 plant samples and 180 ACP samples. As of February 16, 2024, there were 4,863 total reported HLB positive sites, 7,413 total detected HLB positive trees, and 790 total detected *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* positive ACP samples. Sixty seven percent of all HLB positive trees have been detected in Orange County.

HLB Risk-based Survey

David Phong presented data for 2023 Risk Survey Cycle 2. Cycle 2 2023 began in August 2023 and is 46 percent complete with 9 of the 34 allocated counties completed. 5,747 properties were visited, and 1,649 properties sampled generating 679 entomology and 1,185 plant samples.

CDFA Operational Update

David Gutierrez presented the operational update including ACP and HLB delimitation survey and treatment areas for the Southern, Central, and Northern Districts.

Southern District

To date in 2024, a total of 212 HLB positive trees have been detected in Southern California with the majority of detections found in Orange County. Additionally, 16 trees were detected in Valley Center, San Diego County, with 15 found on a residential parcel consisting of 25+ host trees. The resident completed treatment of all host plants on their property and all HLB positive trees were removed and disposed of. Delimitation survey and treatment of the original 250-meter detection area was completed with 205 plant samples still pending results. Five public meetings were held to conduct delimitation survey in different areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties. A total of 832 trees were removed during the months of November 2023 through January 2024 with 375 cumulative trees still pending removal in these counties.

Central District

On January 31, 2024, one ACP detection was confirmed on a residential property in Kern County. Treatment for this area was completed on February 13, 2024. *Tamarixia*

radiata releases were conducted in Kern, Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties near the recent detections and the Santa Paula HLB delimitation boundary. Multi-pest survey and citrus commodity survey are ongoing in these areas. On February 9, 2024, two HLB positive trees were detected in Santa Paula, Ventura County resulting in a small expansion of the delimitation boundary. A public meeting was held on February 6, 2024, with treatment of 59 properties and tree removals scheduled after the meeting, weather permitting. Following execution of a tree removal contract, 58 HLB positive trees were removed with 12 trees pending removal. Outreach letters were sent to 32 treatment refusal properties. CDFA received no responses from those properties and staff will proceed with abatement process.

Northern District

There have been no new ACP detections in San Joaquin and Sonoma Counties. As a result of no new detections, 43 delimitation traps in San Joaquin County and 55 delimitation traps in Sonoma County have been converted to winter traps. Since October 11, 2023, there were 31 new ACP detections in Santa Clara County, triggering two delimitation area expansions in Los Arboles with an additional 7 new grids. There have been no new treatments since 2022. *Tamarixia* releases are ongoing in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with an average of 6,000 insects released per month.

CDFA Regulatory and County Agreement Update

Keith Okasaki presented the regulatory county monthly activity report for October 2023 through December 2023. Under the new agreements that began in October 2023, counties have been reaching out to farm labor contractors regarding inspections. Regulatory staff have visited markets, swap meets, and flea markets to follow up with fruit vendors, especially around the Lunar New Year celebration when more citrus is sold. Home nurseries continue to pop up in HLB quarantine areas. Clean citrus nursery stock sampling has concluded for the year with results pending for one remaining sample.

Revising ACP Quarantine Movement

Keith presented a proposal to amend or remove mitigations for moving citrus into HLB quarantine zones.

Motion: To remove the requirement for a mitigation to move fruit from an ACP quarantine to an HLB quarantine for packing or processing. Safeguarding the load is still required.

First: John C. Gless

Second: Kurt Metheny

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Biocontrol Update

Victoria Hornbaker presented the ACP biocontrol update for January 2024. As of 2022, *Tamarixia* has been produced by only CDFA and Citrus Research Board (CRB). Staff released 2,369,615 total insects in 2023 with 188,700 insects released in January 2024.

Most releases occurred in HLB detection areas, along the United States/Mexico border, on citrus movement corridors, and in new ACP detection areas, like Santa Clara County.

Winter Trapping Analysis

David Phong presented a recommendation to optimize CDFA's winter ACP trapping in Marin, San Francisco, Santa Clara, Yolo, and Yuba Counties by reducing trapping in low-risk grids and adopting a rotating year trapping strategy in those low-risk grids thus reducing winter trapping efforts by up to thirty percent.

Motion: To recommend implementing the revised winter trapping plan (by adopting a rotating year trapping strategy in low-risk grids) and to conduct additional analysis to determine if trapping can be further reduced during winter months.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Bob Felts Jr.

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Santa Clara Hotspot Analysis

Dr. Ravneet Behla presented on the increase detections of ACP in Santa Clara County. ACP was first detected in Santa Clara County in 2014. In December 2022, the CPDPC approved treatment on specific nymphal sites and adjacent properties. As of December 18, 2023, there have been 609 confirmed ACP Pest Detection Reports and two active delimitation areas. Based on the location and frequency of detections, CPDPD conducted a hotspot analysis of the delimitation grids with a high frequency of ACP detections, coordinating with Santa Clara County agricultural staff to conduct visual survey with tap method, interviewing residents, and conducting regular web searches for unregulated points of sale of citrus plants. Ravneet suggested spot treatments at the find sites to suppress the ACP population.

Motion: To conduct recommended spending \$7,041 to conduct spot treatment for Asian citrus psyllid in Santa Clara County.

First: Craig Armstrong

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ethyl Formate Registration

Keith Watkins reported that Jim Cranney is aiming for registration of ethyl formate to be completed by April 2024.

Risk Based Survey Working Group Recommendation

Keith Watkins reported that the CPDPD is working to implement the recommendations proposed by the Risk-Based Survey Working Group. The working group proposed focusing residential survey efforts within 1,500 meters of commercial citrus greater than

5 acres, which allows staff to survey all grids within this proposed area approximately every 2 years. Additionally, the group discussed Dr. Jim Adaskaveg's report that he has not been able to replicate CDFA's sweet orange scab. More follow up will ensue at future meetings. Robert Clark reported on his analysis on the location of tree removals after a positive identification and what the CT values were when they occurred. His analysis implies that "hot" areas will continue to get "hotter."

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Natalie DeAngelo introduced Makayla Thompson as the new account executive of the Nuffer, Smith, Tucker (NST) team. In response to the recent HLB detections in Valley Center, San Diego County, NST implemented the crisis communications plan. A notification on quarantine expansion was posted to Citrus Insider. NST also conducted media outreach and interviews on new HLB positive detections, including what it means for homeowners and the current state of ACP and HLB in California. These included over 37 stories placed within the San Diego market, a three-part interview with ABC 10 news, and an interview with the Valley Roadrunner. In-language ads were placed in Vietnamese and Chinese publications throughout the state, encouraging residents to celebrate the Lunar New Year with safe citrus practices. NST also partnered with online gardening influencers for content series sharing information about the Citrus Clonal Protection Program and the importance of using disease-free budwood when propagating citrus plants. NST staff also coordinated with Keith Okasaki on the development of a letter to distribute to nurseries as CDFA staff conduct inspections. The Citrus Hero Award was presented to the California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association (CACASA) recognizing their partnership with CPDPD. Upcoming outreach activities include the Highland Citrus Harvest Festival, California Citrus Mutual (CCM) Citrus Showcase, food bank donations blog and infographic for elected official partners, Ag Day at the Capitol, National Gardening Month outreach to Spanish publications, and California Rare Fruit Growers Associations outreach.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Fruit Fly Update

Victoria Hornbaker provided an update on fruit fly quarantines. Currently there are Oriental fruit fly (OFF) quarantines in Santa Clara County, Contra Costa County, Sacramento County, and San Bernardino/Riverside County. There is also a Mediterranean fruit fly quarantine in Los Angeles County, a *Zeugodacus tau* fruit fly quarantine in Los Angeles County, and a Queensland fruit fly quarantine in Ventura County. Regarding citrus, there are citrus growers within the OFF quarantines in San Bernardino/Riverside Counties and the Queensland fruit fly quarantine in Ventura County. CPDPD staff continue to assist with fruit fly response activities. Contracts with Cooperative Agricultural Support Services (CASS) have been amended to include 155 CASS positions, including 24 inspectors and 131 trappers, to assist with fruit fly mitigation. Victoria has been working on outreach materials and obtained an emergency contract with NST to assist in outreach. Keith Okasaki is also working with growers to expeditiously remove fruit from the mandatory fruit removal areas.

Officer Elections

Victoria asked the CPDPC for nominations for the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary Treasurer.

Motion: To recommend electing Keith Watkins as the Chairman of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion Carries: The motion passed with 9 yays (Craig Armstrong, Brad Carmen, Bob Felts Jr., John C. Gless, Jim Gorden, Mark McBroom, Kurt Metheny, Rod Radtke and Roger Smith), and 1 abstention (Keith Watkins).

Motion: To recommend electing John C. Gless as the Vice Chairman of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion Carries: The motion passed with 9 yays (Craig Armstrong, Brad Carmen, Bob Felts Jr., Jim Gorden, Mark McBroom, Kurt Metheny, Rod Radtke, Roger Smith, and Keith Watkins) and 1 abstention (John C. Gless).

Motion: To recommend electing Mark McBroom as the Secretary Treasurer of the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee.

First: Bob Felts Jr.

Second: John C. Gless

Motion Carries: The motion passed with 9 yays (Craig Armstrong, Brad Carmen, Bob Felts Jr., John C. Gless, Jim Gorden, Kurt Metheny, Rod Radtke, Roger Smith, and Keith Watkins) and 1 abstention (Mark McBroom).

USDA Report

Helene Wright reported that USDA continues to process cooperative agreements, including the Citrus Health Response Program funding, funding for CYVCV and for ACP/HLB outreach through the Plant Protection Act 7721 (formerly known as The Farm Bill). She also stated that a new post-harvest treatment for OFF is currently being developed.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report

Mark McBroom reported that CRB will host a webinar at 2:00 p.m. on March 7, 2024 for a second cycle of applications for the citrus research and field trials program. He also stated that CRB will continue to support statewide CPDP activities on the citrus layer. Mark also recognized Rick Dunn for all his hard work over the years supporting the citrus program, as he is retiring from CRB in March 2024.

San Joaquin Valley Citrus Pest Control Districts (SJV PCD) Report

Dr. Subhas Hajeri reported that from mid-September 2023 to Mid-December 2023 a total of 8,089 traps were placed in 2,400 trapping locations in the Central Valley. No

ACP were found on the traps, but glassy winged sharpshooters were found on some of the traps. From mid-April to mid-June 2024, a total of 19,164 traps are projected for placement in 3,194 trapping locations. Significant improvements have been made to mapping.

OTHER ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Update

Victoria reported that the Plant Division, Peirce's Disease Control Board and the CPDPD are meeting weekly with the PEIR contractor and making progress.

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR), and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) will be reviewing human health risk assessments. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be assisting with the environmental risk assessment.

Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Action Plan

Victoria presented the SOS Action Plan. The SOS Action Plan will be reviewed at least quarterly so that amendments may be added to the document.

Motion: To recommend approving the SOS action plan.

First: Rod Radtke

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

CYVCV Quarantine Regulation

Keith Okasaki presented an outline of the CYVCV regulatory response for a CYVCV detection. The response would not require removal of infected trees and would include a quarantine of a half-mile radius from positive a detection.

Motion: To recommend moving forward with the CYVCV regulatory response rulemaking package and to have the rulemaking package reviewed by the executive committee for amendments and/or additions.

First: Craig Armstrong

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 8, 2024 in Visalia, California.