

CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2024

Committee Members Present:

Kevin Ball*	John C. Gless	Etienne Rabe*
Franco Bernardi	Jim Gorden	Rod Radtke
Brad Carmen	Mark McBroom	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon*	Kurt Metheny	Keith Watkins
Bob Felts Jr.		

Committee Members Absent:

Craig Armstong	Jared Plumlee
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California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Ravneet Behla*	Stephanie Jacobs*	Deborah Nardo*
Fernando Berber	Anmol Joshi*	Raymond Niem*
Whitney Cotton*	Sarah Kraft*	Keith Okasaki*
Kiana Dao*	Luci Kumagai*	Michael Soltero*
Traci Mae Ducusin*	Kahleen Loo*	ThuyVy Truong*
Paul Figueroa*	Jody Lusby*	Fabian Velasco*
David Gutierrez	Jana Miscevic*	Nilan Watmore
Victoria Hornbaker	David Morgan	Jennifer Willems*

Guests:

Price Adams	Jessica Leslie	Jacob Villagomez*
Rob Clark*	Weiqi Luo*	Helene Wright*
Casey Creamer	Marcy Martin	Qijun Xiang*
Natalie DeAngelo	Ivan Milosavljevic	Judy Zaninovich
Peter Gomez*	Margaret O'Neill*	Sandra Zwaal*
Melinda Klein	Abby Peltzer*	

**Attended the meeting virtually.*

Opening Comments

Keith Watkins called the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. Keith Watkins welcomed the committee, staff, and

members of the public participating in person and online. There was a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments

No public comments

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The consent agenda contained the following items:

1. Minutes from the February 21, 2024 Committee meeting.

Motion: To approving the minutes on the Consent Agenda with a correction to page 7 (Bob Felts Jr. not Mark McBroom made the nomination to elect Mark McBroom as the Secretary/Treasurer) and tabling the approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the Applied Pest Control Districts until the August meeting.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Kurt Metheny

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee By-Laws (Quorum and Voting)

Keith Watkins suggested changing the language of the Committee By-Laws to define a quorum as a 50 percent plus one majority of existing Committee members.

Motion: To revise the Committee By-Laws to make a quorum a 50 percent plus one majority of existing members.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: John C. Gless

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Fruit Fly Update

Victoria Hornbaker reported that the last oriental fruit fly (OFF) detection was on March 25, 2024, in the city of Redlands, San Bernardino County. Detection operations and quarantine of OFF found in Santa Clara County are scheduled to end on May 17, 2024, in Sacramento County is scheduled to end on June 4, 2024, in Contra Costa County is scheduled to end on July 10, 2024, and in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties are scheduled to end on August 13, 2024. These dates are subject to change if new detections are found. The quarantine established in Redlands, Riverside County, will likely end sooner than expected, due to having less detections. Detection operations and quarantine for tau fly found in Los Angeles County are scheduled to end on June 24, 2024. Detection operations and quarantine for medfly found in Los Angeles County are scheduled to end on July 13, 2024. Detection operations and quarantine for Queensland fruit fly found in Ventura County are scheduled to end on July 25, 2024.

Committee Vacancies

Keith Watkins reported that he is working with the Subcommittee Chairs to adjust the subcommittees and will be sending out finalized rosters. There were two candidates for the vacant Kern County committee seat. Ballots and candidate resumes were distributed to the Committee Members to vote.

Motion: To approve Ram Uckoo's candidacy for the vacant Kern County seat on the CPDPC.

First: Kevin Ball

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Carries: The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Review 2023/2024 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

Bob Felts Jr. reported that expenditures in December 2023 were corrected to \$2,691,645, expenditures in January 2024 were \$2,515,312, expenditures in February 2024 were \$3,537,483, and expenditures in March 2024 were \$4,043,714, bringing the year-to-date expenditures to a total of \$26,153,571. Expenditures to date for the Huanglongbing (HLB) E-Fund for detection in Ventura County were \$246,508 with \$1,380,727 remaining balance. Expenditures to date to the Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVCV) Federal Fund for detections in Los Angeles County were \$46,404 with \$203,596 remaining balance.

Bob reported that revenue received to date for the months of October 2023 through March 2024 increased by \$1,477,540 to a total of \$7,186,741. The Clean Citrus Nursery Stock Program has a current net balance of \$251,199 after receiving \$23,702 in revenue, expending \$56,409, and receiving reimbursements of \$28,870 during the months of July 2023 to March 2024.

Review and Approve 2024/2025 Budget

Bob reported that the proposed budget for the 2024/2025 Fiscal Year (FY) is nearly identical to the budget of the previous year, with only an increase of \$132,000. Victoria explained that treatment contractors have significantly increased their costs, resulting in CDFA staff utilizing 6 fitted treatment trucks to perform treatment activities in the Central District and HLB treatment. The costs for these line items are currently being offset by an E-Fund received from CDFA with a proposal drafted to request an extension of \$1,422,121 for 2025. There will also be a proposal presented in August to drastically reduce winter trapping in many of the Northern counties as well as other efforts to increase efficiency.

Motion: To approve the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 proposed budget in the amount of \$41,577,100.

First: Bob Felts Jr.

Second: Mark McBroom

Motion Carries: The motion passed with 10 yays (Kevin Ball, Franco Bernardi, Brad Carmen, Aaron Dillon, Bob Felts, Jr., Jim Gorden, Mark McBroom, Kurt Metheny, Rod Radtke, Roger Smith and Keith Watkins), 1 nay (John C Gless) and 1 abstention (Etienne Rabe).

Review Fund Condition Statement

Bob reported that the carry in for the fund condition continues to decrease, but that multiple disencumberances are projected to occur between now and the start of the 2024/2025 FY. Carl Baum reported that approximately \$7,000,000 has been disencumbered with \$11,200,000 still encumbered and more disencumberances pending. Carl also reported that approximately \$2,200,000 in credits will be processed by June 30, 2024.

Assessment Rate Discussion

Victoria reported that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) crop projection report is expected in September 2024. The Committee suggested waiting until August or September to review the assessment rate after receiving more updated crop projections.

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 January 2024, the lab received an average of 5,674 plant samples per month and received an average of 200 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples per month for a combined total of 23,404 total samples received in 2024. While the number of HLB samples is comparable to the previous year's totals, there is an observable reduction in ACP sampling. As of April 26, 2024, there were 5,036 total reported HLB positive sites, 7,729 total detected HLB positive trees, and 795 total detected *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive ACP samples. Seventy percent of HLB positive trees were detected in Orange County.

HLB Risk-based Survey

Nilan Watmore presented data for 2023 Risk Survey Cycle 2 using a new online dashboard that is updated weekly. Cycle 2 2023 began in August 2023 and is 76 percent complete with 19 of the 34 allocated counties completed. Approximately 10,800 properties were visited, generating 1,300 entomology and 2,700 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 582 HLB positive trees have been detected in Southern California with the majority of detections found in Orange County. Additionally, 18 total

trees were detected in Valley Center, San Diego County, including two additional trees detected in March 2024. Both infected trees were removed. The grower liaison is working with the owners of all 25+ properties to conduct treatments. Delimitation survey and treatment of the original 250-meter detection area was completed with six plant samples still pending results. Six 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 503 trees were removed during the months of February 2024 through April 2024 with 265 cumulative trees still pending removal.

Central District

Since January 31, 2024, there have been no new detections. *Tamarixia radiata* releases were conducted in Ventura County near the recent detections. Multi-pest survey, citrus commodity survey, grove trapping activities are ongoing. There have been no new HLB positive trees detected in Santa Paula since February 9, 2024. Warrant applications for refusal properties were sent to the Department of Justice on April 26, 2024.

Northern District

Trapping is ongoing in Placer, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties with the recommendation to optimize winter trapping activities in 15 counties being finalized. In Santa Clara County, there are currently 980 delimitation traps still deployed as well as 6 new ACP detections since the last CPDPC meeting on February 21, 2024. There have been no new treatments in Santa Clara County since 2022. CDFA staff completed visual hot spot survey in preparation for treatment in May. *Tamarixia* releases are ongoing in San Jose, Santa Clara County, with an average of 6,000 insects released per month. Risk Survey 2023 Cycle 2 scheduled to be completed end of May or June.

CDFA Regulatory and County Agreement Update

Keith Okasaki presented the regulatory county monthly activity report for October 2023 through February 2024. Keith reported violations have been issued for lack of or improper mitigations and the counties conducting appropriate follow up and tracebacks with growers. Roadside vendors and haulers continue to be an issue and CDFA is working with counties to follow up with appropriate enforcement. There is more emphasis placed on inspecting fruit sellers and market vendors in 2024, which are a higher risk pathway of spreading pests and diseases

Residential Nursery Update

Keith Okasaki presented a map of residential nursery locations within Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Keith reported that since April of last year, CDFA regulatory staff have identified 11 backyard or retail nurseries in the Los Angeles and Orange Counties with containerized citrus for sale. A new CDFA Regulatory staff member has been hired for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties to enforce quarantine requirements. Of the residential nurseries identified within the last 12 months, two of them were propagating their own citrus. CDFA has held and destroyed close to 950 citrus trees. One location had almost 400 trees destroyed, including plants imported from Florida. Throughout the process, CDFA is working closely with the local county agricultural commissioners so

county staff may document inspections and follow-up with monetary penalties when appropriate.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan presented the ACP biocontrol update for April 2024. Staff released 30,044,097 total insects from 2011 through April 2024 with 645,800 insects released so far in 2024. The majority of releases occurred in HLB detection areas, along the United States/Mexico border, on citrus movement corridors, and in new ACP detection areas to include San Diego and Santa Clara Counties. Biocontrol staff have also conducted outreach to gardeners, farmers, and the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District. Biocontrol staff also participated in the Riverside Insect Fair on April 20, 2024.

Santa Clara Hotspot Analysis

Dr. Ravneet Behla presented on the hot spot analysis of ACP detections in Santa Clara County. Spot treatments for a maximum of 180 properties at a budget of approximately \$7,000 at the find sites to suppress the ACP population was approved by the CPDPC in February 2024. Visual survey for the 140 properties were completed and spot treatment will occur in May or June 2024.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ethyl Formate Registration

Dr. Etienne Rabe reported that Jim Cranney stated that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) is still reviewing information regarding the registration of ethyl formate.

International Research Conference on HLB

Victoria Hornbaker stated that she is compiling a list of top the 10 research projects discussed at the conference to collaborate with the Citrus Research Board (CRB). Some committee members expressed their disappointment with the conference and the lack of progress given its funding while other committee members felt it was informational and well organized.

Additional Items

Dr. Etienne Rabe provided an update on the April Science Subcommittee stating what Dr. Weiqi Luo's past analysis might imply for the citrus program and how to spend future funding. Dr. Rabe stated that California is losing the battle in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. Victoria stated that in conducting the multi-pest survey, staff look for both asymptomatic and symptomatic hosts in a delimitation area, and that program implemented the committee's recommendation to move from 250m to the leading edges of the ag/urban interface. Victoria also stated that to conduct treatment, there must be a triggering event. Additionally, quad sampling is conducted, and efficiencies are seen in the root and peduncle sampling which offers the most reliable detection instead of sampling asymptomatic leaves.

OUTREACH SUBCOMITTEE REPORT

Natalie DeAngelo presented recent and upcoming outreach activities. For Invasive Plant and Disease Awareness Month, Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) distributed a press release resulting in 137 online postings and a potential audience reach of over 876,000. Website users to CaliforniaCitrusThreat.org increased by sixteen percent. NST also developed social media content and conducted outreach to elected officials to share content that could be shared on their platforms. Distributed emails had a nineteen percent open rate. For residential outreach, NST conducted ongoing local media coordination with audio news release development regarding spring gardening best practices in English and Spanish. NST also helped with public event coordination for the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR), conducted outreach to California Rare Fruit Grower chapters, including facilitating presentation on the Santa Cruz Chapter Expert Panel. To reach residents at home, door hangers and social media ads have been distributed to Orange County residents. For industry outreach, NST is conducting website updates to Citrus Insider, developing a "Other Invasive Pests and Diseases" webpage to share resources and information on pests like invasive fruit fly, sweet orange scab, CYVCV, citrus canker and more. Four Citrus Insider E-blasts were distributed, including updates to ACP and HLB Bulk Citrus Movement Requirements, and updates to the ACP-Free Declaration Form. Materials for outreach to nurseries, includes developing a Q&A document to assist in any reactive inquiries regarding HLB quarantine restrictions for nurseries. NST is also continuing to update and refresh industry resources and developing flyers regarding safeguarding citrus and proper tarping techniques. The NST team is also exploring opportunities to conduct training workshops with field crew supervisors in English and Spanish with materials focused on ACP scouting and best practices. There is also CAPCA annual conference panel participation in October. For elected official outreach, NST distributed a "Guide for Donating Backyard Citrus and Fresh Produce" email blast with sharable content and social media posts, receiving a 21 percent open rate. NST also operated a booth at the Southern California Association of Governments conference from May 2-3, and will be operating a booth at the upcoming California Contract Cities Association Municipal Seminar from May 16-19, 2024. Keith Okasaki reported that CDFA staff has a meeting set up for next week with NST and UCANR and master gardeners who have reached out to help spread the word and assist with the CPDPP.

USDA Report

Helene Wright reported the Federal Order regulating sweet orange scab host commodities was updated in April. The recently revised Federal Order removed the restriction on overhead irrigation of nursery stock, the requirement for an approved structure to have a solid roof or barrier, and the requirement for regulated fruit must be treated with specific, approved post-harvest fungicide. USDA continues to conduct nursery inspections and issue certificates for interstate shipments of ACP-host nursery stock. In the Oriental fruit fly quarantine in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties, USDA issued certificates for the shipment of 21,000,000 pounds of commodities, mostly consisting of citrus fruit.

California Citrus Mutual (CCM) Report

Casey Creamer reported that CCM is working with Florida and Texas on maintaining the \$25,000,000 annual funding from the Farm Bill. CCM also met with the Chairman of the House Act Committee and discussed continuation of the Citrus Trust Fund. Last week, the United States House of Representatives and United States Senate released their framework for the next Farm Bill. It is difficult to project any baseline projection for citrus funding, but both the House and Senate have prioritized the \$25,000,000 in annual funding for citrus, but they have each presented different proposals for how they would be allocating those funds. Considering all factors and challenges, Casey feels optimistic about obtaining resources to further the California citrus industry.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report

Marcy Martin announced that following Rick Dunn's retirement, Nancy Ying will continue as the geographic information systems analyst for CRB and will perform citrus layer mapping. Dr. Melinda Klein reported that the Technical Review Team held a meeting to discuss a white paper's proposal of reintroducing nursery stock into a quarantine zone. Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic reported that the Imperial Pest Control District expressed interest in further supporting citrus research and have provided over 5,000 of acres for program use. CRB will be advising on what treatments they are looking for in application and are looking into diversifying treatments and expanding the number of sites. Ivan reported that Raju Pandey has been working with the field cages, which have been estimated to produce over 300,000 *Tamarixia* per year.

San Joaquin Valley Pest Control Districts (SJV PCD) Report

Dr. Subhas Hajeri reported that from March to April 2024 a total of 3,196 traps were deployed in 3,169 trapping locations in the Central Valley. He also stated that multi-pest inspections this spring consisted of 687 trees and collecting 40 samples for ACP, HLB, CYVCV, fruit flies, and other pests.

OTHER ITEMS, CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) Update

Victoria reported that CDFA will be working with the contractor and other departments to conduct an environmental risk assessment peer review.

Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) Update

Keith Okasaki reported that work is being done to amend the SOS compliance agreement to reflect the recent changes to the Federal Order mentioned by Helene Wright. Victoria reported that SOS samples were also sent to Dr. Adaskaveg at University of California Riverside and discussions regarding primers and testing methods continue between Dr. Adaskaveg, CDFA, and USDA.

CYVCV Update

Victoria Hornbaker reported that the CYVCV survey in Los Angeles County found only one detection at the original HLB find site. Delimitation survey is ongoing in Tulare and Visalia at a three-mile arc.

Continuing Education Unit Update

David Gutierrez reported that it is getting very difficult to get continuing education credits approved by DPR. Topics must now be specific to pesticide use and that DPR will scrutinize all proposed topics. David will continue to work with DPR.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m. The next meeting will be on August 20, 2024 in Santa Clarita, California.

2. Approval of 2024-2025 Committee and Subcommittee Calendars

The attached Committee and Subcommittee calendars (Attachment 2a and 2b) have been reviewed and vetted by California Citrus Mutual, Citrus Research Board, California Citrus Quality Council, Sunkist and the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee.

3. Approval of CDFA/CCTEA Memorandum of Understanding

The attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Attachment 3) is entered into by virtue of California Food and Agricultural Code Section 5930 which provides authority for the Committee, in consultation with the California Department of Food and Agriculture, to enter into an MOU with citrus pest control districts responsible for funding citrus tristeza virus prevention activities. This MOU is renewed annually.

4. CPDPC Member Term Renewal

The following Committee Members terms (Attachment 4) are due to expire on September 30, 2024.

Craig Armstrong
Aaron Dillon
Bob Felts Jr.
Dr. Etienne Rabe

Dr. Etienne Rabe and Aaron Dillon have agreed to serve an additional term. Their new term will expire on September 30, 2028.

Bob Felts Jr, and Craig Armstrong will not serve an additional term.