

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

Meeting Minutes
January 22, 2025

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	

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Dr. Ravneet Behla	Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki
Kiana Dao	Lucita Kumagai	David Phong
Ariana De La Torre	Dahmoon Maesomy	Michael Soltero
Paul Figueroa	Zachary McCormack	Nilan Watmore
David Gutierrez	Raymond Niem	Jennifer Willems

Other Attendees:

Price Adams	Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Paige Shewmaker
Dr. Rob Clark	Dr. Melinda Klein	Cressida Silvers
Natalie DeAngelo	Jessica Leslie	Stephanie Stark
Aaron Dillon	Jasmine Lopez	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Dhiraj Gautam	Mia Neunzig	Sandra Zwaal
Ariana Gehrig	Dr. Margaret O'Neill	

All attendees participated via webinar

*Subcommittee members declared their inability to use a camera

Opening Comments

Kevin Ball called the CPDPC, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:03 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. Keith Okasaki 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 in October 2024, which included an expansion of the Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine area in the Mission Viejo area of Orange County due to an HLB detection at a residential property. In October 2024, 53 trees tested positive for HLB on inactive citrus acreage in Yorba Linda, Orange County. The grove, owned by the Orange County Public Flood Control District, had been inactive for almost three years. Orange County subsequently treated and removed all trees from the grove by the end of December. HLB delimitation survey is ongoing in Anaheim Hills, Corona, Duarte, Irvine, Jurupa Valley, Ontario, Rancho Bernardino, San Dimas, South Gate, and Yorba Linda. Anmol reported a total of 566 HLB-positive trees detected from October through December 2024 in Southern California. Of the positive trees, 46 percent were in Orange County, 27 percent in Los Angeles County, 14 percent in San Bernardino County, 12 percent in Riverside County, and one percent in San Diego County. From October through December 2024, 597 trees have been removed, and 363 trees are pending removal. Warrants continue to be issued to remove trees from refusal properties.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported the average number of samples submitted per month in 2024 was 6,558 HLB plant samples and 388 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples. Relative to 2023, the average number of plant samples has remained consistent while the number of ACP samples submitted has dropped by more than 50 percent. In 2024, 2,261 trees and 90 ACP tested positive for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas). In total, 9,408 trees have tested positive for CLas from 2012 to 2024, with 61 percent of samples originating from Orange County, 25 percent from Los Angeles County, seven percent from San Bernardino County, five percent from Riverside County, one percent from San Diego County, and one percent from Ventura County.

HLB Risk-Based Survey

David Phong reported that the 2024 multi-pest survey (MPS) cycle two, which began in October 2024, is currently 42 percent complete. Survey is completed in 7 of the 31 allocated counties. To date, approximately 9,000 properties have been surveyed, from which approximately 500 ACP and 1,400 plant samples were collected and submitted. In the Northern District, 46 percent of the 70 assigned grids are complete. In the Central District, 56 percent of the 494 assigned grids are complete. In the Southern District, 27 percent of the 213 assigned grids are complete.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki briefly discussed the expansion of the HLB quarantine area in the Mission Viejo area of Orange County. Regulatory staff continue to be on the lookout for illegal backyard, flea market, and roadside citrus nursery stock vendors.

Discuss HLB Retail Nurseries

Keith Okasaki proposed changes to the HLB quarantine rules, that would allow citrus nursery stock to be sold in HLB quarantine areas where sales are currently prohibited. The proposed changes would allow citrus nursery stock originating from an approved structure, treated with a systemic and foliar product, and tagged with CDFA program tags to be eligible for sale in the HLB quarantine area for 90 days after date of treatment. Nursery stock would only be sold at stores with a signed compliance agreement, must be kept within the walls of the store or a structure to prevent exposure, at least 30 feet away from doorways, and would have to be destroyed if not sold within the 90-day window (one re-treatment may be applied, if capable). By allowing a clean source of citrus plants to be sold within HLB quarantine areas, the market for illegally propagated citrus plants may be lowered significantly, thus saving time and resources.

Recommendation:

1. The Operations Subcommittee members unanimously supported the proposal and recommended the discussion of selling citrus nursery stock in HLB quarantine areas be moved to the upcoming CPDPC meeting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported that delimitation treatments are nearly complete in Anaheim Hills, Corona, Duarte, Irvine, Jurupa Valley, Montclair, Ontario, and Yorba Linda. Public meetings were conducted in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego Counties to treat delimitation areas.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that Kern County had five ACP detections since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting. On November 14, three ACP were found on a trap in Bakersfield. Subsequently, the property was surveyed and field staff collected more than 40 ACP from the same host. On November 18, the tree was treated and removed, due to the tree originating from Southern California. A 400-meter treatment project was triggered, which began on December 20, and has been completed. County staff will attempt to gain access to refusal sites and *Tamarixia* will continue to be released through March. In the HLB delimitation survey in Ventura County, 21 properties have refused survey, and one property refused HLB-positive tree removal. CDFA is working with county staff and California Highway Patrol to obtain warrants to complete surveys and removal.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported staff conducting MPS 2024 cycle two, which is 44 percent complete, with Sacramento, Marin, and San Joaquin Counties being fully completed. In Santa Clara County, there were 41 new ACP detections since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting, resulting in a 5-grid expansion of the delimitation area and increasing delimitation trap total from 980 to 1,015. The second round of spot treatment, which occurred in October 2024, resulted in treatment of 63 properties and one refusal. Beginning in February 2025, approximately 50 percent of delimitation traps will be removed from Santa Clara County from the core delimitation grids because eradication activities have been discontinued. Biocontrol will continue to be released and delimitation traps will be maintained near the boundary of the infestation, saving time and resources.

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

Data Management Report

David Phong and his team are developing a dashboard for treatment and delimitation surveys. Dr. Marina Kaiser is developing a desktop application to allow field staff to perform quality checks on CDFA trapping data. David and his team are also working with Dr. Rob Clark to identify ways to help Dr. Clark's team verify the results from his machine-learning risk model.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. via webinar.