

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

**Meeting Minutes  
February 14, 2025**

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

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

Aaron Dillon	Dr. Melinda Klein*	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Brad Carmen	Mark McBroom	Dr. Ram Uckoo
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic	

**CDFA Staff:**

Paul Figueroa	Keith Okasaki	Edgar Torres-Zamudio
David Gutierrez	David Phong	Nilan Watmore
Anmol Joshi	Michael Soltero	Jennifer Willems
Raymond Niem	Ned Thimmayya	

**Other Attendees:**

Price Adams	Dr. Jonathan Kaplan	Margaret O'Neill
Kevin Ball	Wally Kearns	Cressida Silvers
Dr. Rob Clark	Jasmine Lopez	Keith Watkins
Dr. Sandipa Gautam	Marcy Martin	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Saurabh Gautam	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Sandra Zwaal
Dr. Dhiraj Gautam		

All attendees participated via webinar

\*Committee members unable to have their cameras on due to technical issues.

**Opening Comments**

Chair, Dr. Etienne Rabe called the meeting to order at 11:04 am.

**Potential ACP Quarantine Exit Strategy**

Keith Okasaki presented a potential change to the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) quarantine zones. The possible change includes the removal from the ACP quarantine counties north of the Tehachapi mountains without an ACP detection in the past two years. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will present historical data and arguments to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to support this proposal.

**Update on the Strategic Plan Action Items**

Dr. Etienne Rabe led the Subcommittee in the discussion regarding the December 2024 Strategic Planning Meeting and the actions to be taken by the Science Subcommittee.

### **Strategic Priority A – 3**

Revisit the CDFA's Pest Control District (PCD) Task Force Committee to discuss what items can be transferred to the PCDs. Initial discussions will be held in March to discuss and eliminate duplication of efforts.

### **Strategic Priority A – 4**

Convene a working group (Dr. Melinda Klein, Dr. Neil McRoberts, Keith Okasaki, and Dr. Etienne Rabe) to recommend region-specific pest and disease management activities. The working group will discuss whether certain activities will increase or decrease based on the region. Dr. Klein and Dr. McRoberts emphasized the importance of having experts with extensive region-specific knowledge participating in the working group.

#### Recommendation:

The Science Subcommittee members unanimously voted on the proposal to discuss expanding of the working group to include Kevin Ball, John C. Gless, and Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic at the upcoming CPDPC meeting.

### **Strategic Priority A – 5**

Dr. David Morgan will continue coordinating *Tamarixia* releases to avoid pesticide treatment areas and has been provided with access to treatment information to better coordinate future releases.

### **Strategic Priority A – 6**

The Subcommittee asked Dr. Neil McRoberts to create a short document summarizing the effects of California climate on ACP control. Dr. McRoberts expects to have the document prepared by the end of March.

### **Strategic Priority A – 7**

Keith Okasaki is currently working on submitting a package to the USDA requesting to move counties out of the ACP quarantine.

### **Strategic Priority B – 9**

Convene a working group (Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Keith Okasaki, Dr. Ram Uckoo, and Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division District Managers) to analyze the best way to reallocate resources from urban areas to areas adjacent to commercial citrus.

#### Recommendation:

Add Dr. Rob Clark and Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic to the working group.

### **Strategic Priority B – 11**

Convene a working group (Dr. Robert Clark, Dr. Matthew Daugherty, Dr. Weiqi Luo, Dr. Neil McRoberts, and David Phong) to define huanglongbing (HLB) hotspot areas where current response protocols are not effective.

Recommendation:

Add Chris Boisseranc and Dr. Ram Uckoo to the working group.

**Strategic Priority B – 12**

Approach regulatory agencies to provide a rationale for implementing a five-mile radius HLB quarantine. Convene a working group to discuss with regulatory agencies the issues with regulated entities and how they can be part of developing quarantine boundaries.

**Strategic Priority E – 7, 8, and 9**

These items will be revisited after the upcoming Full Committee meeting.

**Other Items and Adjournment**

Chair, Dr. Etienne Rabe adjourned the meeting at 11:59 am.