

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
March 26, 2025, Minutes**

There was a quorum of the Executive Committee, and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members:

John C. Gless*	Mark McBroom*	Keith Watkins*
Dr. Etienne Rabe*		

Executive Committee Members Absent:

Kevin Ball	Aaron Dillon
------------	--------------

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum*	David Gutiérrez*	Keith Okasaki*
Ravneet Behla*	Anmol Joshi*	Jason Wu*

Other Attendees:

Price Adams*	Jim Gorden*	Roger Smith*
Natalie DeAngelo*	Kurt Metheny*	Ram Uckoo*
Saurabh Gautam*	Mia Neunzig*	

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

Keith Watkins called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM, welcoming Executive Committee (Committee), guests, and staff participating. There were no public comments.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

a. 2024/2025 Expenditure and Revenue Report:

Carl Baum stated that December 2024 expenditures were reduced by \$865,587, bringing the total to \$36.1 million. This will be the final total reported for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023/2024. There is one potential charge that may come from Pierce's Disease Control Program due to an administrative oversight but it is still being investigated.

FY 2023/2024 revenues increased by approximately \$36,800, bringing the total to \$18 million, will be the final revenue total reported for FY 2023/2024. The final revenue total converts to approximately 200.4 million cartons.

For FY 2024/2025 expenditures, October 2024 closed with \$3.2 million, November 2024 closed with \$2.9 million, and December 2024 closed with \$3.2 million, bringing the FY 2024/2025 total expenditures to \$15.9 million. Citrus Division has processed several liquidations to reduce encumbrances and alleviate the Fund Condition Statement (FCS).

FY 2024/2025 HLB E-Fund Ventura, little change occurred but Citrus Division hired seasonal employees in January to begin working on the project. These salaries will be

billed to the E-Fund. The budget of \$1.4 million will not be fully expended due to the lack of seasonal hires in Ventura County. CYVCV-LA fund has been fully expended and will be reflected at the next meeting. Federal Outreach fund, little change but is on track to be fully expended.

FY 2024/2025 revenues increased by approximately \$891,000, bringing the total to \$3.9 million. The revenue total converts to approximately 43.7 million cartons.

FY 2024/2025 Clean Citrus Nursery Stock program testing is done for the year and final billings and results are being processed. Currently there is approximately \$21,000 in expenditures and approximately \$156,000 in revenue.

David Gutiérrez presented an updated FCS and explained that these statements reflect a moment in time only including the Agriculture Fund and the encumbrances tied to it. The FCS does not include Federal or General Funds. Once the FCS is generated, the Admin. Team then adjusts the line items to give the most current and accurate updates. After an internal fiscal exercise, Citrus Division had over-projected for the remaining FY, causing an investigation into the budgeting process. The conclusion was that the current budget does not represent the true budget for real expenditures. After realizing this, some operations were paused to reduce overspending. Moving forward, Citrus Division will implement a new budgeting process that focuses on real expenditures and revenues based on each funding source.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

Keith Watkins mentioned that the Secretary requested the committee to reevaluate the motion about allowing citrus nursery stock to be sold in the Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine with the modification of 250 trees maximum that did not pass at the previous meeting. The motion will be addressed at the next Full Committee Meeting.

Science Subcommittee Report:

The Pest Control District task force has been meeting regularly with Keith Okasaki and other workgroups have had discussions about borderlines and access of regions and the requirements that constitute a hotspot.

Outreach Subcommittee Report

Some grower liaisons and NST operations have been paused, due to the decisions made from the previous meeting. Natalie DeAngelo explained that NST is still able to operate at smaller scale with the current federal Plant Protection Act Section 7721 funding. Carl noted that USDA has approved PPA 7721 funding for the next FY and will be available starting 7/1/25.

Restructuring Process:

David Gutiérrez recalled that the committee decided to right-size the Division during the previous meeting. With that, certain resources must be reallocated to continue supporting areas that have more potential to cause damage to commercial citrus. After an analysis of revenue and salary costs, it was revealed that assessments alone do not

bring in enough revenue to support the number of staff in the Citrus Division. To combat this for the current FY, Citrus Division is assisting other programs to reduce the personnel spending. The total number of staff need to support Citrus Division will be reevaluated for the next FY.

Other Business:

Roger asked if there are plans to include the local Pest Control Districts (PCD) to help with operations. Keith Watkins stated that this topic has been brought to the attention of the Secretary. Mark McBroom and Keith Okasaki confirmed that there have been meetings to discuss the abilities of the PCD's and how to implement them in local areas.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 am. The next committee meeting will be at 10:00 am on June 20, 2025.