

**Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee
Executive Committee Webinar Meeting
June 20, 2025, Minutes**

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

Executive Committee Members:

Kevin Ball	Mark McBroom	Keith Watkins
John C. Gless	Kurt Metheny	

Executive Committee Members Absent:

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum	Dahmoon Maesomy	Michael Soltero
Joseph Damiano	Lauren Murphy	ThuyVy Truong
Paul Figueroa	Keith Okasaki	Jason Wu
Anmol Joshi	Grace Radabaugh	

Other Attendees:

Price Adams	Christopher Greer	Mia Neunzig
Dr. Dhiraj Gautam	Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Dr. Saurabh Gautam	Hailey Jones	Dr. Ram Uckoo

All Participated via webinar

Opening Comments:

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

Approval of Minutes:

Kurt Metheny motioned for approval of the last Executive Committee meeting minutes that took place on March 26, 2025, at 10:00 am. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance Subcommittee Report:

2023/2024 Expenditure and Revenue Report

Kurt Metheny summarized the final Fiscal Year (FY) 23-24 expenditures and revenues. The total expenditure was \$36.1 million and total revenues were \$18 million, a slight increase from FY 23-24 revenues.

2024/2025 Expenditure and Revenue Report

January 2025 expenditure was \$3.2 million. Total FY 24-25 expenditure through January was \$19.3 million, with \$15.6 million in encumbrances. February 2025 expenditure was \$2.8 million and total expenditure to date was \$22.2 million. Encumbrances dropped significantly in February 2025 to under \$11.5 million due to liquidation. The Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus federal award has been fully

expended and billed, and the federal outreach award will be fully expended by the end of June 2025. FY 24-25 revenues received as of March were \$8.5 million, an increase of almost \$4 million from February. The Clean Citrus Nursery Stock Program funding is not overspent.

Carl Baum mentioned May is closed in Fiscal and updated numbers will be presented at the July 7th Finance Subcommittee meeting. Carl also stated that the program was granted permission to request a one-year extension to the Ventura Huanglongbing (HLB) Emergency Fund to spend the remaining \$1.1 million.

Operations Subcommittee Report:

Kevin Ball mentioned that June 26th is the next operations subcommittee meeting. Keith Okasaki provided an update regarding research and non-regulatory labs' ability to notify grove owners of suspect HLB-positive trees, which should encourage more growers' participation. CDFA is communicating with affected labs to ensure proper and consistent messaging regarding suspect positive trees.

Dr. Etienne Rabe raised concerns about growers being allowed to remove suspect positive trees. Keith assured Dr. Rabe that CDFA would collect official samples from the suspect tree(s) if present, and the neighboring trees would be visually surveyed with samples collected if symptoms are observed. Kevin Ball mentioned that Ventura growers are looking for funding from larger packing houses to fund operational costs of sampling and removing suspect positive trees.

Science Subcommittee Report:

Dr. Etienne Rabe addressed three topics discussed at the science subcommittee meeting.

1. Regional Activity Working Group: The group discussed and has identified a number of activities it recommends be conducted in specific regions and highlighted activities specific to residential survey, ACP treatment, outreach, and commodity survey. Hot spot analysis working group – the group recommended using a 5% positivity rate as a cutoff point, where if more than 5% of trees sampled in a specific STR (Section Township Range) are positive, the STR would be deemed a hot spot.
2. Hot Spot Working Group: The hotspot would group STRs together to create a three-mile radius halo around the STF with a 5% positivity rate. Subhas Hajeri and Ram Uckoo suggested using 3% as the cutoff rather than 5% and requested the working group to revise geographical maps to show the difference between 3% vs 5%, with the three-mile halo. 5% is considered a tipping point for any disease and once a disease reaches 5%, control is lost.
3. Pest Control District (PCD) Working Group: Dr. Rabe stated the Alliance of Pest Control Districts (APCD) budget for commercial activities will likely be more than what is currently spent by CDFA, and suggests more be spent in the central valley

as it grows 79% of California's citrus. The APCD budget is approximately \$3 million. Dr. Rabe recommends forming a work group to vet the operations of the APCD.

Keith Watkins asked for opinions regarding PCDs. Kurt Metheny questioned where funding will come from and how it will be allocated for activities conducted by PCDs. Dr. Subhas Hajeri volunteered to provide APCD's activities and associated costs for CDFA to review. Joseph Damiano acknowledged that it would be helpful, the process still needs to be reviewed by CDFA's legal team.

Closing:

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 am. The next subcommittee meeting will be at 1:00 pm on August 12, 2025.