

# **CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 11, 2025

## **Opening:**

The Finance Subcommittee webinar was called to order at 1:00 P.M. on September 11, 2025, by Subcommittee Chair Kurt Metheny.

## **Subcommittee Members Present:**

Jay Gillette	James McFarlane	Kurt Metheny
Mark McBroom		

## **Subcommittee Members Absent:**

Jeff Steen

## **CDFA Staff and Guests:**

Carl Baum	Mia Neunzig	ThuyVy Truong
Joseph Damiano	Keith Okasaki	Keith Watkins
Nathan Johnson	Grace Radabaugh	Jennifer Willems
Hailey Jones	Alisha Rios	Jason Wu
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All present attendees participated via webinar

## **Call to Order, Roll Call, Public Comments**

Chairman, Kurt Metheny, welcomed Subcommittee members, guests and staff participating via webinar.

## **Process Overview**

Carl Baum explained that in prior fiscal years, the Finance Subcommittee members met prior to the Full Committee meeting to discuss potential recommendations for the assessment rate. According to the committee bylaws, the Finance Subcommittee is not required to make a recommendation regarding the assessment rate to the Full Committee. James McFarlane said that a discussion should be held if members would like to make a recommendation to the Committee.

## **Update on Current Crop**

Carl presented the current crop update, stating 90 percent of expected packing houses have paid their assessments through July 2025. The crop year runs from October to September. Packing houses have until November 10<sup>th</sup> to submit reports for the final crop month of September. Through May 2025, CPDPD expected to have a crop year similar to prior year, netting approximately \$18 million in revenue. However, starting June 2025, assessments received dropped compared to prior year by four percent and is projected to fall short of \$18 million. Jay Gillette mentioned summer lemons and valencias are likely what remain to be packed and estimated that more valencias are

going through packing houses compared to last year, which should bring the numbers up to meet the \$18 million goal. Kurt Metheny asked about the consequences if the carton projection is not met. Carl answered that the program will have a \$1 million deficit for revenue.

Carl then presented the approved fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026 budget. The Full Committee approved a budget of \$33 million which is funded by the general fund, federal fund, and agricultural fund. The Budget Office is working on the Fund Condition Statement which will be presented at the next finance subcommittee meeting scheduled for October 7, 2025.

Carl stated that FY 2024-25 has closed, and the final numbers will be presented at the next meeting and the program is projecting a deficit. The projected deficit based on manual tracking is estimated to be \$2 million, which includes the revenue shortfall.

Federal funding has a baseline of \$12 million and Citrus has requested \$20.1 million in FY 2025-26. Until the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) executes the Citrus Health and Response Program (CHRP) agreement, CPDPD does not know the amount the program will be awarded. There is no estimated time for execution.

#### **Discuss FY 2025-26 Crop Rate**

Carl presented a display showing carton projections and assessment rates. The current agriculture budget for FY 2025-26 is \$17,216,950 at the current rate of \$0.09 per carton, which is roughly 191,299,444 cartons. If the program receives less than 191,299,444 cartons at \$0.09 per carton, the program will be in a deficit per the approved budget. Keith Watkins stated that there are less quantities of fruit on trees this season, but the size structure is larger. He estimated navels will be slightly down from prior years and lemons will be around the same as prior years. Based on comments from other members, the committee would want to stay at the estimate of 191,299,444 cartons. Keith Watkins said there is an argument to raise the assessment to \$0.10 per carton to assist with a reserve. However, when government entities such as the USDA look into funding, they also look at what the state is assessing themselves. Mark McBroom stated that he would suggest raising the assessment to \$0.095 per carton; and thinks the program has good leadership that is mindful and conscious in managing the program, creating more efficiencies and limiting revenue spending.

**Recommendation to Full Committee:** To raise the assessment rate by \$0.005, making the assessment rate \$0.095 per carton, at the start of October 1, 2025.

**First:** Mark McBroom

**Second:** Jay Gillette

**Vote:** The recommendation passed unanimously.

#### **NASS Crop Estimate**

CPDPD has not received the National Agriculture Statistics Services (NASS) report and will likely not have it by the next scheduled Full Committee Meeting. There is no further update at this time.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:39 P.M. The next Finance Subcommittee meeting will be held on October 7, 2025, at 9:00 A.M.