

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

**Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2025**

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

Operations Subcommittee Members:

Kevin Ball	John C Gless*	Kurt Metheny
Brad Carmen	Jim Gorden*	Jason Reynolds
Aaron Dillon	Jose Lima	Roger Smith

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Joseph Damiano	Dahmoon Maesomy	Grace Radabaugh
Kiana Dao	Lauren Murphy	Claudia Vazquez
Paul Figueroa	Raymond Niem	Nilan Watmore
Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Lucita Kumagai	David Phong	

Other Attendees:

Dr. Rob Clark	Jessica Leslie	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Subhas Hajeri	Jasmine Lopez	Sandra Zwaal
Hailey Jones	Margaret O'Neill	Jessa Rosenthal
Dr. Melinda Klein	Paige Shewmaker	

All attendees participated via webinar

*Subcommittee members declared their inability to use a cam

Opening Comments

Chair, Kevin Ball called the CPDPC, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:01 a.m. on Thursday, September 11, 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 June 2025, which included a *Candidatus Liberibacter* positive (CLas+) Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detection in the Murrieta area of Riverside County, and a huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine expansion in the San Clemente area of Orange and San Diego Counties. Due to the re-alignment shifting priorities away from residential areas, fewer HLB positive trees have been detected (54 in last two months). Staff are currently conducting HLB delimitation surveys in the 250-m area surrounding the Coto De Caza and Riverside detections and 50-m area surrounding the Corona and Rancho Santa Margarita detections. Find site surveys have occurred in Anaheim, Brea, Costa Mesa, Garden Grove, Irvine, Lake Forest, Midway City, Mission Viejo, Santa Ana, Tustin, Villa Park, and Yorba Linda. 201 HLB-positive trees were removed in July and August 2025.

HLB Hotspot Summary

David Phong presented a report from the HLB Hotspot Working Group which included a one-page report summarizing the group's recommendations. Hotspots may be declared if the following are met:

- A Section Township Range grid (STR) has an average HLB positivity rate of three to five percent over the last three-years
- An area cannot be declared a hotspot if less than ten HLB detections over a consecutive three-year period have been found,
- Any STR declared a hotspot will have a halo of three STRs also declared a hotspot.

The working group also recommended that the area within three miles of commercial citrus should not be declared a hotspot. Commercial citrus in this situation is defined as a grove with five or more acres, or groves within one mile of each other combined to be five or more acres.

Recommendation:

1. The Operations Subcommittee members reviewed and approved to move the HLB Hotspot Working Group recommendations to be discussed at the next Full Committee Meeting on September 17, 2025.

Laboratory Update

(Update not provided due to absence of Lucita Kumagai).

Multi-Pest Survey

David Phong reported that the 2025 multi-pest survey (MPS) cycle one, which began in May 2025, is 83-percent complete. Survey is complete in 16 of the 31 allocated

counties. To date, approximately 17,000 properties have been surveyed, from which approximately 3,100 ACP and 4,400 plant samples were collected and submitted. Currently in the Southern District, 21 staff from six offices are actively working on MPS, with 83-percent of the 206 assigned grids completed. In the Central District, 16 staff from four offices are working on MPS, with 79-percent of the 428 assigned grids completed. In the Northern District, two staff are working on MPS, with 95-percent of the 93 assigned grids completed. The number of HLB-positive trees has decreased relative to the previous six months due to focusing survey activities away from the core HLB area.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported on the regulatory activities from counties. Due to the reduction of contract agreements compared to last fiscal year, inspections have gone down in general except packinghouse inspections, which have doubled compared to last year. Notable issues include a grate cleaning suspension and growers/packers not providing proper notification in San Diego County, and an ACP detection at a packinghouse in Woodlake, Tulare. CDFA and Tulare County staff are working to follow up on the packinghouse detection to determine if any violation occurred. Keith also provided an update on an administrative court hearing between Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) and a nursery in southern California, where the judge ruled in favor of CPDPD.

State Exterior Quarantine Update

Keith Okasaki proposed to the Subcommittee that California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 3 §3250, the Citrus Pests Exterior Quarantine be updated to include Arizona. The last update to §3250 was in 1998 and since then ACP and HLB has been found in many parts of the United States, including Arizona.

Action Item(s):

1. Draft updated CCR Title 3 §3250 Citrus Pests Exterior Quarantine and present to Operations Subcommittee meeting.

Review of Updated Lab Permit

Keith Okasaki provided a brief update on labs performing unofficial sampling for HLB. Labs are now able to notify the owner of a suspect positive tree at the same time as notifying CDFA. This is to allow the owner to take any action on the tree prior to CDFA collecting an official sample, which should encourage increased grower participation in voluntary sampling.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Regional Working Group Summary

David Phong provided a summary of the Regional Working Group discussions. Discussions separated California into different regions (Northern California, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast, Southern Coast, San Bernardino and West Riverside,

Los Angeles and Orange, Desert, and San Diego) and working group member decided what activities (HLB and CLas+ ACP detection response, ACP detection response in commercial, ACP detection response in residential, biocontrol in commercial, biocontrol in residential, commodity survey, grove trapping, residential MPS, and residential trapping) should occur in each region. The working group did not recommend adding or removing activities beyond what CDFA is currently performing, but recommended modifications to the protocols for existing activities, which include targeted biocontrol releases in certain regions, sentinel trapping in the Southern Coast region, and shifting priorities to agricultural-urban interface areas in the Southern region.

Recommendation:

1. The Operations Subcommittee members reviewed and approved to move the Regional Working Group recommendations to be discussed at the next Full Committee Meeting on September 17, 2025.

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported that 250-m delimitation treatments were conducted in following areas, Coto De Caza, Perris, Riverside, Trabuco Canyon, and Valley Center. Find site properties in 12 cities have been treated. Public meetings will be conducted for Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties to treat delimitation areas. Currently 33 staff members are conducting surveys, 10 staff are conducting regulatory activities, nine are performing treatments, and two positions are vacant.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that since the Operations Subcommittee meeting in June 2025, there have been two new ACP detections. In June, an adult ACP was detected on a trap in a commercial grove in Monterey County. Delimitation traps and biocontrol soon followed the detection, and no additional ACP have been detected. In August, an adult ACP was found at a packinghouse in Woodlake in Tulare County and since then, a total of five adult ACP has been found at and near the packinghouse. Delimitation traps were already deployed in the area from a previous find, and biocontrol and treatments have occurred in the area. CDFA staff have been unable to contact two property owners for treatment and will be turned over to Tulare County. Detection and grove trapping are ongoing; delimitation trapping activities are being conducted by county staff. In Santa Paula in Ventura County, 3,518 properties have been surveyed as part of HLB delimitation activities with 119 trees testing positive for HLB, 115 HLB-positive trees removed, and 1,323 properties treated.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported that new county trapping agreements, beginning October 1, 2025, have been reduced by 20 percent, which equates to approximately \$220,000. CDFA staff will also be taking over Sutter County's Winter Detection Trapping Program. The current MPS cycle, which began in May 2025, is now over 90 percent complete in the Northern District. Since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting in June 2025, there has been four ACP detections at properties in San Jose. Treatments

occurred in the week of June 23 for 27 properties in Santa Clara County.

Biocontrol

Grace Radabaugh provided updates on biocontrol releases. As of August, 33,334,857 *Tamarixia radiata* have been released since the start of the biocontrol program in 2011, with 1,301,700 released in 2025 to date. Releases continue in HLB quarantine areas, borders, trade routes, area-wide management, and new find sites, which include Monterey and Tulare County in August. CDFA is on track to release 2,000,000 *Tamarixia*, which is slightly less compared to last year due to reduced materials.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Grower Liaison Discussion

Keith Okasaki proposed for the Operations Subcommittee members to vote to move discussions of Grower Liaison to the Full Committee.

Recommendation:

1. The Operations Subcommittee members approved to recommend the Full Committee to discuss restarting the Grower Liaison in Central and Southern District at the next Full Committee Meeting on September 17, 2025.

Outreach Report

Dahmoon Maeesomy and Paige Shewmaker reported the outreach activities that CPDPD has participated in 2025 which include, billboard campaigns, Move Citrus integrated campaign, Master Gardener presentations, local grower and resident meetings, and multiple festivals. Paige provided a brief overview on Nuffer, Smith, Tucker, including their history with CPDPD, outreach tactics, target audiences, activities, and desired outcomes.

Other Item(s) and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:12 p.m. The date for the next Operations Subcommittee meeting is to be determined.