

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

**Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2025**

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

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

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

**California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:**

Joseph Damiano	Dr. David Morgan	David Phong
Kiana Dao	Alex Muniz	Aleece Richter
Paul Figueroa	Lauren Murphy	Michael Soltero
Anmol Joshi	Raymond Niem	Nilan Watmore
Dahmoon Maesomy	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems

**Other Attendees:**

Price Adams	Dr. Saurabh Gautam	Mia Neunzig
Dr. Rob Clark	Hailey Jones	Margaret O'Neill
Dr. Dhiraj Gautam	Bridget McFarland	Sandra Zwaal

All attendees participated via webinar

**Opening Comments**

Chair, Dr. Etienne Rabe called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

**Regional Working Group Input and Pest Control District (PCD) Discussions**

Dr. Etienne Rabe facilitated the final review of the Regional Working Group input. The CPDPC requested the scope of work and financial plans from the PCDs and CDFA for commercial activities in the San Joaquin Valley and the Southern Desert regions. CDFA is on track to finish compiling the scope of work and financial plans for these activities in the upcoming days.

**Hotspot Working Group Recommendation Review**

David Phong gave an overview of the Hotspot Working Group report. The working group gave four recommendations:

1. Any Section Township Range grid (STR) with a Huanglongbing (HLB) positivity rate of at least five percent over the last three years will be declared a hotspot.
2. Hotspots will include the STR and an encompassing three-mile radius halo.

3. Areas within three miles of commercial citrus will be exempt from being declared a hotspot. Commercial citrus is defined as a citrus grove or a cluster of citrus groves with cumulative area of more than five acres.”
4. Although pest detection and eradication resources are to be deprioritized from these hotspots, activities should not cease altogether.

The Subcommittee discussed whether the five percent threshold should be lowered. Members were concerned about whether the sampling effort in these STRs would skew the positivity rate. STRs with low sampling efforts or duplicate tree sampling could show a lower positivity rate than what is truly representative of the STR. Members also discussed whether having just five acres of citrus should be considered commercial citrus or whether the minimum acreage should be increased. Members also agreed that biocontrol is a good suppression activity to remain in the hotspot area.

Action Item(s)

- Create maps showing potential hotspots with positivity rate thresholds ranging from three to five percent.
- Produce a summary of the number of acres in Southern California if counting only groves and clusters of groves of more than 5, 10, and 15 acres.
- Show figures of potential commercial and residential interfaces with commercial grove thresholds of 5, 10, and 15 acres.

**Other Items and Adjournment**

Dr. Etienne Rabe adjourned the meeting at 10:24 a.m.