

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

**Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2026**

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

Operations Subcommittee Members:

Kevin Ball	John C Gless*	Kurt Metheny*
Aaron Dillon	Jim Gorden*	Jason Reynolds*

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Dr. Ravneet Behla	Dahmoon Maesomy	Michael Soltero
Kiana Dao	Lauren Murphy	Nilan Watmore
David Gutierrez	Raymond Niem	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki	
Lucita Kumagai	Grace Radabaugh	

Other Attendees:

Price Adams	Dr. Melinda Klein	Judy Zaninovich
Dr. Rob Clark	Jessica Leslie	Sandra Zwaal
Armando Cruz	Mark McBroom	
Natalie DeAngelo	Dr. Ivan Milsavljevic	

All attendees participated via webinar

*Subcommittee members declared their inability to use a camera

Opening Comments

Chair, Kevin Ball called the CPDPC, Operations Subcommittee meeting to order via webinar at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, February 25, 2026. 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 September 2025. *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* positive (CLas-positive) Asian citrus psyllids (ACP) were detected in Grand Terrace and Loma Linda in San Bernardino County. The first huanglongbing (HLB) positive tree in the City of Ramona in San Diego County was detected, triggering a new five square mile quarantine area, fortunately there are no commercial groves within 5 miles of the detection. There were several HLB positive trees detected in San Juan Capistrano, Laguna Niguel, and Ladera Ranch. As a result, the entirety of Orange County is now under HLB quarantine. Staff are currently conducting HLB delimitation surveys in the 250-m area surrounding the Ladera Ranch, San Juan Capistrano, Riverside, and Loma Linda detections and 50-m area surrounding the Pomona detection. Find site surveys have occurred in Anaheim, Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Brea, Irvine, Fountain Valley, Mission Viejo, Foothill Ranch, Laguna Niguel, Pico Rivera, and Corona. In January and February 2026, a total of 95 HLB-positive trees were removed.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported that the total plant sample submission for January 2026 was 2,607 samples. This is down from the monthly average of 4,001 samples in 2025 and will likely be considered the new normal given the new vegetation sampling strategies that were implemented in May of 2025, including sampling from periphery locations and not in hot spots. In January 2026, 346 ACP samples were submitted. Of the samples submitted in January 2026, 67 trees and 7 ACP samples tested positive for HLB. Since 2012, a grand total of 10,429 trees and 935 ACP samples have tested positive for HLB. The positivity rate of plant and ACP samples collected from risk-based surveys has increased in January 2026, compared to previous years. Discussion ensued among subcommittee members about returning to specific hot spot areas to look for trends in positive ACP populations.

Multi-Pest Survey

Dr. Ravneet Behla reported that the 2025 multi-pest survey (MPS) cycle two, which began in November 2025, is 23-percent complete. Statewide, there is a total of 869 grids assigned in 33 counties. To date, approximately 5,700 properties have been surveyed, from which approximately 1,100 ACP and 1,700 plant samples were collected and submitted. Currently in the Southern District, 19 staff from six offices are actively working on MPS, 92 of the 283 assigned grids completed. In the Central District, 16 staff from four offices are working on MPS, with 93 of the 441 assigned grids completed. In the Northern District, two staff are working on MPS, with 15 of the 144 assigned grids completed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported on the regulatory activities from the County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs). Transporter inspections are up 25 percent from the previous year, with Fresno and Tulare Counties being a lot more active. San Diego and Kern Counties conducted records inspections and checks of packinghouses, which recently led to a load from San Diego to Riverside that was identified and rejected due to not meeting quarantine requirements. Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) staff in the Central Valley, while out conducting grove trapping, came across some people in a grove cutting budwood. CPDPD and the local CAC are working together to investigate this incident. CPDPD staff were also working at farmers markets in LA and Orange Counties during the Lunar New Year, monitoring the movement of plant materials.

Discuss Fruit Movement from Southern California

Jim Gorden stated that the CPDPC needs to continue monitoring the movement of fruit from Southern California to, especially to the central valley, determine if the Committee needs to make regulatory recommendations that would change the current regulations to something more restrictive.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Operations and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported that 250-m delimitation treatments were conducted in Ladera Ranch (four properties), San Juan Capistrano (five properties), Loma Linda (47 properties), and Riverside (378 properties). Additionally, 50-m delimitation treatments were conducted in Pomona. Find site properties in 12 cities have been treated. Public meetings were conducted in these areas on January 27 and February 24.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that since the Operations Subcommittee meeting in September 2025, there have been several ACP detections in the central valley. In Fresno County, there were eight ACP detections from two find sites, with the first detection on September 16, 2025. The multiple detections triggered a 400-m delimitation boundary and treatment was completed on February 5, 2026. In Kern County, there were 10 separate detections scattered around the county in the cities of Arvin, Bakersfield, McKittrick, and Mettler, with the first detection on September 26, 2025. All Kern County detections were of a single adult ACP on yellow panel sticky traps and resulted in 50-m delimitation boundaries. Treatment for all 10 delimitations was completed as of February 10, 2026. In Madera County, there were five ACP detections from three sites, with the first detection on November 18, 2025. The multiple detections triggered a 400-m delimitation boundary and treatment was completed on February 12, 2026. The Alliance of Pest Control Districts (APCD) and grower liaisons (GLs) were notified of all detections. All treatments were conducted by CPDPD staff. Residential and grove detection trapping are ongoing, and the CPDPD is in the process of sharing grove trap location data with APCD to possibly streamline grove trapping

operations. MPS and citrus commodity surveys are ongoing. The CPDPD is in the process of requesting a one-year extension for the E-Fund for HLB delimitation in Ventura County, which is currently set to expire June 30, 2026. In Santa Paula in Ventura County, 2,779 properties have been surveyed as part of HLB delimitation activities with 126 trees testing positive for HLB, 123 HLB-positive trees removed, and 1,042 properties treated. The last reported HLB positive tree in Ventura County was December 1, 2025.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported that the northern district is currently six percent complete with the grids for MPS cycle 2, which began in November 2025. ACP trapping is ongoing in 20 counties; 14 counties have trapping agreements with the local CACs and six counties have trapping activities conducted by citrus division staff. Since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting in September 2025, there have been 15 new ACP detections in Santa Clara County.

Santa Clara Delimitation Update

Dahmoon Maeesomy reported that recent ACP detections in Santa Clara County remain centralized within the existing core area. No chemical treatments will be conducted in this area, based on past direction from the CPDPC. Delimitation traps will be reduced in areas where a natural geographical barrier exists to protect against ACP's natural migration and higher trap densities, surveys, and biocontrol releases will be implemented strategically to monitor the spread of ACP.

Biocontrol

Grace Radabaugh provided updates on biocontrol releases. As of December 2025, 33,792,513 *Tamarixia radiata* have been released since the start of the biocontrol program in 2011, with 2,231,600 released in 2025. Releases continue in HLB quarantine areas, borders, trade routes, area-wide management, and new ACP find sites. CDFA is working with Citrus Research Board (CRB) to collect *Tamarixia* from the California coastal and desert areas, which can then be reared and released in those areas, maximizing the efficiency of the releases since the reared *Tamarixia* will be adapted for those respective climates. Monitoring of 30-60 release sites continues to show a general trend of decreased ACP over the years. There was a spike in ACP during the fall flush of 2025, but there continues to be lower numbers of ACP overall.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Outreach Report

Dahmoon Maeesomy reported on the outreach activities since the last Operations Subcommittee meeting in September 2025. Following the Imperial County CLas-positive ACP detection, Nuffer, Smith, Tucker (NST) rolled out the Crisis Communications Protocol, which included a Crisis Communications Management Team meeting, development of key messages to align stakeholders, Citrus Insider e-blast distribution, and ongoing communication with Imperial CAC. CPDPD is continuing to utilize social media to support ongoing field activities. The new NST contract began November 1, 2025, and the 2026 priority outreach strategies align with the CPDPD

Strategic Plan. The current fiscal year budget includes the following outreach funding amounts: \$80,000 for GL agreements (zero percent expended to-date), \$468,128 for NST agreement (four percent expended to-date), \$640,691 for Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) agreement (34 percent expended to-date), and \$5,000 for the UC Davis Translations agreement (zero percent expended to-date).

Closing Comments and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56 a.m. The date for the next Operations Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.