

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

**Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2026**

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

Operations Subcommittee Members:

Kevin Ball	Jim Gorden*	Jason Reynolds*
Justin Brown*	Jose Lima*	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon		

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Dr. Ravneet Behla	Jana Miscevic	Grace Radabaugh
Paul Figueroa	Alex Muniz	Claudia Vazquez
Anmol Joshi	Lauren Murphy	Nilan Watmore
Lucita Kumagai	Raymond Niem	Jennifer Willems
Dahmoon Maesomy	Keith Okasaki	

Other Attendees:

Price Adams	Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Ivan Milosavljevic
Dr. Rob Clark	Jessica Leslie	Mia Neunzig
Natalie DeAngelo	Marcy Martin	Judy Zaninovich
John C. Gless	Mark McBroom	Sandra Zwaal
Dr. Subhas Hajeri		

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 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 20, 2026. Keith Okasaki welcomed Subcommittee members, guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING (HLB)

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi provided an update on HLB detections which include finds in the Pomona area of Los Angeles County, Ladera Ranch and San Juan Capistrano areas of Orange County, and Riverside area of Riverside County. The majority of detections occurred near commercial groves. Staff are conducting HLB delimitation survey and treatment in these areas, with the Ladera Ranch, Loma Linda, and Pomona areas already completed. Find site only surveys were conducted in Anaheim, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, Orange, Jurupa Valley, Grand Terrace, and Corona. Between March and April 2026 in the Southern District, a total of 98 HLB-positive trees were detected, 127 trees were removed, and 59 are pending removal. Anmol compared the HLB-positive tree detections in January through April between 2025 to 2026. In 2025, 563 HLB-positive trees were detected from January to April, while 203 have been detected in 2026 in the same timeframe. The reduction can be attributed largely to protocol changes which shifted focus away from HLB hotspot areas.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported that the recent detections of a *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* positive (CLas-positive) Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) in the Fillmore and Santa Barbara areas led to a sharp increase of plant sample submissions for March and April with a total of 9,229 plant samples submitted. Through April 2026, a total of 13,598 plant samples have been submitted which equates to an average of 3,531 samples per month. In 2026 to date, 195 trees and 33 ACP samples have tested positive for HLB. Subcommittee members recognized that with the new protocol focusing efforts in the ag-urban interface, situations resulting in a surge of samples may be more commonplace and discussed possible ideas to help alleviate the lab's workload, such as pooling samples or diverting samples to the Citrus Research Board lab.

Multi-Pest Survey

Dr. Ravneet Behla reported that the 2025 multi-pest survey (MPS) cycle two, which began in November 2025, is 46-percent complete. Statewide, there is a total of 883 grids assigned in 33 counties. To date, approximately 13,200 properties have been surveyed, from which approximately 2,500 insect and 3,300 plant samples were collected and submitted. In the Southern District, 128 of the 283 assigned grids are completed; in the Central District, 233 of the 456 assigned grids are completed; and in the Northern District, 54 of the 144 assigned grids are completed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported on the regulatory activities from the County Agricultural Commissioners. Compared to the previous year, fewer grower and packer inspections

have been conducted to date while the number of transporter inspections has increased. San Diego County issued Notice of Violations to a packer for bulk citrus shipments that were identified and rejected due to not meeting quarantine requirements. There has been a recent increase in tarping violations in the Central Valley. CDFA and county staff are working together to investigate and follow-up.

In the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting, a situation was reported where people were found cutting budwood from a grove in the Central Valley. Following investigation of this incident, it was discovered that a nursery violated Citrus Nursery Stock Pest Cleanliness Program regulations and was illegally using budwood collected from the field and other unapproved sources to propagate nursery stock, topwork grove trees, and create increase trees. The nursery opted to voluntarily destroy over 50,000 nursery stock plants and remove groves that were illegally topworked. Subcommittee members were alarmed by the actions of the nursery and expressed the need for punitive action.

HLB Retail Nursery Program Update

Keith Okasaki discussed the HLB retail pilot program, which expires on November 30, 2026. In 2025, CPDPC voted to approve a pilot program partially to help combat illegal plant sellers by allowing the sale of legitimate citrus nursery stock in the HLB quarantine areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. There seems to be a decrease in illegal sellers which indicates positive effects from the pilot program. CPDPC members will need to decide if the pilot program is worth continuing. In future meetings, Keith will provide more data to share with members.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Operations and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol Joshi reported that 250-meter delimitation treatments were conducted in Ladera Ranch (95 properties), Loma Linda (86 properties), Riverside (275 properties), and San Juan Capistrano (seven properties). Additionally, 50-m delimitation treatments were conducted in Pomona (13 properties). Find sites (18 properties) in five cities were also treated without a delimitation area due to their distance from commercial citrus.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported that since the Operations Subcommittee meeting in February 2026, there were new CLas-positive ACP detections in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. In Santa Barbara County, the CLas-positive ACP was detected in a residential area of the city of Santa Barbara on March 10, 2026. A 50-m voluntary delimitation survey and treatment area was initiated following the detection. All seven properties within the area were surveyed while only five properties allowed treatment to be conducted. A total of 59 plant samples were collected and all were negative for CLas. In Ventura County, the CLas-positive ACP was detected in a commercial grove in the City of Fillmore on March 10, 2026. A 250-m voluntary delimitation survey and treatment area was initiated following the detection. Within the delimitation and treatment area were five conventional and two organic groves. All conventional groves managers treated their properties while the organic properties were not treated. A total

of 3,184 plant samples were collected, and all were negative for CLAs. In Santa Paula in Ventura County, 2,779 properties have been surveyed to date as part of HLB delimitation activities and 130 trees have tested positive for HLB. Of the 130 positive trees, 126 trees have been removed and 1,042 properties were treated. The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) is requesting a one-year extension for the E-Fund for HLB delimitation in Ventura County, which currently expires on June 30, 2026. With the extension request is a request to update the E-Fund scope of work to include all of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Residential detection and grove trapping activities are ongoing, and the CPDPD is in the process of sharing grove trap location data with the Alliance of Pest Control Districts to possibly streamline grove trapping operations. MPS and citrus commodity surveys are ongoing, but commodity surveys will stop once temperatures are regularly above 85-degrees.

Northern District

Nilan Watmore reported that the Northern District is processing the new county trapping agreements for fiscal year 2026-27. The agreement will be with 13 counties, totaling \$758,850. Currently for MPS cycle two, 38-percent of assigned grids are complete. Since the previous Operations Subcommittee meeting in February 2026, there have been three new ACP detections in Santa Clara County.

Biocontrol

Grace Radabaugh provided an overview on biocontrol production and release strategies. In 2025, the lab produced approximately 2.2 million *Tamarixia radiata*, which averages 182,000 per month. Releases typically occur less than two weeks after production, so the biocontrol agents have optimal fitness and increased parasitism. From 2011-14, 2.5 million *T. radiata* were released across 572 sites and 111 of the sites showed evidence of parasitism. *T. radiata* could be found alive up to 437 days after release and as far as eight miles away from release sites. In 2014-17, release rates were determined by an HLB risk model and monitoring sites showed signs of ACP population decrease. From 2017 onward, the lab targeted releases in high-risk areas (HLB quarantine areas, highways and US/Mexico border, and new ACP find sites). In HLB quarantine areas, releases occur in grids where HLB has been detected and ACP are present. However, staff avoid releasing biocontrol agents in areas that have been treated for approximately six months following treatment.

Since the start of the biocontrol program in 2011, 34,394,813 *T. radiata* have been released. In March 2026, 180,700 *T. radiata* have been released, bringing the year-to-date total to 602,300. Releases continue in HLB quarantine areas, borders, trade routes, area-wide management, and new ACP find sites. To date in 2026, ACP has been found at transect sites but not at the monitoring sites.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – OUTREACH AND COLLABORATION

Outreach Report

Dahmoon Maesomy reported on the outreach activities since the last Operations Subcommittee meeting in February 2026. CDFA had an outreach campaign in April for the Invasive Plant Pest and Disease Awareness month. CDFA highlighted biocontrol

efforts and raised awareness of ACP and HLB through press releases, social media, earned media, new biocontrol webpage, and advertising to target audiences. This led to 125 million touchpoints in April. There was outreach support following recent CLas-positive ACP detections and quarantine expansions by distributing relevant information to targeted audiences. The APCD Grower Liaison (GL) packet and funding has been approved internally and will likely be executed by August 2026. The current fiscal year budget includes the following outreach funding amounts: \$80,000 for Southern California GL agreements (a few percent expended to-date), \$468,128 for the Nuffer Smith Tucker agreement (20-percent expended to-date), \$640,691 for the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) agreement (71-percent expended to-date), and \$5,000 for the UC Davis Translations agreement (five-percent expended to-date). The OEHHA agreement does not accurately reflect CPDPD budget and expenditures because the agreement is shared between other CDFA programs. Overall, 48-percent of the \$1.42 million outreach budget has been expended.

Closing Comments and Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m. The date for the next Operations Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.