

Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC)
Executive Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2026

There was a quorum of the Executive Committee, and the following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members:

Kevin Ball	Mark McBroom	Roger Smith*
John C. Gless	Kurt Metheny*	

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff:

Carl Baum	Raymond Niem	ThuyVy Truong
David Gutierrez	Keith Okasaki	Nilan Watmore
Anmol Joshi	Preetika Pratap	Jennifer Willems
Dahmoon Maesomy	Michael Soltero	Claudia Vazquez

Other Attendees:

Price Adams	Kurtis Lepper
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All attendees participated via webinar

*Committee members declared their inability to use a camera

Opening Comments

John Gless called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m., welcoming the Executive Committee, guests, and staff. There were no public comments.

Approval of Minutes

Mark McBroom recommended approving the minutes from the previous Executive Committee meeting held on August 14, 2026. The recommendation was seconded by Kevin Ball and passed unanimously.

Finance Subcommittee Report

Claudia Vazquez provided a summary of the items discussed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting held on August 27, 2026. The Finance Subcommittee recommended keeping the assessment rate at nine and a half cents (\$0.095) for the 2026-27 crop year. The Finance Subcommittee also discussed and recommended establishing an Agricultural Fund reserve to support Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division activities in the event of a poor crop year. The reserve should be established by allocating \$4,000,000 from fiscal year 2025-26, followed by an additional \$2,000,000 from each of the next two fiscal years, creating a total reserve budget of \$8,000,000. These items will be discussed further and voted on at the upcoming CPDPC Meeting on September 16, 2026.

Operations Subcommittee Report

Kevin Ball highlighted main topics discussed during the Operations Subcommittee meeting held on August 27, 2026. The Operations Subcommittee recommended increasing the Imperial County multi-pest survey agreement amount from \$50,007 to \$250,000. The increased funds will be used to enhance surveillance and strengthen Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) control along the US-Mexico border. The Operations Subcommittee also recommended extending the huanglongbing (HLB) retail nursery pilot program, which is set to expire on November 30, 2026, for one additional year to assess the program's costs and benefits. The intent of the program is to reduce illicit backyard nurseries by providing an avenue for buyers in the HLB quarantine area to obtain clean citrus nursery stock. These items will be discussed further at the upcoming CPDPC Meeting on September 16, 2026. The Operations Subcommittee was also informed that the sweet orange scab delimitation survey response will be updated to a maximum 250-meter radius from the detection site (previously 800-meter) and will mirror HLB delimitation response.

Science Subcommittee Report

Keith Okasaki reported at the July 31, 2026, Science Subcommittee meeting, members discussed organic pesticide options for growers in response to HLB detections. During the discussion, members noted the "spray and harvest" list was outdated and in response, the ACP Treatment Working Group was formed. The group identified priority products that will undergo field trials to test their ACP control efficacy.

Industry Ad Hoc Committee Update

John stated that he will meet with Nuffer Smith Tucker to discuss interview results,

propose next steps, and send out invites to Ad Hoc Committee members.

Other Item(s) and Adjournment

The Executive Committee meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.