

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2020**

Subcommittee Members Present:

John Gless	Roger Smith	Keith Watkins
Zac Green	Kevin Severns	

CDFA Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	Sara Khalid	Lea Pereira
David Gutierrez	Lucita Kumagai	David Phong
Amelia Hicks	Magally Luque-Williams	Lydia Rodriguez
Victoria Hornbaker	Keith Okasaki	Claudia Vazquez
Gavin Iacono	Zachary McCormick	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi		

Other Attendees:

Bob Atkins	Rick Dunn	Brianna McGuire
Kevin Ball	Enrico Ferro	Dr. Neil McRoberts
Teri Blaser	John C. Gless	Curtis Pate
Brad Carmen	Jim Gorden	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Casey Creamer	Sara Garcia-Figuera	Sylvie Robillard
Melissa Cregan	Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell	Judy Zaninovich
Natalie DeAngelo	Dr. Melinda Klein	Sandra Zwaal
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Mark McBroom	

Opening

The Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on April 8, 2020. Keith Watkins welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

Report on Three Statewide PCA Listening Sessions

Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell conducted three statewide Pest Control Advisor (PCA) listening sessions in February 2020. At each listening session she updated attendees on her Multi-agency Cooperative funded sampling program for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP), efficacy of various pesticides, control recommendations and discussion on where more research is needed. Beth mentioned that the PCAs were eager to interact and receive additional information and she feels that it is important to have PCA involvement, they are boots on the ground and monitor the ACP population in commercial citrus.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing (HLB)

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai stated that lab sampling reduced to 4,626 plant and 793 ACP samples in March 2020 due to COVID-19 and rain. Year-to-date total samples are 24,817 (20 percent lower than last year). 1,355 positive sites were detected by March 31, 2020 (69 percent in Orange County and 28 percent in Los Angeles County). 1,870 total positive trees have been detected to date. Risk survey continues, staff will not knock on doors nor access back yards. Staff will leave letters for residents to call for delimitation sampling appointments, treatment and tree removal.

HLB Risk Survey Update

Magally Luque-Williams stated that Cycle #1 2019 is completed in all 17 counties. Staff surveyed 49,408 sites across 1,500 square miles, collecting 12,258 entomology samples and 8,399 plant samples. Cycle #1 2020 has begun in Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Tulare Counties. East Monterey County has been added to Cycle #1 2020.

The number of proposed Section Township Ranges (STR) in Cycle #1 2020 are almost the same but high-density STRs and proposed residents are almost half of the previous cycle. She expects to complete the survey in July, barring COVID-19 slowdowns.

HLB Detection, Delimitation and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi stated that during the Citrus Research Board tissue and seasonality sampling, 49 non-positive and 51 positive sites were sampled across Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties.

Eight trees were removed in Orange County with 19 pending, four trees removed in Los Angeles County with two pending, one tree removed in San Bernardino County, and one tree is pending removal in Riverside County. To date, HLB has been detected on 1,352 properties with 1,865 HLB-positive trees and 297 positive ACP.

HLB Delimitation

400-meter HLB delimitation is in progress (75 areas in Anaheim are 44 percent complete; 47 areas in Garden Grove are 26 percent complete; 19 areas in Westminster are 33 percent complete; 35 areas in Santa Ana are 27 percent complete; 12 areas in Tustin are 87 percent complete; 24 areas of the City of Orange are 68 percent complete; five areas of Montclair are 76 percent complete; five areas of Corona are 88 percent complete; three areas of Colton are 98 percent complete; Ontario is 99 percent complete; the San Bernardino resurvey is 90 percent complete; 34 areas of Pico Rivera are 98 percent complete; 30 areas of Whittier are 93 percent complete; 17 areas of Montebello are 100 percent complete; and three areas of La Mirada are 80 percent complete; Santa Ana is 37 percent complete with two pending meetings; and Whittier is 92 percent complete with two pending meetings).

San Gabriel Resample Review

5,001 properties were surveyed in the San Gabriel resurvey from November 2018 through December 2019. San Gabriel is 97 percent complete.

Areawide and International Border Treatments

Area-wide treatments are completed for the winter cycle. The next cycle will begin July or August 2020. HLB border survey is 100 percent complete in San Diego County and 73 percent complete in Imperial County.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki stated that the bulk of regulatory activity from July 2019 to January 2020 occurred in Riverside, Tulare and San Diego Counties. Kern and Ventura County regulatory activities will increase once they are caught up on invoicing. He explained that most violations were issued to transporters, with some Notice of Violations issued to growers and packers that failed to provide notification of shipment or meet the ACP-free performance standard.

Next year's county agreements have begun, and staff has received most workplans. The total projected amount is up slightly from the current \$2,000,000 due to increasing farmer's markets inspections and regulatory presence. The division will meet with counties to see where the counties may be supplemented and helped with inspections.

Discuss Quarantine Logistics

Shipping Nursery Stock

Nurseries in the quarantine zone have the option to build a California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)-approved structure and place trees on hold for two years with monthly inspections and testing prior to release. This allows nurseries to save their citrus trees and sell stock after being placed under quarantine rather than destroy them. Revising the compliance agreement exhibit would allow the nurseries to move additional trees inside their structure after the initial two-year hold.

Planting Nursery Trees in HLB Quarantine Areas

CDFA received requests to allow nurseries once they are placed under HLB quarantine to plant nursery stock trees in the ground. CDFA could facilitate this via hold notice so that trees cannot be uprooted or used as propagative material. HLB quarantined nurseries are willing to plant their stock and consider themselves commercial growers. Victoria noted that this applies to outdoor stock United States Department of Agriculture-approved indoor stock can be sold without interruption if the two tests per year are in progress. CDFA staff can visit nurseries at time of quarantine and to verify that the nursery can be signed as a commercial grower.

Clarification of Mitigations for Moving HLB Fruit

The grower compliance agreement is ambiguous, and clarification is requested from the Subcommittee. The only options for moving HLB fruit is to move fruit from grower to packinghouse in the same quarantine area with one mitigation or to move fruit to a

packer outside the quarantine zone requiring a wet wash or a combination of pre-harvest treatment and field cleaning. Wet wash is intended to be done on-site. Victoria suggested forming a working group with members from the operations and the science subcommittees and outside experts to work through these issues.

Mitigation Requirements for Fruit Sellers

Certified growers selling at farmer's markets are required to keep fruit completely clean of stems and leaves, and ship to market in a covered vehicle. Keith Okasaki requested direction from the Subcommittee if mitigation should be more in line with a commercial grove. It was suggested that the working group discuss this issue.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression Trapping and Treatment Updates

Central Valley

Jennifer Willems stated that the Central District staff are working through the risk survey Cycle #1 2020. Fresno has delimitation traps which will be serviced until November 2020 and Soledad has delimitation traps which will be serviced until August 2020. There are 3,990 Ventura properties that have received area wide treatment. Santa Barbara Psyllid Management Areas 4, 5, 6, 7 and 12 are at 90 percent participation.

Regional ACP Update

Bob Atkins stated that Grower Liaisons (GLs) are working on Assembly Bill 5 and its effect on staffing. Additionally, a key topic at a GL meeting was 25-plus tree properties that are technically commercial.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing Reanalyzing HLB Response Area

Brianna McGuire led an analytical discussion on reducing HLB delimitation survey and treatment from 400-meters to 300-meters. Prior to summer 2018, an 800-meter delimitation zone around HLB-positive trees existed. This was changed to 400-meter delimitation in summer 2018, based on Dr. Tim Gottwald's analysis.

Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) graphed the same curve with the new, post-summer 2018 data, and found that 95 percent of all HLB-positive trees are within 230 meters of another HLB-positive tree. DATOC recommends reducing the survey radius to 300 meters. Holly Deniston-Sheets explained that only one percent of *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus*-positive ACP finds since the start of the program were beyond 300 meters.

The Subcommittee motioned to recommend a 300-meter delimitation survey and treatment area to the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m. The next meeting will be on May 6, 2020.