

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 3, 2014

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 3, 2014 in San Bernardino, California by Committee Chairman Nick Hill.

**CPDPC Members Present:**

Craig Armstrong	Gus Gunderson*	James McFarlane
Richard Bennett	Nick Hill	Kevin Olsen
Bob Felts, Jr.	Link Leavens*	Etienne Rabe
John Gless	Mark McBroom	Brian Specht
Jim Gorden	George McEwen	

**CPDPC Members Absent:**

Kevin Severns

**CDFA Staff:**

Jason Chan	Victoria Hornbaker	Mike Pitcairn
Nick Condos*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo	Susan McCarthy*	Scosha Wright
Art Gilbert	David Morgan	
Adrian Gonzales	Colleen Murphy-Vierra	

**Guests:**

Bob Atkins	Ellen Kragh*	Don Seaver*
Joe Barcinas	Leslie Leavens*	Cressida Silvers*
Jill Barnier*	Cynthia LeVesque*	Zea Sonnabend*
Brett Chandler*	Leonard Massey*	Alan Washburn
William Corkins	Alistair McKay*	Dan Willey*
Rick Dunn*	John Morgan*	Helene Wright
Linda Haque*	Joel Nelsen	Judy Zaninovich*
Charla Hollingsworth*	Mary Lou Polek*	
Ken Keck	Sylvie Robillard*	

**\* Participated via telephone**

**Opening Comments:**

Chairman, Nick Hill, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and stated there is a quorum for the meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Mark McBroom expressed his concern in regards to the approaching ACP and HLB from Mexico. He suggested there be more trapping and testing along the border in the 2-mile buffer area. It was also suggested that CDFA move to 800 meter treatment areas along the border instead of 400 meters and Craig Armstrong stated that he would like to see the buffer area expand as well. Nick Hill suggested putting this issue on the next meeting’s agenda to review some budget work for this idea.

Ken Keck gave a brief update on CRB’s recent lab findings. The CRB lab had recent findings that were inconclusive from samples in the Contained Research Facility (CRF).

Charla Hollingsworth with USDA reported that she and her staff received the original tissues that came from the HLB positive tree in Hacienda Heights and a variance could not be confirmed such as what was described from the CRB lab. She explained that there are PCR’s that are effective at identifying the bacteria which is the method being used currently. The only issue is that the bacterium is not spread completely throughout the plant. There are certain precautions the labs take to ensure that the results they get are quality controlled. There are other ways to test bacteria in plants however these tests need to be validated extensively before being used on a normal basis. She stated that the most promising research method would likely be Dr. Ma’s method on protein which depends on the pest response rather than the host response.

Victoria suggested that CRB or Dr. Godfrey work with USDA to develop the experimental protocol. This may help USDA receive the appropriate information to make a decision about validation of the early detection technologies. Ken reported that there has been ongoing dialog but nothing has been formalized.

Cynthia suggested a new technique that the CRB lab in Riverside has been reviewing; which is a digital droplet PCR that is extremely more sensitive than the qPCR. USDA is aware of the digital PCR and in fact has a team of scientists working to determine if they can come up with an improved HLB diagnostic using digital PCR. CRB will be hosting a meeting on September 9, 2014 in Fresno with the researchers from the containment facility.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES**

Nick Hill reviewed the minutes from the Committee meeting that took place on July 9, 2014.

- Motion:** Approval of the minutes from the July 9, 2014 Committee meeting as presented.
- First: George McEwen
- Second: John Gless
- Motion Passes: All in favor

**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

**a. 2013/2014 Budget and Assessments**

James McFarlane reviewed the 2013/2014 budgets and revenues. To date the program has received \$12,091,743 in assessment revenues with an estimated balance remaining to be received

of \$941,847. The program has expended \$5,465,825, leaving an available balance of \$7,133,995. James noted that a net balance transfer in of \$245,973 was added to the administration budget. The projected reserve balance is \$8,340,657.

The CHRP budget is being displayed with an available budget of \$2,821,527, but on August 1, 2014 the remaining balance of \$6,803,332 will be transferred in, bringing the total budget to \$9,624,859. The CHRP expenditures to date are \$5,704,033, leaving a remaining balance of \$3,920,826.

James reported on the other budgets, stating that the TASC grant current cycle is complete and the budget has been zeroed out. The Citrus Commodity budget has a balance remaining to be expended of \$22,000. The HLB MAC funds of \$46,000 are available to the program for biocontrol activities.

#### **b. Variance Analysis**

James reported that the variance analysis is still a work in progress, noting that the program is still trying to build the lags into the program. The projected expenditures for the current month were \$1,038,836 and the actual expenditures were \$697,379 which is about 43 percent less than projected. Some of the items are under spent due to unanticipated lags, like late billings. The program will keep refining the projections and it is hopeful that over time the variance will be reduced.

#### **c. 2014/2015 CHRP Budget**

James reviewed the 2014/2015 CHRP budget and sub-budgets with the Committee. The projected CHRP budget amount is the same amount as last year, \$9,624,859, but the budget projections for 2014/2015 are \$9,835,810. The increase of \$210,951 over the projected budget from CHRP reflects an increase in salaries for supervising scientists. James noted that the biocontrol budget would be moved from CHRP funding to the Assessment budget to help keep the CHRP expenditures in line with the projected funding amount.

##### **I. Risk-Based HLB Survey**

The projected budget for HLB Risk-based survey for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$4,152,981. This represents a 7 percent increase over the current year budget of \$3,881,181.

##### **II. Statewide Trapping**

The projected budget for statewide trapping for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$2,554,306. This represents a 13 percent increase over the current year budget of \$2,266,184.

##### **III. Regulatory HLB**

The projected budget for regulatory HLB for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$74,930, which is a 10 percent increase over the current year budget. The current budget for regulatory HLB is \$67,993.

##### **IV. Regulatory ACP**

The projected budget for regulatory ACP for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,704,743. This represents a 36 percent increase over the current budget for regulatory ACP of \$1,252,826. This increase is due to additional staffing to fill regulatory holes in the southern California area to

address nursery issues and additional staff to help with the workload as the quarantine expands in the Central Valley.

**V. Laboratory**

The projected budget for lab for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,348,850. The current budget for the lab is \$1,367,917. The budgets are almost the same, the net difference between the current year and the projected year is a decrease of 1 percent.

**Motion:** Approval of the 2014/2015 CHRP budget of \$9,835,810 as presented.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: John Gless

Motion Passes: All in favor

**d. 2014/2015 AB 281 Assessment Budget**

James reviewed the 2014/2015 assessment budget and sub-budgets with the Committee. The projected budget for the Assessment funds is \$15,271,249.

**I. Commercial Grove Trapping**

The projected budget for commercial grove trapping for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,418,353. Currently, commercial grove trapping is budgeted at \$1,896,907. There is a decrease in the budget for 2014/2015 due to funds received from the TASC grant.

**II. Biocontrol**

The projected budget for the biocontrol project for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,524,916. Currently the biocontrol project is budgeted at \$1,028,151. Mike Pitcairn stated that last year the biocontrol budget was split between CHRP funds and CPDPC funds. Approximately \$400,000 of the current fiscal year's budget will be used toward the Cal Poly greenhouse which is a onetime expense and the annual budget will decrease for fiscal year 2014/2015. More staff will be added due to cage production increasing. There is some MAC funding coming in that will help equip greenhouses as well as help fund additional staff members. Cal Poly also has matching funds, which means that any money spent toward Cal Poly will be matched 100 percent.

**III. Urban Treatment**

The projected budget for urban treatment for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$5,204,218. Currently the urban treatment is budgeted at \$3,848,259. Debby Tanouye reported that urban treatment is conducted where there is a find in an area where the psyllid is not known to occur and the treatment response would be 800 meters out from the find. Urban treatment also includes the 400 meters around commercial groves in southern California where growers are currently treating and the 2-mile buffer along the border.

**IV. Administration**

The projected budget for administration for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$949,778. Currently, administration is budgeted at \$887,975. The slight increase in the budget is due to the 5 percent pay increase staff received as well as the prorata due to the spending authority increase.

**V. Area-wide Management**

The projected budget for area-wide management for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$702,793. Currently, area-wide management is budgeted at \$600,804. The Imperial County grant is a portion of that and is what causes the increase. There is also a grower liaison position being added for San Diego.

**VI. New Area Contingency**

The projected budget for new area contingency for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,409,727. Currently, the new area contingency budget is \$1,607,881. The funding has decreased since the number of counties with new psyllid finds is decreasing.

**VII. Outreach**

The projected budget for Outreach for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is unchanged from fiscal year 2013/2014. The budget stays at \$741,971. There was a question in regards to expanding Outreach due to the additional finds in areas like San Luis Obispo. Joel announced that based on conversations with NST, Outreach is doing well with help from CCM and CDFA. NST is comfortable with their budget. Victoria announced that the contract is going to be renewed for an additional year.

**VIII. Operations (CRB Grant)**

The projected budget for Operations for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$1,686,467. Currently, the Operations grant is budgeted at \$1,776,356.

**IX. Central Valley Survey**

The projected budget for the Central Valley survey for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$885,582. Currently, the Central Valley survey is budgeted at \$640,289. The budget has increased for fiscal year 2014/2015 due to the increase of psyllid finds in Tulare and Kern Counties.

**X. San Luis Obispo Survey and Treatment**

The projected budget for the San Luis Obispo survey and treatment for the 2014/2015 fiscal year is \$537,622. Currently, the San Luis Obispo survey and treatment is budgeted at \$145,924. The increase in budget is due to the rapid increase in finds in the area.

**XI. Hacienda Heights HLB Survey**

The funding for the Hacienda Heights HLB survey was transferred from the CHRP budget to the assessment budget to minimize the \$209,523 shortfall. The survey was moved into CPDPC funds in order to keep CHRP within the \$9.6 million dollar budget. There was a question about where crews are currently at with the survey work in Hacienda Heights. Debby reported that zones 1 through 3 have been maintained on schedule.

There has been one cycle completed for the risk-based survey in southern California

The Committee wants to ensure that the budget for the risk-based and HLB survey is sufficient to maintain the survey work that is ongoing. CDFA has been working with Dr. Gottwald in trying to get the surveying completed two cycles per year. The budget reflects the amount of personnel needed to complete two cycles per year. Dr. Gottwald mentioned that if CDFA is not reaching

the commitment, he will rearrange the numbers to ensure each cycle is completed every six months.

James reminded the Committee that CRB Outreach and the Imperial County Grant (which is now merged into the area-wide coordinators) were both line items that were incorporated in last fiscal year's budget, but will not be incorporated in the current fiscal year's budget.

**Motion:** Approval of the 2014/2015 assessment fund budget of \$15,271,249 modified by the diminishment of the new area contingency fund by \$235,951, \$25,000 moved to administration for travel and \$210,951 moved to fill the CHRP shortfall.

First: James McFarlane

Second: Etienne Rabe

Motion Passes: All in favor

#### **e. 2014/2015 Revenue Projection and Assessment Rate**

Victoria announced that the crop estimates have not yet come out from National Ag Statistics therefore the Ag review numbers have been taken from 2013 as a template for the current fiscal year. Joel and Victoria met and made adjustments based on Joel's recommendations leaving the total number of cartons being 181,450,000, bringing the total revenue to \$14,516,000 at .08 cents per carton. There was further discussion about impacts to crop production from the current drought. There are concerns that might impact the number of cartons produced. James stated that the assessment reserve is \$8,340,657. The total budget is \$15,271,249 and the Committee has always kept a 50 percent reserve which would be \$7,635,000. In order for everything to equal out, the Committee would need \$14,566,217 which is about \$50,000 more than that crop estimate at .08 cents a carton.

**Motion:** The assessment rate will remain at .08 cents per carton.

First: James McFarlane

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: 11 yays and 2 nays.

#### **f. Assessment Collection**

Victoria reported that Inspection Services currently collects the assessments for CPDPC however they are switching over to an electronic format where they will begin allowing credit card payment. If payments are received by credit card the fee for the payments will come out of the assessment and fees can range from 1.5 to 3 percent of the payment. Inspection Services projected that 30 to 40 percent of the packing houses will potentially pay with credit card. There was further discussion about hiring a part time Office Technician to complete the assessment collection within the program and pull away from Inspection Services to avoid credit card fees.

**Motion:** To pull away the assessment collection from Inspection Services and to collect the assessment through program staff.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: George McEwen

Motion Passes: 11 yays and 3 nays.

## **SWEET ORANGE SCAB REGULATORY UPDATES**

Nick Condos, CDFA Plant Health Director stated that CDFA has been working closely with USDA on a regulatory plan to enforce a Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) interior quarantine. There have been a few issues from the beginning, one being the need to have reasonable conditions for the movement of nursery stock out of an SOS quarantine area since the federal quarantine does not allow movement of nursery stock to a citrus producing state. USDA recently completed a pest risk assessment on a proposal that CDFA presented to them which would allow movement out of a quarantine area without the use of fungicides if the nursery can comply with some production standards which would include rain barrier and no overhead irrigation. The second issue is the size of the quarantine area. Instead of a county wide quarantine, it was agreed upon to reduce the quarantine down to a five mile radius around each positive detection site which also brings down the cost of enforcement. The down side of that is it would affect the citrus fruit producers that are inside of the quarantine. In response to that, CDFA has proposed that USDA allow movement of bulk citrus out of the 5 mile quarantine to a packing house with appropriate transportation safe guards as long as the packing house is operating under a compliance agreement. If a fungicide treatment was to be required in order to move nursery stock, a CEQA analysis would need to be completed and since the nursery stock proposal does not require the use of fungicides that would save time and funding. Nick suggested using \$200,000 of the CHRP funds for regulatory needs for an SOS quarantine enforcement which will help increase the ACP quarantine enforcement activities ongoing in southern California as well. Once everything comes together, a memo will be sent to the Secretary recommending moving forward with the SOS quarantine enforcement. There was a question in regards to the 5 mile quarantine areas being removed after inspection this coming winter. CDFA is in the process of designing the statewide survey for the current fiscal year however USDA does not currently have a protocol to remove an area from quarantine.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

### **a. Regional ACP Management**

Bob Atkins, the Grower Liaison Coordinator gave several updates. There was a Ventura task force meeting on August 24, 2014 and they are strongly moving in the direction of area wide management due to repeat finds in similar areas. It has become apparent in the Fillmore area that they will have a greater effect by going to the area wide management. The task force has formed a subcommittee to begin working on area wide psyllid management. The San Luis Obispo finds have been keeping Cressida Silvers busy. The Imperial County Pest Control district met on September 2, 2014 and things are moving forward. Coachella has recently started their treatments and the hope is that they will have all of the area wide treatments finished by September 15, 2014. The County Ag Commissioner and the grower liaison in San Bernardino have changed. Bob plans to meet with the new Ag Commissioner, Roberta Willhite, to address the area wide psyllid management in San Bernardino. Enrico Ferro, grower liaison in San Diego has been working on the refusals from growers. Bob and Enrico have met with True Green as one of the vendors to provide service to the smaller growers who are unable to treat. All of the grower liaison positions are now close to being filled. The Imperial RFP is currently in the contracts office at CDFA and should be completed by October 1, 2014. There was a question in regards to the repeat finds in packing houses in Ventura. Link Leavens suggested tarping to keep ACP from entering Ventura County from Southern California. There is concern from the packing

houses that if they require tarping that they will lose their clientele. There was also a question in regards to neglected orchards and tree removal. Bob reported that he continues to work with the agricultural commissioners and sealers to address the issue.

Victoria reported that in May 2014, there was a meeting held with the SAP members, nurseries, CDFA and USDA to review the portion of the SAP report that impacted nurseries. There was an addendum that came from that meeting which was provided to the Committee for informational purposes.

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

Operations Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden provided a summary of the Subcommittee meeting that was held on August 6, 2014 in Visalia, California. Most of the Operations items were covered while discussing the budget for fiscal year 2014/2015. Jim stated that the data management group has been working in conjunction with Bob Atkins to get the area wide treatment programs coordinated which has played a big role in organizing and starting the area wide treatment areas.

### **a. HLB Survey Update**

Debby reported that all of the HLB survey information is provided to the Committee in their packets. There is concern about the time it takes CDFA staff to complete each round of surveying. It has been reported that staff will take 6 months for each round in the future and the Committee hopes that will be achievable with no delays. Debby reported that she has been in contact with Dr. Gottwald on a monthly basis. If staff starts to fall behind, he can make adjustments accordingly with the number of sites per STR however he is very aware of the intent to complete two rounds per year with the current amount of staffing. There was a question in regards to treatment areas around commercial groves and what amount of acreage needs to be treated in order for CDFA to treat the surrounding areas. If it can be confirmed that the treatment done by growers is biologically significant then CDFA will move forward with the buffer treatment. It was also asked what the percentage is of compliance for treatment is. Debby reported that it depends on the area but the percentage of refusal rates are about 3 to 8 percent.

### **b. Biocontrol Program Update**

David Morgan gave an update on the Biocontrol Program. There is currently a member of the Biocontrol Program in Texas meeting with a group of researchers and brainstorming different release, production and monitoring techniques. There were 24,600 wasps released in August which includes the 11,800 wasps that were released in commercial orchards. There have been 489,391 wasps released year to date and this does not include production numbers from UC Riverside or the field cages which if included, would bring the release numbers to over a million. The Cal Poly facility should be up and running by December 2014 which should double production numbers. Ken Keck announced that the MAC program provided \$250,000 for fiscal year 14/15 as well as another \$250,000 to a private sector for a bidding process posted in *The Citrograph*.

### **c. Laboratory Updates**

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on behalf of the CRB lab. 18,574 samples and 19,470 subsamples have been tested since January 2014. All samples have come back negative for HLB.



QC failed on only 106 (.54 percent) out of 19,470 subsamples. So far the lab has evaluated 138 ACP and 474 plant samples from the UCD CRF early detection study. CRB has been testing more sensitive QPCR enzymes on Hacienda Heights samples and continues working on the high throughput protocol for the siRNA with HLB samples from Florida as well as testing samples from the UCD containment facility early detection experiments. Susan McCarthy gave a very brief update on behalf of CDFA's lab, all samples have tested negative for HLB.

### **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

The Committee has previously asked the Science Subcommittee to review the Hacienda Heights sampling protocol which was reviewed. Etienne Rabe, Science Subcommittee chair briefly reviewed the report provided to the Committee. Formerly the sampling protocol was the zone survey, which extended survey up to 1.2 miles and treatment out to 800 meters from the HLB positive site. CDFA staff announced that there have been many refusals which have caused issues with both treatment and survey. The Science Subcommittee decided to change the 1.2 mile radius to a 5 mile radius around the Hacienda Heights find and to go with a statistical risk-based survey which Dr. Gottwald has proposed. The Science Subcommittee does not plan on spending more funds than last year which was \$200,000 except for the \$500,000 treatment cost for the existing 800 meter area.

**Motion:** To implement Dr. Gottwald's Risk-Based Survey in Hacienda Heights.

First: Etienne Rabe

Second: Jim Gorden

Motion Passes: 11 yays and 3 nays.

Debby reported that the psyllid finds have increased in the Hacienda Heights area therefore a public meeting is being scheduled in that area for treatment. The Committee would still like to move forward with that treatment. CDFA is currently treating based on ACP population increase. Beth or a colleague will be attending the next meeting to discuss that treatment protocol.

### **OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

There is currently no Outreach Subcommittee chair. The Executive Committee will work on resolving this issue. Chairman Hill noted that the outreach documents were included in the packets for review.

### **REPORT FROM CHRP COUNCIL**

There was nothing to report.

### **CRB REPORT**

There was nothing to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00pm. The next meeting will be held in Ventura, California on November 12, 2014 at 10:00am.