

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM  
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, August 6, 2014

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on August 6, 2014 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

**Committee Members Present:**

Jim Gorden

**Committee Members Absent:**

John Gless  
Link Leavens

Etienne Rabe  
Kevin Severns

**CRB Staff:**

Rick Dunn

Cynthia LeVesque\*

**Interested Parties:**

Bob Atkins  
Erin Betts  
Brett Chandler\*  
Dan Dreyer  
Victoria Hornbaker

John Krist\*  
Leslie Leavens\*  
David Morgan\*  
Colleen Murphy\*  
Joanne O'Sullivan\*

Debby Tanouye\*  
Brian Taylor\*  
Helene Wright  
Scosha Wright  
Judy Zaninovich

**\* Participated via telephone/WebEx**

**Opening Comments**

Chairman Jim Gorden welcomed staff and the members of the public participating in person and online. There is not a quorum for this meeting.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of minutes**

Chairman Jim Gorden reviewed the June 11, 2014 meeting minutes. There was a correction made to the minutes, Mark McBroom is listed as a Committee member however he is not a part of the Subcommittee and should be listed as an interested party. There was another correction made in the data management report section. It was suggested the draft minutes be sent out to the presenters, not only the Committee members. It was also suggested that the minutes have a draft watermark upon review to avoid confusion.

## **Review of Operations Financial Reports**

Victoria reported that everything is still within budget; however there has been an increase in finds in Ventura County and additional staff has been sent there for treatment. Areawide treatment is ongoing in Redlands and CDFA is currently using the True Green contractor in that area. This will cause an increase in urban treatment expenses. The main focus for the next full Committee meeting being held on September 3, 2014 will be the budget projections for 2014/15. Bob asked when Coachella treatment would begin. Victoria reported treatment there will begin in the next fiscal year, and has already been budgeted for.

## **Regional ACP Management Program Update**

Bob gave an update on regional ACP management. Coachella Valley and Imperial County treatment will begin soon. Bob plans to meet with Imperial County's Pest Control District soon. CASS has issued a request for proposal for the San Bernardino Grower Liaison position. There was an ACP find in San Luis Obispo on August 5, 2014. There has been visual survey done on 293 properties, 160 had no hosts, some were rescheduled for survey however none had signs of ACP. The program has placed 303 new traps in the core and buffer areas of the San Luis Obispo find and to date there have been no additional finds. Treatment on the find site will start August 7, 2014. San Diego county growers are making progress in moving forward with areawide treatments. There have been several new finds in the Rancho Santa Fe area. Enrico Ferro, San Diego grower liaison, has met with the local pest control operators that do most of the treatments for that area to help them get organized. Bob reported that diaprepes root weevil is also an issue in San Diego County, and imidacloprid is what they use, which can impact the ability of growers to use imidacloprid for ACP control. Victoria reported that \$50,000 has been set aside for Imperial County. There has been a CDFA RFP initiated since the CASS contract cannot be amended. The RFP is now in CDFA's contract office and should hopefully be completed soon. There was also an RFP initiated for San Diego County in hopes that Enrico Ferro would apply, and that is in CDFA's contract office as well. Leslie reported that Beth would like to see Ventura County move forward with areawide treatment due to the repeated finds. Leslie gave a summary of Beth's PowerPoint presentation. If Ventura County were to move to area wide treatment, they would lose the back up from the County Ag Commissioner which could possibly mean losing some cooperation from growers and homeowners. John and Leslie are currently getting a plan in place to move forward with areawide treatment in limited areas. Bob reported that he is continuing to work with CACASA on neglected and abandon orchards. It was asked if there are any regulations in place in regards to repeat ACP finds at packing houses. Victoria announced that there is currently no regulation in place for moving citrus within the quarantine area, however there are restrictions moving fruit and leaves from Southern California into Tulare County and Vice Versa because it is not a contiguous quarantine. John stated that ACP is traveling in bags and bins after harvesting in infested orchards so the stem and leaf protocol does not solve the problem. He also reported that packing houses have not been cooperating with them when asked to tarp their loads because they do not want to lose business. CDFA has placed additional traps around the packing houses which is helpful. There was further discussion about areawide treatment versus smaller treatment areas.

Victoria reviewed the proposed budget amount for area wide treatment. Last year, the area wide treatment amount was \$600,804. The projection amount for 14/15 is \$700,300. There was about a 17% increase since CASS is no longer being used as of June 15, 2014 due to issues with the

Department of General Services. The decision has been made to move forward with the CDFA RFP. The test cases will be Imperial and San Diego Counties which should hopefully be in place September/October 2014 and have everyone in place by July 1, 2015.

## **HLB Survey Update and 2014/2015 Budget Review**

### **a. Hacienda Heights Review**

Debby Tanouye gave an update on the Hacienda Heights area, in 800 meters around the find site, 155 adult ACP were found in 56 traps in May, 289 adult ACP were found in 59 traps in June and 295 adult ACP from found in 59 traps in July. The HLB survey work in the 400 meter area around the find site (Zone 1) has 543 trees. All trees were surveyed in June, which is the 13<sup>th</sup> round of survey, 3 adult psyllids were collected and sent to the lab for analysis. In the 400-800 meter area around the find site (Zone 2) there are 1,369 trees. All of the trees were sampled in round 7 and 98 adult ACP and 37 nymphs were collected and sent to the lab for analysis. Round 8 is under way and to date 102 adults from 16 different sites have been collected and sent for analysis. In the 800-1,200 meter area around the find site (Zone 3) there are 1,746 trees. Round 6, is in progress, with 671 adult ACP and 549 nymphs being collected and sent to the lab so far. Treatments have only been done in Zone 1 and 2 which is why Zone 3 has a larger number of ACP. Debby reported that CDFA is planning to make 6 treatment applications in the 800 meter area around the find site this upcoming season. Dr. Gottwald has presented a proposal for Hacienda Heights and shared it with the Science Subcommittee. Victoria and Debby are in the process of preparing an analysis of the meeting so that the Executive Committee can make a decision on how to move forward with Hacienda Heights HLB survey. There have recently been a higher number of refusals in zone 1 and zone 2. The new survey protocol will cause CDFA staff to visit properties less often which may reduce the refusal rate.

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

Debby gave an update on the HLB risk based survey. Ventura, Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties surveys are all 100% complete. Survey work is ongoing in San Diego, Orange and Fresno Counties. Orange and San Diego are close to being complete. The HLB risk-based survey work in Fresno has just recently started and is only 18% complete, they have been focusing on higher risk areas. Once Fresno is complete, staff will move to the highest risk areas in Tulare County. Once San Diego and Orange are complete, staff will be redirected to San Luis Obispo to assist with the response to the new detections. CDFA staff will prepare requests for the out of state trip to Florida to work with the HLB survey staff. The projected budget for the risk based survey for 14/15 is higher than last year. Last year, the budget for risk based was \$3.8 and 14/15 is \$4.4. The projection includes adding staff to the Central Valley survey as well as to the high risk areas. Jim recommended communicating the current level of staffing in each area to Dr. Gottwald, so he can make the appropriate amount of STR's to allow staff to complete two survey cycles this year. Debby reported that this means staff would have to be on standby to respond to the detections and there are not funds available for that and it is best to send experienced staff to these detections. If adding staff is necessary then that is fine with Jim because psyllid finds will continue. Staff always needs to be readily available. Debby stated that staff is being added to meet the needs of the Committee. The goal is to complete all areas simultaneously within two years. If additional staff is added, areas could possibly be completed three times a year instead of two.

Victoria briefly went over current treatment and presented a PowerPoint showing progress with each treatment area. She presented some maps showing current progress. San Ysidro is 100% complete. Calexico is 90% complete in all 3 treatment areas. Tecate, Pauma, San Pasqual, and Rancho Santa Fe all have pending meetings. The current projection for urban treatment for 14/15 has a 35% increase from last year's budget due to expanding treatment areas. There was further discussion about grower participation, the goal is always 100% and the bar needs to be kept high.

### **Biocontrol Program Report and 2014/15 Budget Review**

Jim Gorden showed a few pictures from the Biocontrol field trip to Mexico and gave a brief recap of the trip. David Morgan gave some updates regarding the Biocontrol program and gave a recap of the field trip to Mexico as well. Victoria reported that both Mike and David have been out of the office and have not provided a proposed budget for 2014/2015 yet. David reported that the projection will be a similar amount to last year's budget.

#### **a. CDFA Tamarixia Rearing and Release**

David reported that a small percent of Tamarixia goes into research and quality evaluation. So far this year staff has produced 546,000 wasps and of that 476,000 were released. Last month alone, staff was able to produce 90,000 wasps which is encouraging. Staff is currently half way through with the second set of releases for all the locations in urban areas in southern California and releases have been made in 52 commercial organic groves.

#### **b. USDA Field Cage Rearing**

Jim gave a report on the field cage project. There are currently 37 cages in production and 38,981 wasps have been harvested from those cages.

### **Laboratory Activities and 2014/15 Budget Review**

#### **a. Riverside Laboratory Activities**

Cynthia LeVesque gave an update on CRB's current lab activities. There have been 17,179 samples that have been tested since January 2014. 5,069 subsamples have been tested since the last operations subcommittee meeting. All samples have come back negative for HLB. QC failed on 88 out of 17,179. CRB lab staff is still testing the more sensitive QPCR enzymes on the Hacienda Heights transect survey samples. They are also testing high throughput protocol for the siRNA protocol with HLB samples from Florida. They are continuing to work with Dr. Slupsky on the UC Davis containment facilities and the early detection experiments. The percent of single samples is down to 17% for the last set received. Current lab staff has remains the same.

Victoria announced that CRB's projection for 14/15 is \$719,000 which is less than last year by approximately \$80,000.

#### **b. Sacramento Laboratory Activities**

Victoria gave an update on behalf of CDFA's lab. Dog teams have found HLB positive lime leaves shipped from Florida at a post office in West Sacramento in July. Victoria suggested giving some type of certificate to the dog and handler to show appreciation. For July there were 1,340 samples and 179 were psyllid samples from the Hacienda Heights area. CDFA staff is

continuing to provide samples to Dr. Slupsky at UC Davis. There was further discussion about the dog teams and funding to get more dogs.

Victoria announced that the CDFA lab budget projection will be static with what it was last fiscal year.

### **Data Management Report and 2014/15 Budget Review**

Rick Dunn reviewed the data management report from April 2014 with the Committee. Rick is still working in cooperation with the University of California's Kearney Ag Center GIS facility. The Ag center has hired three part time interns to work on the citrus layer project and have received a lot of new information base on the results from the psyllid management areas (PMA's) in Tulare County. Rick reported that he has put a lot of time in working with the San Joaquin Valley psyllid management areas, providing mapping services and coordination. Two of the three larger PMA grower meetings have been completed and many attendees from the meetings have returned the grower information sheets. Staff is working currently to incorporate that data into the citrus layer. Team leaders have been nominated and placed for almost all of the PMA's. The third and final meeting is being held at Kearney Ag Center on August 7, 2014. CRB staff attended the ESRI Conference in San Diego for continuing education and came back with a lot of ideas. Rick reported that he is on the second draft of his preliminary budget and his projection is about a 10% decrease since last year.

### **Chairman Report**

Victoria briefly went over the proposed budgets for 2014/2015. Excluding biocontrol and the CRB grant, the total budget is just over \$12 million. If CRB and biocontrol stay the same at last year, the budget will be approximately \$15 million for 2014/15 AB281.

Jim had nothing additional to report.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on October 01, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. in Visalia, California.