

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

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

**Opening:**

The conference call meeting of the Science Subcommittee was called to order at 8:09 a.m. on July 23, 2014 by Subcommittee Chair Etienne Rabe.

**Subcommittee Members Present:**

Ed Civerolo	Jason Leathers	Etienne Rabe
Beth Grafton-Cardwell		

**Committee Members Absent:**

Tom Avinalis	George McEwen	Earl Rutz
Jim Gorden	MaryLou Polek	

**Interested Parties:**

Roxanne Broadway	Dr. Tim Gottwald	Debby Tanouye
Tina Galindo	Victoria Hornbaker	Helene Wright

**Opening Comments:**

Chairman, Etienne Rabe, welcomed the Subcommittee, staff, and members of the public participating in conference call.

**1. Review Proposed Hacienda Heights High-Risk HLB Survey**

Dr. Tim Gottwald, ARS-USDA, reviewed maps and the protocol for the proposed Hacienda Heights risk-based HLB survey. He stated that the survey is based on the number of residential properties and Asian citrus psyllid finds through September 2013. A risk based model was prepared using information gathered from census blocks in the HLB quarantine. 709 census blocks have been selected for sampling. Sampling locations and density were identified by using the distance from the HLB source, ACP counts and residential property counts for the census block and HLB risk calculated in the previous HLB risk-based survey model. The Hacienda Heights HLB quarantine area is divided into 8 sectors, each sector has census blocks that will be sampled for HLB. The number of properties to be sampled in each census block will vary based on risk. There will be 6 2-month cycles in the survey, with a subset of the sites being surveyed in one cycle. Annually all sites will be sampled at least one time, some sites may be sampled multiple times, this will depend on host and no-host properties. The survey is

based on surveying a similar number of sites to the survey that is currently being done in Hacienda Heights and using the same number of staff working in the area. Furthermore, Dr. Gottwald stated that the survey would not impact treatments in Hacienda Heights.

The Subcommittee members discussed Dr. Gottwald's proposal and all were in favor of the proposal. Dr. Jason Leathers stated that the protocol is appropriate based on the biology of the disease. Ed Civerolo agreed with Dr. Leathers, stating that it is an appropriate adjustment to the program. Roxanne Broadway clarified that if a site is designated as having 8 samples, it would be equivalent to 8 properties and the number of trees sampled would be equal to the number of trees on each site. The Subcommittee members were in consensus that the surveyors should only choose properties with host plants to include in the survey. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell stated that it makes sense to move forward with the risk-based survey.

## **2. Review Current HLB Survey in Hacienda Heights – CDFA**

Tina Galindo described the current Hacienda Heights survey and treatments. The current survey is divided into three "Zones," with specific areas and activities as follows:

- **Zone 1** - Collect plant tissue from every host plant (100%) within a minimum of 400 m every other month (6X/year) and collect both adult psyllids and nymphs if present. Tissue should be collected from individual trees/single samples (do not pool). CDFA protocol: Adult psyllids are collected by site, nymphs are collected by tree.
- **Zone 2** - 400-800 m survey: Survey and collect a tissue sample from 100% of the host plants by combining (pooling) 4 host plants in one PCR sample. Survey every 4 months (3X/year). If present, collect psyllids (both adults and nymphs).
- **Zone 3** - >800 m/1 – 1.2 km: Survey 50% of the host plants twice/year. Collect plant samples from by pooling 4 host plants per sample, at a frequency of twice/year. This zone is based more on logistics/practicality. If present collect psyllids (both adults and nymphs).

Treatments are conducted on all host plants within 800 meters of the HLB find site. Previously a systemic treatment was conducted in the spring with foliar applications being conducted when ACP populations increased in traps. Currently there are 100 traps in the 800 meter area. After discussions with Dr. Grafton-Cardwell, the program has decided to make the systemic application in the late summer/early fall when uptake is better. Foliar applications will continue to be applied as ACP trap finds increase. Dr. Grafton-Cardwell cautioned program staff to be proactive and not let ACP populations build up. Tina did report that the incidence of treatment refusals has increased recently and she thinks it might be because we have been working intensively in the area for over 2 years and residents are feeling inconvenienced.

The Subcommittee discussed using the risk-based survey and continuing with treatments in the 800 meter area around the Hacienda Heights HLB find site. They were all in favor of making the change from the zone survey to the risk-based survey. The risk-based survey will cover a 5-mile area, so more properties will be surveyed and survey crews will not be saturating the 800 meter area, so treatment refusals will hopefully be reduced as well.

Subcommittee Chairman Etienne Rabe requested a report be compiled on the Hacienda Heights treatment and survey (current and proposed) along with budgets for both activities.

### **3. Additional Items**

Subcommittee Chairman Etienne Rabe requested an update on several items from the April Subcommittee Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:08