

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
Statewide Quarantine Working Group Conference Call**

Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 27, 2015

Opening:

The conference call of the Statewide Quarantine Working Group was called to order at 9:02 a.m. on February 27, 2015 Working Group Chair John Gless.

Working Group Members Present:

Bob Atkins	Gus Gunderson	Marilyn Kinoshita
Richard Bennett	Victoria Hornbaker	Kevin Olsen
John Gless		

Working Group Members Absent:

Helene Wright

Interested Parties:

Tina Galindo	Magally Luque-Williams	Debby Tanouye
Art Gilbert	Laura Petro	Rayne Thompson
Jim Gordon	Sylvie Robillard	Bob Wynn
Beth Grafton-Cardwell	Cressida Silvers	Judy Zaninovich

Opening Comments

Working Group Chair, John Gless welcomed everyone participating in the conference call.

Statewide ACP Quarantine Matrix

Victoria Hornbaker introduced a quarantine matrix with a general description of the activities involved in the current quarantine, deregulation of the current intrastate quarantine and an intermediate option that would include deregulation, but maintain some control on movement. There was discussion about how an intermediate option would be implemented and enforced. Victoria discussed potential options such as local ordinances, pest control districts or state regulations, but she noted that any or all of these would need to be explored more fully and may require significant time to enact. Bob Atkins cautioned that the Food and Ag Code prohibits one county from regulating actions in another county. Richard Bennett noted that this is a very big issue and that there are key scientists that should be included in the discussion. The working group agreed with Richard's assessment; Kevin Olsen recommended that a table be compiled of the advantages and disadvantages of deregulation. Rayne Thompson stated that there could be trade implications associated with deregulation. However, Victoria discussed this issue with

USDA and the thought was that the growers are already meeting the requirements to ship internationally.

Warrants for Residential Properties

Marilyn Kinoshita, Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner discussed the concern that deregulation of the interior quarantine for ACP would impede the ability of CDFA to seek warrants to compel residential refusal properties to allow treatment. The consensus from the CDFA staff on the call was that under a non-quarantine suppression program, areas that are considered “ACP Free” would be handled on a case by case basis and efforts would be taken to achieve biologically significant treatments.

Controlling the Artificial Spread of ACP and HLB

Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell discussed the need to prevent the artificial spread of ACP into new areas and the continued movement into areas with low pest prevalence. She was concerned that the ACP and HLB quarantines are independent of one another, stating that according to Dr. Bartel’s data we likely have low levels of HLB in Hacienda Heights and may see additional positive trees as early as next year. She stressed that the working group should develop a strategic plan to prevent deregulation or California may end up like Florida or Texas. She recommended that the emphasis be on the potential for HLB movement on host material and with ACP movement.

Benefits and/or Impacts to Citrus Fruit Production

Southern California Region

Gus Gunderson and John Gless discussed the benefits and impacts to Southern California growers. There were benefits that were economic in nature, including no cost for insecticide applications or tarping. They also discussed that packinghouses will be able to source fruit from wherever they want, it will reduce pesticide use and the likelihood of accidental over sprays or potential for insecticide resistance. Additionally, reducing the impact to beneficial insects from continued use on insecticides was also discussed as a benefit.

Both Gus and John stated that the most obvious negative would be the potential for movement of both ACP and HLB throughout California. They both stated that moving HLB would be devastating to the industry and that this impact far outweighs any benefit of deregulation.

Northern California Region

John Gless reiterated his sentiments from the discussion about Southern California and Richard agreed. Richard voiced concerns over the current ACP free protocols and called for all fruit in a quarantine area with high populations of ACP to be wet washed prior to moving to pack outside of the quarantine. He also noted that elevated Ct values (but below positive) found in sampling ACP and plant tissue for HLB should be used as an early warning system. Richard mentioned concern over fruit coming to juice plants in the Central Valley and recommended additional

inspections. Marilyn stated that it is difficult to inspect at the juice plants and asked the question, “If we find ACP what do we do with the load? Send it back out of the county?”

Benefits and/or Impacts on Nurseries

Kevin Olsen stated that he canvassed many nurseries in preparation for the meeting. He noted that the majority of the nurseries that are not currently under quarantine are against deregulation, but those that were in favor are the nurseries with outdoor grown trees. Nurserymen are concerned that ACP are moving on loads of fruit going to packinghouses as they are putting forth a substantial investment in insect resistant structures. Kevin noted that if we deregulate the interior quarantine, then nurseries that can currently ship interstate will not be able to move nursery stock to Arizona. Kevin urged the group to consider science, regulatory concerns and economics when coming to a consensus on this issue.

Interstate Quarantine

Victoria Hornbaker reported on behalf of Helene Wright that deregulation would likely impact USDA workload with increased inspections at nurseries shipping interstate. She also mentioned that there is a possibility that the USDA would deregulate the ACP quarantine, which would allow host material for ACP infested states (not HLB) into California. There might also be redirections of CHRP funding that would reduce the amount that is going to the CPDPP.

Conclusion

The working group decided to develop a table that will include advantages and disadvantages of deregulation of the interior state quarantine for ACP. The group would also like to hold a meeting with two concurrent breakout sessions, one for nurserymen and one for growers to discuss this issue. They would also like to convene the Science Advisory Panel along with several key scientists from Texas and Florida and regulatory staff from the Counties, USDA and CDFA to advise the groups prior to the breakout sessions and to review the outcome of the breakout sessions.