

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 10, 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:

Richard Bennett	Victoria Hornbaker	Kevin Olsen
John Gless*	Marilyn Kinoshita	Helene Wright
Gus Gunderson*		

Working Group Members Absent:

Robert Atkins

Interested Parties:

Brenton Burke*	Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Brian Specht*
James Cranney*	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich*
Rick Dunn		

*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments

Working Group Chair, John Gless welcomed everyone participating in person and via webinar.

Mexican Bulk Citrus Shipment Inspection

Victoria Hornbaker reviewed the written report on the protocol for bulk citrus moving into the US from Mexico that was prepared by James Cranney, California Citrus Quality Council (CCQC). All bulk citrus exports from Mexico to the United States must be washed and cleaned using normal packing procedures. Imports of Mexican citrus are inspected by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). Every 10th shipment is subject to an inspection of two bins, which are randomly chosen and completely emptied into another container so the entire contents of the bin can be inspected. The bins and the truck are inspected for insects and debris. If leaf litter is found, a third bin is selected for inspection. All leaf litter is examined looking for signs of insect damage, eggs, nymphs and adult pests, as well as disease symptoms. If eight or more leaves are found, the shipment is rejected. Any fruit with signs of insect damage are cut for inspection. If ACP is found during inspections, the specimens are sent to APHIS' Beltsville laboratory for testing.

Inspection Results

- There have been no rejections due to leaf litter in the last two years.
- 2011 – Three Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) nymphs were detected in passenger traffic on citrus leaves that were being brought into Nogales, AZ for medicinal purposes.
- 2012 – No ACP interceptions.
- 2013 – There were finds in 5 separate shipments of Mexican Lime.
- 2014 – No ACP interceptions.
- 2015 – One adult ACP was detected in a bulk shipment of oranges on Feb. 18, 2015.

CCQC is planning to visit Mexican ports of entry to meet with field personnel to reevaluate inspection procedures and to emphasize the importance of inspections of Mexican citrus imports.

Collaborative Proposal Development

Victoria introduced the concept of developing a proposal for the control of ACP movement in the event that the California interior quarantine for ACP is deregulated and then defaults to a full state quarantine. She noted that plan is to develop a proposal to be presented to the full CPDPC committee, but any proposal that would impact regulatory activities would need to be reviewed by CDFA and USDA policy makers and by the Science Advisory Panel (SAP).

A question was raised about what the required mitigations are for bulk fruit moving to the US from Mexico. Helene stated that fruit moving from Mexico to the US must be brushed and washed, and then it can move for final packing in the US which would include disinfection and waxing.

The group discussed the criteria for regionalizing citrus producing areas of the state.

Criteria for a region:

- Similarly infested
- Spatial gaps
- Geographic barriers
- Volume of bulk citrus and packinghouse capacity in each area
- Areas are actively managing ACP and HLB

Richard Bennett stated that brush and wash should replace spray and move and that it should also be required for moving from one region to another, for instance from the desert to the coast. He referred to the SAP report from 2014 that recommended field cleaning for mitigation. He noted that ACP have moved into Ventura along transportation corridors and at packinghouses on loads of citrus. It was pointed out that all of Southern California has been under a contiguous quarantine since 2013 and there are no requirements for mitigation measures for movement within the contiguous quarantine. Kevin Olsen stated that he feels spray and move is working,

noting the fact that movement of ACP into Ventura can't be used as an argument for the spray and move not working and he asked for more information to substantiate the assertion that spray and move does not work.

The question was raised that is we could require spray and move for movement within the contiguous Southern California quarantine area? It was noted that the Ventura County task force has been working with packinghouses to ask them to require treatment for fruit coming from outside of the county for pack. Beth Grafton-Cardwell stated that because growers are harvesting multiple times, they may have to make repeat treatments, might be using low rates or less effective chemicals and that the 14 day period may allow for reinfestation. She stated that as HLB appears, this will need to be revisited as everything we are currently doing focuses on ACP without HLB. Regions with large urban areas will have a higher risk as there will be less control options. Tristeza agency focused their program on what is being done regionally to control the disease and Beth felt that we need to focus on that concept as well.

Judy Zaninovich talked about GWSS program and the requirements for mitigations, including loads being free from insects, fogging bins, blowing fruit and it is moved from one bin to another to remove insects. There are alternate mitigations that might be considered by the group, other than field clean and spray and move.

The group identified that additional enforcement may be needed at the following locations:

- Packinghouses
- Juice plants
- Unofficial packing operations

Questions came up as to what can we do to enforce compliance agreements, can they include destruction of fruit, fines, money for disposal of non-compliant loads as a quarantine material.

The control of nursery stock movement would also need to be considered. The thought is that the existing cleanliness standards might be used to maintain control over nursery stock movement, but that additional information would need to be gathered.

Victoria will add information from the meetings, the requirements for rule making and the SAP report to the FTP site and send a link to the Statewide Quarantine Working Group.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Visalia, California.