

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

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, July 7, 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*		

Working Group Members Absent:

Robert Atkins	Marilyn Kinoshita	Helene Wright
Gus Gunderson		

Interested Parties:

Erin Betts*	Margarete Krick	Nawal Sharma
Dan Dreyer	Elise Larsen*	Dan Willey*
Rick Dunn	Sylvie Robillard	Bob Wynn*
Beth Grafton-Cardwell	Jim Rudig	Judy Zaninovich

Shirley Kirkpatrick
*Participated via webinar

Opening Comments

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

Review of Enforcement Information

Nawal Sharma, Environmental Program Manager for the Pest Exclusion Branch at CDFA updated the working group on ACP program enforcement activities. He stated that currently there is approximately 52,000 square miles in California that are under quarantine for ACP. Sixteen counties are currently involved in the quarantine, with Tulare, Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, Orange, Imperial, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino being entirely under quarantine and portions of Santa Clara, San Joaquin, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Madera, Fresno and Kern also under the quarantine. He noted that there has been a tremendous increase in workload without an increase in staff, in fact in 2013 the majority of the seasonal inspectors were laid off decrease staffing from 31 to 10 staff statewide. There has been an addition of 3 seasonal inspectors in the Central Valley, bring the total enforcement staff up to 13. Enforcement activities have been prioritized to get as much out of the current level of staffing as possible.

In nurseries, the enforcement activities have focused on the production and wholesale establishments, with the idea being to ensure that a clean, treated and tagged tree will be sent to the retail nursery.

In bulk citrus, the focus is on making sure that all growers, harvesters, haulers and packers are under compliance agreements and following the systems approach. The group has major concerns over the lack of enforcement for tarping of trucks coming from Southern California. Nawal was asked about the penalties for violating the compliance agreement and he noted that a violation results in a suspension of the compliance holders' ability to ship outside of the quarantine area, education to the violator and a review of their standard operating procedures to make sure they include required mitigations.

One idea was to conduct an unannounced blitz at packers and juice plants in cooperation with the County Ag. Staff, another was to hire additional seasonals during the busy season to conduct packinghouse inspections and a final idea was to have the CHP pull over untarped citrus haulers and ask to see their paperwork.

Nawal was asked about the penalties for violating the compliance agreement and he noted that a violation results in a suspension of the compliance holder's ability to ship outside of the quarantine area, education to the violator and a review of their standard operating procedures.

Nawal will provide a budget to add seasonal staff, which will be presented to the Executive Committee in August and Victoria will follow up with the Ag. Commissioners to see about partnering with county staff. She will also look into the idea of using the CHP to pull over untarped loads of citrus.

Review Regional Maps and Criteria

The criteria that was developed at the last meeting for developing regions for citrus producing areas of the state was reviewed and revised.

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
- Directional movement on bulk citrus and nursery stock.

Rick Dunn prepared a map that broke down the citrus producing areas into regions based on geographic and spatial barriers. Colleen Murphy used Rick's map and revised it by overlaying packinghouses. Each map was broken down into 10-11 regions, with the thought that ACP host material would not move out of the region. A discussion took place about the regions and

difficulties in dividing them into small areas for bulk citrus and nursery stock movement. Rick Dunn shared a map that divides the state into three regions, northern, southern coastal and desert. The Group liked the map, but noted that there should be a four regions; northern (north of Monterey and Madera), Central Valley, Coastal (Monterey to Ventura) and Southern (San Bernardino, Riverside, Imperial and San Diego).

Collaborative Proposal Development

The group developed a proposal to divide the state into four regions using their criteria. Rick Dunn will develop a map to show the regions. The group decided that CDFA should seek regulations to require mitigations for movement out of a region in the event that the interior ACP quarantine is deregulated and the quarantine defaults to the USDA quarantine for the entire state. Mitigations include spray and or field clean and tarping all loads. Movement within a region would not require mitigations. Victoria noted that to make this enforceable it would have to be set in regulation and she reviewed the process of seeking regulations through the regular rule making process. Kevin Olsen discussed impacts to nurseries; many nurseries have put forth effort and economic investment to build insect resistant structures and they need to be able to continue to conduct business in this environment. It was decided that the proposal should be shared with key nursery influencers for input prior to sharing the proposal with the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. A doodle poll will be issued to assist in scheduling the next meeting. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. in Visalia, California.