

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the California Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on September 9, 2015 in San Bernardino, California by Committee Chairman Nick Hill.

**CPDPC Members Present:**

Craig Armstrong	Gus Gunderson*	George McEwen
Richard Bennett	Nick Hill	James McFarlane
Bob Felts, Jr.	Link Leavens*	Kevin Olsen*
John Gless	Scott Mabs*	Kevin Severns
Jim Gorden	Mark McBroom	Brian Specht

**CPDPC Members Absent:**

Franco Bernardi	Etienne Rabe
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**CDFA Staff:**

Jason Chan	Adrian Gonzales	Lydia Rodriguez
Angelica Davis	Victoria Hornbaker	Debby Tanouye
Sean Farnum*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Scosha Wright
Tina Galindo	Colleen Murphy	
Art Gilbert	Mike Pitcairn	

**Guests:**

Jennifer Anderson*	John Demshki	Teresa Siles
Laura Arellano	Rick Dunn*	Cressida Silvers*
Ruben Arroyo*	Gus Gunderson*	Darryl Weiss
Bob Atkins	Mike Hennessy	Bobbie Willhite
Joe Barcinas	Saiqa Javed*	Helene Wright
Jill Barnier*	Ellen Kragh*	Bob Zuckerman*
Bob Blakely	Paul Martinez	Sandra Zwaal*
Vic Corkins	Carlos Ortiz	Linda Haque*
Jim Dana*	Jim Rudig	

**\* Participated via Webinar**

**Opening Comments:**

Chairman, Nick Hill, welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online and stated there is a quorum for the meeting.

**Public Comment:**

Richard Bennett would like see the Committee progressively move forward with the Early Detection Technologies (EDT).

Mark McBroom made a comment regarding the member term limits for the Executive Committee. The term limits need to be revisit at the next Committee meeting.

**COMMITTEE BUSINESS & UPDATES**

Nick Hill reviewed the minutes from the Committee meeting that took place on August 13, 2015. There were no corrections.

**Motion:** Approval of the minutes from the August 13, 2015 Committee meeting as presented.

First: Jim Gorden

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

**UPDATE ON HLB IN SAN GABRIEL**

Victoria gave a brief update on San Gabriel. There have now been 10 positive trees on 8 properties. The additional find was on August 20, 2015. Visual survey began in the expansion area on August 20, 2015. There was a public meeting held on September 3, 2015 and treatment began on September 8, 2015. There will be more information on San Gabriel under the Operations Subcommittee report.

**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

**a. 2014/2015 Budget and Assessments**

James reviewed the 2014/2015 budget and sub-budgets with the Committee. To date \$12,793,262 in assessment revenue has been received with a remaining projected balance of \$1,722,738. The assessment budget for fiscal year 2014/2015 is \$16,635,355. Through July 2015 there has been \$10,686,572 in expenditures to the assessment budget, leaving a balance remaining of \$5,948,784. There has been \$2,943,242 spent for urban treatment and \$2,444,119 has been spent for central valley treatment and surveying year to date. These two have been the highest expenditures to date. There has been \$813,799 spent for Santa Clara treatment and surveying, which is \$154,211 over the budgeted amount due to the multiple ACP finds in that area. The finds in Santa Clara have been addressed with the new northern California response protocol which involves more trapping but less treatment and less surveying which saves funding.

The CHRP budget amount is \$10,884,701. So far, \$5,793,884 has been spent, with a balance remaining of \$3,830,975. The CHRP budget received a one-time augmentation of \$1,219,842. It has been identified that the best way to utilize the funding would be to transfer it to the assessment funds. \$908,749 will be used for commercial grove trapping and \$311,093 will be used for ACP winter trapping.

The TASC grant has a total budget of \$475,000 with a remaining balance of \$56,334. The Citrus Commodity budget has no balance remaining to be spent. The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) grant has a balance of \$84,194 with nothing spent so far leaving the total balance available.

**b. Variance Analysis Review**

Year to date the ending variance for the assessment budget is -12.64 percent. There have been 64.24 percent of projected expenditures spent for fiscal year 2014/2015 so far.

**c. Set 2015/2016 Assessment Rate**

James shared a revenue projection with the Committee, based on the NASS Pacific Region Crop Projection, 7/10/2015. The projection is for 79 million cartons of navels, 40 million cartons of lemons, 32 million cartons of mandarins, 19 million cartons of Valencia's and 7.6 million cartons of grapefruit for a total projection of 177.6 million cartons. The revenues expected at 0.09 cents per carton would be \$15,984,000.

**d. Set 2015/2016 Budget**

The total budget projection for 2015/2016 is \$17,604,187 with the two highest line items being urban treatment budgeted at \$5,630,907 and the central valley survey budgeted at \$2,808,007. The prior fiscal year budget total was \$17,154,196 with a 3 percent difference of \$449,991 for fiscal year 2015/2016. There are two issues: the budget projection cannot be met with the assessment rate being at 0.09 cents per carton and the budget projection is also larger than the budget authority. The current spending authority is \$15.6 million. In July of 2016 the spending authority will increase by approximately \$1 million bringing the budget authority to approximately \$16.6 million. Under certain circumstances, the Committee can barrow authority from other industry funds or as a last resort, seek an emergency increase in spending authority. There was a question asked regarding borrowing spending authority, which Victoria clarified that no funds would be barrowed, only the authority to spend although prorata will increase with the authority. It was also asked what steps would need to be taken to raise the authority however the spending authority cannot be increased this fiscal year without addressing the Governor's office with an emergency. Victoria will meet with appropriate staff prior to the next Committee meeting and gather more information about getting emergency spending authority. There was a question regarding the increase of the risk based survey and if the projection includes the cycle increase from 2 cycles to 3 cycles per year, and the extra cycle was included into the budget.

The projected CHRP budget will be at the same funding level as fiscal year 2014/2015, \$10,844,701. The CDFA will be working with USDA to get a pre-award letter, however we are unsure of the final CHRP funding until the USDA budget is set.

**Motion:** To approve the Assessment and the CHRP budgets for fiscal year 2015/2016 with one minor correction to the CRB Operations Grant budget and to set the assessment rate at \$.09 per carton.

First: James McFarlane

Second: John Gless

Motion Passes: All in favor

There was further discussion about the EDT's. The Committee would like to see an industry approach in moving forward with the technologies. There was a comment that PCR testing is too time consuming and there needs to be more options when testing for HLB. HLB is where funding should be spent because eradicating ACP is not possible at this time. There was discussion regarding detector dogs and compensating homeowners for tree removal, which is something CRB would need to conduct due to CDFA policies.

The EDT task force will meet sometime during the week of September 28, 2015. The date is tentative. Unfortunately, the MAC grant proposal to repeat the testing of all the leading early detection technologies (EDT) on known positively infected plants and true negative plants from Florida, Texas, and California was denied funding. The EDT task force will seek alternate funding at the next meeting which is open to the public.

James announced that Finance Subcommittee member Jim Bates will no longer be a part of the Finance Subcommittee and that there is now a vacancy that needs to be filled.

#### **e. Discuss Assessment Cap**

Bob Blakey with California Citrus Mutual (CCM) discussed some options with the Committee if it is decided to raise the assessment cap. The first option would be a stand-alone emergency bill that would need to be approved by the Governor in January 2016. An alternative would be to attach it to the budget and carry it through as an authorization in the budget, and would be affective once the budget is signed. The Committee would like to see a plan on how the additional money will be spent before increasing the assessment rate. Increasing the assessment cap does not increase the assessment rate. Increasing the assessment cap will only give the Committee more leeway to raise or lower the assessment rate.

**Motion:** That the Committee work with CDFA and stakeholders to explore increasing the assessment cap.

First: George McEwen

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

#### **a. Regional ACP Management**

Bob Atkins, Statewide Grower Liaison Coordinator gave several updates. Many of the grower liaisons are going to be attending the HLB research summit at Davis University. The grower liaisons have been working on outreach and trying to improve the timeliness of the pesticide use reporting. The San Bernardino grower liaison and the second Ventura grower liaison contracts have been filled. The Department of General Services has some issues with Bob's contract and CDFA is working diligently to resolve the problem.

#### **b. Committee Member Term Renewals**

John Gless, Brian Specht, Kevin Severns, Gus Gunderson, and George McEwen's terms end on September 30, 2015. All members have agreed to remain on the Committee.

**Motion:** To reappoint the following members: John Gless, Brian Specht, Kevin Severns, Gus Gunderson and George McEwen as their terms end on September 30, 2015.

First: Bob Felts

Second: Craig Armstrong

Motion Passes: All in favor

## **OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

### **a. HLB Survey Updates**

#### Hacienda Heights

There are 100 traps placed in the core square mile in Hacienda Heights. In May there were 52 traps with ACP samples and an estimated 177 ACP collected. In July there were 24 traps with ACP samples and an estimated total of 217 ACP collected. In August there were 65 traps with ACP samples and a total estimated amount of 254 collected. Merit and Tempo treatments are scheduled for mid-September. Survey cycle 1 was completed on February 24, 2015 and 683 sites were visited. The survey resulted in 456 ACP samples, 10 plant samples collected and 225 sites negative for ACP. Survey cycle 2 was completed on April 29, 2015. There were 638 sites visited with, 529 ACP samples collected, 49 plant samples collected and 112 sites negative for ACP. Cycle 3 was completed on June 29, 2015 and 621 sites were visited. The survey resulted in 376 ACP samples, 22 plant samples collected and 216 sites negative for ACP. Cycle 4 was completed on August 25, 2015 and 621 sites were visited. The survey resulted in 416 ACP samples, 64 plant samples collected and 190 sites negative for ACP. Cycle 5 began on September 2, 2015 and will go through the end of October. Thus far there have been 13 sites visited with 9 ACP samples collected, 1 plant sample collected and 4 sites negative for ACP.

#### San Gabriel

As of September 8, 2015 there have been 3,412 properties visited and surveyed in the San Gabriel area. There have been 2,228 plant samples collected and 960 ACP collected, and 1,141 sites negative for ACP. There has been one treatment refusal and 40 no contact properties in which abatement letters will be delivered if needed. It was asked if a homeowner has a positive HLB tree, do they have the right to deny treatment/survey. Victoria stated that regardless if the tree is positive or negative, the treatments are mandatory and if they refuse to treat/survey, an abatement letter or a warrant will be issued. The refusal process takes approximately one to two weeks. There was discussion regarding asking homeowners to remove their citrus trees, which is not an option unless the homeowner specifically requests for the trees to be removed. The positive trees did not seem to be grafted like the positive find in Hacienda Heights.

#### Risk Survey

Cycle 0 and 1 is complete in all counties. Cycle 2 has begun in Tulare, Kern, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, and Fresno. Staff hopes to have cycle 2 complete by December. It was asked there be a column added showing what samples come back with inconclusive CT values. CDFA staff will present a more detailed report of samples going forward.

## **b. Treatment Updates**

Tina gave an update in regards to treatment in Southern California. There is currently one treatment area in Santa Paula which is 95 percent complete. There are a total of 9 treatment zones in Fillmore/Piru and treatment begins there on September 14, 2015. There are public meetings and environmental consults pending for Ojai, Lake Sherwood and Hidden Valley. The HLB 800 meter treatment in San Gabriel has been completed with expansion areas treatment in progress which started August 5, 2015. There have been 1,409 properties treated so far in the 800 meter area in San Gabriel. The new positive HLB finds have expanded the treatment area by about 330 properties and the treatment area expansion is continuing. Two hundred and fifty-four properties have been treated in the first expansion area and treatment began on September 8, 2015 in the second expansion area. In Hemet began areawide treatment on September 3, 2015. In San Diego, San Ysidro is 10 to 98 percent complete with 4 areas being treated. Pauma is 80 percent complete. Tecate, Otay Mesa, and San Pasqual (area wide) are pending environmental consults. Imperial had 6 treatment areas and is now 100 percent complete.

It was suggested that CDFA work with the county agricultural commissioner's offices to help with the treatments.

Art Gilbert gave a treatment update for Northern California. All counties are complete excluding Nipomo, one area in Porterville and one area in Arroyo Grande. There have been a total of 9,842 properties treated so far. For commercial grove trapping there has been 7068 traps deployed and 15,856 traps serviced as of August 28, 2015. As of September 2, 2015, 24,914 adult ACP has been collected, 15,163 nymphs collected, and 5,100 sites negative for ACP.

## **c. Biocontrol Program Update**

Mike Pitcairn gave an update on the Biocontrol Program. Year to date 1,206,934 *Tamarixia*, and 80,754 *Diaphorencyrtus* have been released. These numbers include the greenhouse, as well as the outdoor screen house production. Releases are ongoing in organic and abandon groves. Approximately 21,000 releases have been made in a 200 meter perimeter area around the find sites in San Gabriel, acting as a buffer. In addition to the releases, program staff has been monitoring to see how well the wasps are establishing. The Cal Poly facility has finally broken ground and there is hope to be in production by December 2015. There is a biocontrol task force meeting being held on September 24, 2015 and more will be discussed at that meeting.

Jim Gorden briefly gave an update on the field insectary ACP biocontrol project and methods development activities. The field cage project has done exceedingly well this year with *Tamarixia* production. *Diaphorencyrtus* have been produced from field cages as well with not as much success.

## **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

Victoria briefly reviewed the CDFA lab report and reported that the report is in the binders provided to the Committee members. CDFA is in the process of reviewing all permits for any research being done in cooperation with the feds to ensure people working with HLB testing have the correct permit to do so.

## **OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT & DISCUSSION**

Teresa Siles gave several update on NST's efforts and ongoing outreach activities. NST continues to manage social media platforms, the Citrus Insider, the Citrus Alert Newsletter, and the Citrus Threat websites on a normal basis. Over 45,000 informational flyers have been distributed in 2015. NST hosted and participated in several industry meetings and events including the CCM Showcase and the World Ag Expo. NST has worked with several nursesey associations this year to distribute information to their members. NST has had over 50 media placements that have reached an audience of 3.17 million. Advertising reached an audience of 9 million. Elected Official Outreach has been a big focus this year as well and NST has engaged with several cities at multiple conferences. NST worked closely with CDFA and County Agricultural Commissioner's to educate the public of the HLB finds by direct mail, newspaper ads, media interviews, elected official outreach, and via website and newspapers. In 2016, NST plans to develop a new consumer website and increase digital outreach and plans to work more with third party groups and retail nurseries.

## **REPORT FROM CHRP COUNCIL**

Bob Blakey gave a brief update on behalf of Joel Nelsen. In August, representatives from California, Florida, and Texas met in Dallas for a two day session to review the agenda for the Citrus Industry. In addition to CCM, TCM, and FLC also participated in the session. Wonderful Citrus and Sunkist also had representatives at the meeting. The CHRP program needed an increase in appropriations due to increase of operations in Texas and California. The group agreed that the MAC program is still a viable effort although funding for 2015/2016 has been reduced until more viable projects come to the floor front. A minimum of \$2 million for 2015/2016 would be appropriate and \$2 to \$6 million for 2016/2017.

## **CRB REPORT**

Jim Rudig announced that Gary Schulz is the new president of CRB start on September 14, 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held in Ventura, California on November 18, 2015 at 10:00am.