

CPDPC Executive Committee Webinar

December 10, 2015 Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Nick Hill at 10:00 a.m. on December 10, 2015. The following were in attendance:

Executive Committee Members

Jim Gorden*
Nick Hill
James McFarlane*
Kevin Severns*

CDFCA Staff

Nick Condos
Victoria Hornbaker
Bob Wynn

Other Attendees

Leslie Leavens*
Sylvie Robillard*
Brian Specht*

*Participated via webinar

Discuss November 18, 2015 CPDPC Recommendation for Moving to Regional Quarantines

Background

A recommendation was made at the November 18, 2015 CPDPC meeting to move forward with transitioning away from placing 5-mile radius quarantines around individual regulatory finds to a regional quarantine system that would divide the state into regions. There would be mitigations placed on movement of bulk citrus and nursery stock between the regions, but not within a region. The recommendation was based on the Statewide Quarantine Working Group (SQWG) proposal and map (Attachment 1), but was amended to include the changes presented at the meeting, including limiting the mitigation for bulk citrus movement between regions to a mandatory wet wash (Attachment 2). The recommendation was not approved as it was presented, but rather was referred back to the Committee for further development.

Review

There were several items that were identified as needing to be reviewed, including the map of the regions, the requirement for wet wash and the need for the nursery industry to be involved in the mitigations for the movement of citrus nursery stock between regions. There was also some discussion about the how this change could be processed, as an emergency or via regular rule making.

The original map that was presented (Attachment 1) takes a large area that has never had an ACP detection under regulation. There are entities in this currently ACP free area that would unduly be forced to comply with mitigations to move host material (citrus and nursery stock production). Several maps have been developed that provide revised regions that would exclude the Counties that are known to be ACP free Attachment 3). The map titled New Option 1 would bring some additional counties into the Central Valley Region, but would exclude most of Northern California. The map titled New Option 2 makes the Central Valley Region smaller and divides out a region called the East Bay. New Option 2 also removes a greater amount of currently unregulated counties. The idea is that if a currently unregulated county were to have an ACP find, then it would be moved under the closest existing regulated region. New Option 2 was preferred by the Executive Committee of the two maps presented.

The recommendation that all bulk citrus moved between regions would be required to be wet washed was discussed. There was concern from the group that there would be a capacity issue in some regions for the wet wash. When the original SQWG proposal was developed, the group looked into packinghouse capacity in the different areas and determined that there were some areas that would not be able to pack all of the fruit coming from that region and it would also be a similar issue for wet wash capacity. Additionally, the concern about damage to the fruit from having to be processed twice was discussed. This was one of the reasons originally used for allowing the pre-harvest spray of bulk citrus. There was also a discussion about the regulatory impact of making the wet wash mandatory, as currently the industry has options for certifying that bulk citrus moves ACP free (pre-harvest spray with ACP effective pesticide and tarping of the load or field cleaning). The current protocol is considered a performance standard and as such does not require extensive environmental review. If the protocol were changed to require the wet wash, it would become a prescriptive protocol and would require additional environmental review. It is unknown the cost or length of time required for the review process, but that information could be obtained prior to the Full Committee meeting in January. One thing that could be done in the short term would be to require tarping of

all loads moving out of a quarantine area, this would help to mitigate “hitch-hiking” ACP and would help enforcement staff identify loads that are not in compliance (mandatory tarping was previously required up until 2013).

Moving forward with regional quarantines would require a robust regulatory package, with a justification for regulating previously unregulated areas and moving from the 5-mile radius quarantine response to using the county line as the quarantine boundaries. There would also need to be a justification to prevent the unmitigated movement between the desert region and the coast, which is currently all part of a contiguous quarantine. Currently unregulated entities would need to be notified and given opportunity to respond to the new regulations.

Meeting Summary

To summarize the outcome of the meeting; the Executive Committee agreed to move forward with going back to mandatory tarping of all loads moving out of the quarantine area to pack. They would like to present the New Option 1 and 2 maps to the industry for comment and would like industry to consider commenting and proposing additional options. They would also like to present options for mitigating the movement of ACP between regions, which would include the following:

- a. Maintain current response to ACP finds (5-mile radius response). The current quarantine in Kern is associated with the southern most commercial and does not connect to the Los Angeles or Ventura quarantine areas and with additional enforcement resources CDFG could provide additional oversight on movement on fruit from Southern California into the Central Valley. This would not address the issue of controlling the movement of bulk citrus into Ventura.
- b. Require the wet wash for movement between regions (Prescriptive Standard) as presented at the November 18, 2015 CPDPC (Attachment 2), with the understanding that the wet wash process would need to be evaluated for environmental issues per state guidelines. Additionally, this might require additional infrastructure for the wet wash processes.
- c. Maintain the Performance Standard that currently exists (Attachment 1) for movement between the regions.
- d. Amend the current Performance Standard to add wet wash to the list of approved options.
- e. Amend the current Performance Standard to add wet wash and remove the pre-harvest spray, so the options would be field clean or wet wash.

The Executive Committee would like the industry to review the options listed as items to be reviewed and discussed and would strongly encourage comment and development of additional options. These items will be revisited at the CPDPC meeting on January 13, 2016.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15a.m.