

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 13, 2016

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on April 13, 2016 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chair Jim Gorden.

Committee Members Present:

Richard Bennett	Link Leavens*	Kevin Severns
Jim Gorden	Kevin Olsen	

Committee Members Absent:

John Gless	Scott Mabs
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CRB Staff:

Rick Dunn	Cynthia LeVesque*	Brian Taylor*
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Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins*	Victoria Hornbaker	Cressida Silvers*
Dan Dreyer	Marilyn Kinoshita	Greg Simmons*
Enrico Ferro*	Luci Kumagai*	Keith Watkins
Tina Galindo*	Leslie Leavens*	Dan Willey
Art Gilbert	Colleen Murphy-Vierra*	Bob Wynn*
Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Sylvie Robillard	Sandra Zwaal*

*** Participated via telephone/WebEx**

Opening Comments

Subcommittee Chairman Jim Gorden welcomed staff and the members of the public participating in person and online. There was a quorum for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Gorden reviewed the minutes from the Operations Subcommittee meeting that took place on February 10, 2016.

Motion: To accept the February 10, 2016 Operations Subcommittee minutes as presented.

First: Richard Bennett

Second: Kevin Olsen

Motion Passes: All in favor

Hacienda Heights and San Gabriel Risk-Based Survey

Hacienda Heights

Tina Galindo gave an update on the HLB risk-based survey. There have been 100 traps serviced in January, February and March. There were 65 traps with ACP in January, 58 traps with ACP in February, and 97 traps with ACP in March. In January there were 215 ACP collected, 258 ACP collected in February and over 12,450 ACP collected in March. Treatment with Tempo only began on January 19, 2016 and ended on February 10, 2016 October 17, 2015. CDFA staff finished cycle 1 of the HLB cluster survey in Hacienda Heights, visiting 508 sites, and collecting plant samples from 232 sites and ACP from 429 sites. There were 39 sites negative for ACP and plant samples. In March, staff started cycle 2, visiting 299 sites with 104 sites with plant samples and 287 sites with ACP samples. Cycle 2 is ongoing.

San Gabriel

In San Gabriel, 100 traps were serviced in January, February and March. There were 79 traps with ACP in January, 69 traps with ACP in February, and 98 traps with ACP in March. In January there were an estimated 550 ACP collected, 177 collected in February and over 4,200 collected in March. CDFA staff continues with cycle 1 in San Gabriel, having visited 1,899 sites. There have been 1083 sites with plant samples and 1462 sites with ACP samples and 22 sites without any samples. There have been 9 confirmed HLB positive trees in San Gabriel in 2016, all have been removed. The program has surveyed 3,791 properties and taken 2,374 plant samples and 538 ACP samples. There are 1,297 no hot properties in the survey area.

Southern California Treatments

Tina Galindo gave an update on the southern California urban treatments. In Ventura County, the areawide winter treatment (Tempo only) began February 1, 2016 and is 50 percent complete. The Santa Barbara areawide winter treatment (Tempo only) began on January 25, 2016 and is complete. The program noted a large number on refusals from the residential treatment areas, as high as 40 percent in some PMA's. In Riverside, the Coachella and Hemet areawide treatments began on February 8, 2016 and are complete. In Imperial, areawide treatment is complete. The Imperial areawide is complete. San Bernardino areawide is due to begin at the end of the month. The treatments along the border with Mexico are pending completion of the environmental consultation.

Sacramento Laboratory Activities

Victoria reported that six additional trees in the San Gabriel HLB quarantined zone tested positive for HLB in March. So far, a total of nine trees have been detected in the San Gabriel HLB Q zone this year. All the infected trees have been removed. During the month of March, the lab received a total of 2,169 ACP and 2,850 plant samples, for a grand total of 5,019 samples. The 2016 total samples through March are 16,919 plant and 21,741 ACP samples. Yearly HLB sample totals from 2008 to 2016 show a cumulative total of **321,789** samples over the course of nine years (2008-2016) in which 35% of the total are plant and 65% are ACP.

CRB Laboratory Updates

Cynthia LeVesque reported on the plans to seek recertification for the CRB lab and to increase throughput. They are seeking proposals to do some construction to install benches and hoods, to add a wall in a room to provide separation of processes and to add a door between two rooms to

allow for better work flow. Several of the rooms will be used for lab and office space, including the current trap reader room and the biocontrol offices, so those programs will need to move out of the lab. There will also be some increased staffing and equipment needs.

Texas II EDT Study

The study is progressing and a final report is due in May. Sample blinding was accomplished. Sample collection was complete for all protocols. Samples were distributed in the planned timeframe. Sample analysis by some of the participants is complete. Evaluation and data assembly is ongoing.

Regional ACP Update

Most areas have completed or will shortly be completed their winter/pre-spring flush treatments CDFA is current with their treatments and are coordinating their residential treatments with completed Area-wide treatments. For the most part, the Southern California treatment areas continue to improve. On April 20th the Grower Liaisons will be meeting to discuss successes and opportunities from their perspective areas and Rick Dunn will give training on using the iPhone app for the citrus layer. There has been some success by Counties in removing abandoned groves. San Bernardino County Agricultural Commissioner continues to have good response to letters they sent to the owners of apparently abandoned groves and the removals continue. The Madera County abandoned grove where the latest ACP was found was treated. Reportedly, the grove will be removed within the next 18 months. Stevie McNeil and Sylvie will continue to monitor this situation. San Diego County is selecting vendors to remove abandoned groves should that be necessary, if the owners fail to act after the due process is exhausted. When they are in place, they intend to move quickly to notify the owners.

Biocontrol Update

In 2016, the program released 201,113 Tamarixia and 48,065 Diaphorencyrtus in residential areas of southern California. Production is trending to be higher than last year and once the Cal Poly greenhouse is completed the production will increase. The program is currently only conducting releases in residential areas where treatments are not currently being done.

Biocontrol Release Strategy

Greg Simmons, USDA presented the biocontrol release strategy that he, Dr. David Morgan and Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell developed. The Biocontrol Taskforce reviewed and approved the release strategy as presented. Releases will be limited to residential citrus and abandoned citrus groves in areas where the State's ACP control program is not making efforts to eradicate or apply treatments to ACP infested areas. They should not be released in commercial citrus receiving eradication or areawide treatments. However, releases should be made in buffer areas for example, outside the 400 meter buffer treatment areas adjacent to commercial citrus receiving areawide treatments and outside the 800 meter treatment areas in the HLB quarantines. The Subcommittee was in agreement with the release strategy as it was presented.

Motion: To send the release strategy as presented to the full Committee for approval.

First: Richard Bennett

Second: Link Leavens

Motion Passes: All in favor

Proposal to Convert Grove Traps to Collection Sites

Art Gilbert made a proposal to convert the grove trap sites in Imperial and Riverside counties to collection sites. The sites will be surveyed every 6 months and the ACP will be sent to the lab for analysis to see if there is any CLas bacterium present. Some traps will be left in all of the areawide areas to help monitor the ACP populations pre and post treatment.

Motion: To make a recommendation to the Committee to adopt the proposal to convert the traps locations to collection sites in Imperial and Riverside.

First: Kevin Olsen

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

PMA Triage concept

Rick Dunn presented information from the PMA Triage Working Group. This is being done to look at the PMA's to determine if they have been correctly developed. Criteria used to draw up the PMA boundaries differ regionally. These different approaches reflect the philosophy of the regions' ACP/HLB Task Force. For example, in the San Joaquin Valley, the PMAs were drawn in such a way that about 25 neighboring growers were grouped together with a maximum of 5,000 acres of groves included in each PMA. In contrast, in Ventura County, PMAs were drawn up with any number of neighboring growers grouped together with a maximum of 1,500 acres of groves included in each. The emphasis being optimized use of limited application infrastructure in that case. In San Bernardino, there are several PMA's that are just one grove. There are also some PMA's that have multiple groves that are all managed by the same entity. Some PMA's are very small acreage, as low as 5 acres.

Rick stated that they also looked at the cost of treating the buffer areas within ¼ mile of the commercial citrus groves. This treatment is contingent on voluntary participation in coordinated treatments by at least 75% of the commercial groves within the PMA. Based on several factors, Rick was able to estimate the cost of treating a residential parcel from \$24 to \$54 per property to as high as \$112 per property treated by a contractor.

Dr. Neil McRoberts and Rick have been developing a decision making model to assist in the development of areawide treatment areas and where treatments are warranted. The group needs to populate an options matrix of criteria for all areawide areas.

The Subcommittee asked Rick to make a presentation to the Committee for their consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on June 8, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. in Visalia, California.