

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
BUDGET TASK FORCE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 2, 2017

Opening:

The Budget Task Force meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. on August 2, 2017 in Sacramento, California by James McFarlane.

Task Force Members Present:

Craig Armstrong*	James McFarlane*	Keith Watkins*
Nick Condos	Kevin Olsen*	Bob Wynn*
Gus Gunderson*		

Task Force Members Absent:

CDFA Staff:

Jason Chan	Victoria Hornbaker*	Leandro Ramos
Tina Galindo*	Sara Khalid	Debby Tanouye
Jon Goergen	Paul Martinez	

Other:

Jill Barnier (CCTEA)*

*** Participated via Webinar**

Discussion of Ad Hoc Science Advisory Panel (SAP) Recommendations

James McFarlane asked the Task Force members if they proceed with the agenda following the Power Point prepared by Debby Tanouye. Kevin Olsen asked James to outline the charge for the Task Force and the expectation for the meeting. James responded that the desire is to save some money and make the program more sustainable and cost effective. The SAP recommendations prompted the creation of budget estimates. Keith Watkins suggested considering the estimated budget for the future. Victoria Hornbaker reminded the Task Force that SAP came up with the recommendations which are somewhat not clear and that the Task Force is tasked to add or reduce activities with dollar amount for the future of the program. Craig Armstrong stated that he was not impressed with the SAP recommendations and did not adequately address the questions they supposed to be addressing. Kevin Olsen pointed out the last power point slide from SAP recommendations which states “In conclusion, we recommend that the CPDPC determine exactly what activities we are to perform so that we are able to develop budgets for the Finance Subcommittee and the CPDPC to review at the end of August.” He suggested that this Task Force needs to make recommendations with most efficient tasks and assist staff to formulate what tasks to pursue and make the most effective recommendations to the Full Committee. Debby Tanouye stated she wanted clear directions/guidance from the Task Force to proceed with the developing a budget. Kevin hopes to have the other Committee to come up with budget components before a more thought out budget can be prepared.

It was noted that the SAP did not answer the questions brought forward from the Budget Task Force, but rather they provided recommendations on other topics. The SAP made the following statement, "Respectfully, it was not feasible for us to quantify likely outcomes in the way the CPDPC Budget TF Subcommittee requested because there are too many unknowns, especially the current distribution of the bacterium CLAs in California. We were uncomfortable in considering costs of activities, but focused on the best control of HLB in light of the current situation." Many of the recommendations that the SAP made would impact the operational activities and as such James McFarlane asked the Program to develop budgets for the SAP recommendations.

Debby Tanouye developed a PowerPoint at the request of James McFarlane, which assigned budget amounts to the SAP recommendations. She stated that it was difficult to develop budget estimates for some of the SAP recommendations and that program staff needs clarification on some of the SAP recommendations in order to develop budget cost estimate. Debby discussed estimated costs on some of the general recommendations from SAP report.

The SAP recommended expanding tree removal efforts beyond the regulatory PCR positive trees. Debby presented rough cost estimates based on the voluntary tree removal in San Gabriel. This included placing door hangers and performing the removal. The CDFA estimated tree removal cost is \$605 per tree. She also received one estimate from a private vendor for tree removal, their estimated per tree removal costs ranged from \$1,062 for trees smaller than 20 feet and \$1,750 for trees taller than 20 feet. She provided a comparison between the CDFA and vendor costs.

The SAP recommended that the citrus industry should use Early Detection Technologies (EDT) methods when their effectiveness is validated to increase tree removal activities. Debby acknowledged that this was directed at industry, but she stated that CDFA is currently performing some EDT sampling with samples going to various researchers (Slupsky, Levaeu, CA-1 and CA1b). The current estimated cost for 2017 is \$828,851 and the proposed estimate for 2018 would be \$1,128,002. This would be an increase of \$299,151.

Kevin Olsen suggested to change the word "when" to "if" in the SAP recommendations. Nick responded that the SAP report cannot be changed but the Task Force can submit a comment to the SAP to make this change. Debby suggested that the Task Force provide a list of the EDT's that they would like included so she can provide an updated budget. Debby and Nick clarified that CDFA were not given specific money for the additional work of doing the EDT sampling, the cost of these activities are being taken out of the survey budget.

The SAP recommended that the program intensify work activities in the San Joaquin Valley where the bacterium and the psyllid have not become well established and where increased efforts could postpone their establishment. Debby stated that to reduce the time between detection, identification and treatment, the CDFA would need to increase the resident manpower in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties. The 2017 budget for the Central Valley survey and treatment is \$5,466,848 and to intensify the response the 2018 projected budget would be \$10,990,941, resulting in an increase of \$5,524,093. James asked if additional cost components should be included and Kevin suggested that a detailed 2018 budget be developed for this item.

The SAP recommended that the program increase the high risk survey for HLB to 4 cycles to improve detection of decision threshold inconclusive and regulatory PCR+ trees and remove both types of trees. Debby stated that increasing the survey to 4 cycles does not mean that additional sites will be visited, as Dr. Gottwald develops the surveys based on staff availability. For this proposal, Debby doubled the sites visited. The 2017 budget for Central Valley Risk Survey is \$613,423. The projected cost for 2018 is \$1,934,232, which would be an increase of \$1,320,809. Debby and Nick stated that the costs presented are for sample collection only and does not include diagnostic costs.

The SAP recommended aggressively managing ACP in both urban and commercial citrus in the San Joaquin Valley with the goals of postponing their establishment and minimizing disease spread. Debby pointed out that she was not sure what SAP is recommending, but that the current commercial grove trapping budget is \$1,445,227. The estimated cost for 2018 is \$1,346,496, resulting in a small decrease of \$98,731. Debby also mentioned that if the SAP was recommending survey in the commercial groves, she would have to ask Dr. Gottwald to develop a commercial grove survey for HLB.

The SAP recommended increasing ACP trapping and treatment around trees with <38 CT values (both urban and commercial citrus) and remove both positive and decision threshold inconclusive CT value trees when found. Debby stated she wasn't clear what SAP is recommending here but in 2016 there were 4 inconclusive trees out of 1789 plant samples tests in the San Joaquin Valley. Estimated total cost of treatment around the 4 inconclusive sites would be \$72,950 for a 400 meter response, \$277,455 for 800 meter treatment and \$1,619,648 for 1.2 mile response. Victoria pointed out that if there is no psyllid detection, there is no treatment even if there is inconclusive findings.

The SAP recommended that the program continue treating all psyllid find sites (1 or more psyllids triggers a response) and surrounding citrus at the 400 meter distance for residential and 800 meter distance for commercial citrus. The program at the recommendation of the CPDPC had changed the response to 1 ACP not near commercial citrus to 50 meters. Based on the 2017 detections (to date) the cost of the 50 meter response in the Central Valley was \$15,300 and if that were expanded to 400 meters, the cost would be \$275,542 for the same detections.

The SAP recommended that the program treat residential citrus in the 400 meter buffer area around Central Valley commercial citrus when growers conduct coordinated treatments. To conduct one treatment on the 400 meter residential buffer areas around the commercial citrus in Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera and Tulare would be \$8,900,000 and to do two treatments per year the estimate would be \$17,800,010.

The SAP recommended releasing *Tamarixia* and *Diaphorencyrtis* in urban areas in the San Joaquin Valley as ACP populations develop. Debby stated that estimated budget is pending and she's not sure what the cost entails. Gus Gunderson asked if *Tamarixia* and *Diaphorencyrtis* are allowed to be raised by commercial insectaries. Victoria stated that CDFA in collaboration with CRB and USDA developed a standard operating procedures for technology transfer for rearing biocontrol agents. The document was posted online and permit conditions were developed and

any insectary interested can apply. Kevin suggested that the budget should be prepared not including *Diaphorocytis* as a biocontrol agent.

The SAP recommended reducing the high risk survey to 1 cycle per year in Southern California (inland and coast), continuing to verify regulatory PCR positive trees and mandatorily removing them. Debby stated that no reduction is anticipated as staff would be shifted to HLB delimitation and tree removal activities. The 2017 budget is \$2,711,974 and the projection for 2018 is \$3,100,572. This would be an increase of \$388,598.

The SAP recommended stopping the buffer treatments in residential areas around commercial citrus in San Bernardino, Riverside (with the exception of around UCR), and San Diego Counties. The 2017 budget is \$3,465,468 and the projected budget based on the recommendation would be \$ 128,532. This would result in a cost savings of \$3,336,936.

The SAP recommended reducing trapping activities in Southern California, but continue trapping 2 miles north of the Mexico border, Imperial County, Ventura County, and around UC Riverside where buffer treatments around commercial citrus occur. Debby stated that this recommendation needs clarification. She also mentioned that trapping is not occurring along the border, the program is conducting survey and collecting ACP for analysis. She also mentioned that CDFA is not trapping around UCR except for a few sentinel traps and no recommendation was given for Santa Barbara County. Debby mentioned that to do the border survey it will cost \$117k

The SAP recommended continuing residential buffer treatments in Imperial and Ventura counties for PMAs that have 90% grower participation during area wide treatments and along the US/Mexico border. Debby mentioned that several areas in Ventura have dropped out, as they are not meeting the 90 percent trigger. The 2017 budget is \$3,265,541 and the 2018 budget projection is \$2,381,376, which is a \$884,165 reduction.

The SAP recommended f increasing plant sampling, tree removal activities and ACP urban treatments around the UCR Rubidoux facility, and UC Riverside citrus plantings to preserve precious germplasm and protect research programs. Debby mentioned that this activities would be a percentage of the UCR area wide treatment, at 400 meters, it would be 22 percent of the cost and at 800 meters it would be 77 percent of the cost.

Debby reiterated the importance of getting directions from the Committee to prepare a better budget estimate and detail specific operations that need to be considered for the budget. Task Force members agreed to present these estimates to committee meetings that are coming up to get their input.

Discussion of Enforcement Activities and Costs

Per the Task Force's request, Duane Schnabel and his staff added projected costs to the enforcement activities document that was previously presented. Nick Condos presented the following estimated enforcement costs, which included quarantine area response of \$1,504,000; nursery activities of \$520,000; bulk citrus enforcement by CDFA at \$704,000 and the Counties of \$1,050,000; and Huanglongbing enforcement activities of \$280,000.

Nick pointed out that the cost may be increased due to Riverside County HLB find. Kevin asked if we should include a budget for retail nurseries enforcement costs. . Kevin also suggested to include the projected costs as the quarantine zone expands. Nick also mentioned to consider enforcement costs with the possible regional quarantine concept that might take place next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.