

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

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 3, 2017

**Opening:**

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on May 3, 2017 in Visalia, California by Subcommittee Chairman Keith Watkins.

**Committee Members Present:**

Keith Watkins	Jim Gorden*	Kevin Olsen
John Gless*	Link Leavens*	Kevin Severns

**Committee Members Absent:**

Mark McBroom

**CRB Staff:**

Rick Dunn	Melinda Klein	Gary Shultz*
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**Interested Parties:**

Bob Atkins*	Judy Zaninovich	Leandro Ramos
Dan Dreyer	Luci Kumagai*	Sylvie Robillard
Art Gilbert	Leslie Leavens*	Debby Tanouye*
Tina Galindo*	Magally Luque-Williams*	Sandra Zwaal*
Cheryl Blomquist*	Neil McRoberts	Bob Wynn*

**\* Participated via telephone/WebEx**

**Opening Comments**

Keith Watkins welcomed the Subcommittee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. It was noted that there was a quorum for the meeting. There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

Keith Watkins reviewed the minutes from the April 12, 2017 Operations Subcommittee meeting. Kevin suggested that minutes be sent out to all the members prior to the meeting. There were no corrections and minutes were approved.

Motion: To recommend approval of the April 12, 2017 minutes as presented.  
Moved: Kevin Olsen  
Second: Link Leavens  
Motion Passes: All in favor

### **Discussion of Dr. Bartels' Analysis**

Dr. Neil McRoberts relayed what was presented at the International HLB conference in Florida this last March. Dr. Bartels highlighted clusters based on CDFA's ct values for plant and ACP sample results above the regulatory threshold. Dr. McRoberts stated that a team of experts has produced technical recommendations on how to proceed with suspect trees based on the Bartels cluster analysis and CDFA staff has looked at it and has provided input. Dr. McRoberts asked what to do with other Liberibacter findings considering CDFA is faced with enormous task of analyzing many samples. Luci Kumagai stated that CDFA is performing quadrant sampling to get a better understanding of how infection might be distributed in trees.

Sylvie Robillard asked if any lab can perform the analyses of suspect trees or if there's any restriction. She suggested using another lab such as Georgios' lab in Riverside. Luci stated that there may be restrictions on doing regulatory DNA sampling. She's hoping that USDA will provide some guidance on using a different primer to amplify a more specific region of the pathogen's genome. Cheryl Blomquist and Luci stated that quadrant sampling is more appropriate and the best use of money and time, rather than running PCR replicates. Ct values below 40 will be retested and ct values below 37 requires immediate follow up and quadrant sampling will be performed. Jim Gordon asked if quadrant sampling is done separately and Luci responded that it is. Seven trees were found positive for HLB based on resampling. There is a need to revisit sites that were monitored previously such as Ventura, Kern, Fresno, and other places and Luci suggested to do quadrant sampling in those areas.

Judy Zaninovich asked if it was possible to get the locations of the "suspect trees" in Kern County so the Pest Control District could make contact with the property owners. Leandro responded that he will check to see if this information can be provided.

Dr. McRoberts will circle back with CDFA staff to make sure that there is a protocol for resampling inconclusive sites.

### **Update on Resampling Suspect Trees**

Tina Galindo described the survey types currently being conducted by CDFA. The risk survey (Gottwald) is a state wide survey and is supposed to be conducted in 2 cycles per year. When a positive tree is identified, staff goes back to the site and collect 8 sections from the tree (i.e. 20 leaves per section) we also do cluster survey in the entire HLB quarantine area. Positive tree triggers more sampling and treatment appropriately (one in late summer or fall and one during winter or spring treatment). If tree is tested inside 800m, a new 800m will trigger another sampling even the previous trees surveyed were included from previous 800m zone. Dr. McRoberts asked how the trees are tracked over time. Tina noted that trees are monitored and sometimes there is overlap between 800m survey, risk survey and cluster survey. Luci stated they keeps records and keep track of the positive trees and is available in the database. She keeps a good history of the trees surveyed and the samples that were taken, including the use of EDT's. Debby's staff is taking a lead in collecting and analyzing the data and tracking the HLB positive trees. Kevin Olsen mentioned a need to filter and organize the data to make it useful.

Motion: To recommended that staff get a quote on hand-held devices that can be used by CDFA field staff to collect data including identifying locations of tress, have staff

analyze the data and a time estimate to accomplish the recommendation (within 1-month).

Moved: Kevin Olsen

Second: Kevin Severns

Motion Passes: All in favor

Luci mentioned the challenge of retaining the tags on trees as residents remove them. She said there are some tags that are available that do not fade and are small, as to maybe not be removed by the homeowner. Rick Dunn mentioned that they use a Nomad device and he can provide the cost per unit, but not the cost for database infrastructure that can be connected to CDFA system. Debby Tanouye has stated that a working group is already working a solution to address the motion.

Debby Tanouye reported that survey types include Risk-Based HLB Survey and various early detection technologies (EDT's). We are doing interim survey when we do not have Dr. Gottwald's surveys. We respond to the exotic pest hot line and grower requests for survey. We respond to requests from the Lab for resamples and we try to get to all of the sub 40 ct tree sites, which helps Dr. Bartels in his analysis. We are also working on getting a history of every positive tree.

Jim Gordon asked the status of the 2 cycle risk survey. Debby stated she received the data from Dr. Gottwald on April 7. Crews started the survey on April 17. She will double check with Dr. Gottwald on the number of sites to be sampled. An update will be provided at the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **Discussion of Revised Tree Sampling Techniques and Outcomes**

Luci reported that the lab received a total of 2,649 ACP and 6,927 plant samples, for a grand total of 9,576 samples. Yearly HLB sample totals from 2008 to 2017 shows a grand total of 432,635 samples in which 37% of the total is plant and 63% is ACP. Luci noted that there are more plant samples this year. In April, eight more HLB positive trees were removed, seven from the San Gabriel core area and one from La Habra, Orange County.

There have been 56 positive HLB trees detected and removed in California, 51 from San Gabriel, 2 from Hacienda Heights, 1 from La Habra, and 2 from Cerritos. Additionally, there were CLAs + ACP collected from La Puente and Anaheim without positive trees being detected. CDFA is revisiting all of the previous HLB tree find sites and conducting intensive tree surveys; 12 sites with no remaining trees, 39 positive sites to be continuously monitored, 121 remaining trees to be surveyed; 107 have been intensively tested; and 14 trees are pending. There were 7 additional positive trees that were detected during the survey. Surveys will be expanded to all the adjacent sites and hope to finish by July.

Intensive survey will be conducted in San Gabriel, Hacienda Heights, Cerritos, La Habra, La Puente and Anaheim. Quadrant sampling will be done on approximately 204 immediately adjacent sites, the number of trees have yet to be determined. In addition, quadrant sampling will be done on approximately 23 blocks with positive sites, which would be an additional 200 sites. The number of trees have yet to be determined. Debby explained that block survey start from

NW corner of the find and go clockwise around the contiguous block and she will provide a map. Jim Gordon complemented Luci's report and he requested a map to be included in the next report.

### **Other**

David Morgan provided an update on biocontrol. So far 635,000 biocontrol agents have been released in California, totaling almost 6 million since 2011. Majority of the releases were in LA County in buffers around HLB sites, along trade routes and along border zones. Releases also took place in Bakersfield, San Jose and Placer Counties. Of the 635,000 released (616k were Tamarixia and the rest are Diaphorncyrtus). Also, Dr. Morgan reported that releases this month is taking place in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. 27 sites are being monitored regularly to determine if we have establishment of Tamarixia. Dr. Morgan reported that the Standard Operating Procedure has been completed and the Permit Unit at CDFA has developed a permit for private insectaries. Art Gilbert suggested that biocontrol agents should not be released in Kern or Tulare and focus instead in Santa Clara County where we have ceased treatments. Dr. Morgan noted Arts proposal, but stated that the counties have been requesting the releases. Kevin Olsen asked the cost of production for ACP and Tamarixia. Dr. Morgan is working on the cost and will be released once he's done. Additionally, we are interested in looking at the potential for generalist predators, like lacewings.

Art Gilbert reported 6 finds of ACP in the Central Valley in April (some from glassy-winged sharpshooter traps), including 3 in Kern, 2 in Tulare, and 1 in Fresno.

Rick Dunn reported that about 90 samples have been collected for CA-1 study. Kern County samples have started.

Keith Watkins stated tarping enforcement is being reviewed and counties are working on work plans to meet the enforcement goals. Committee will be reviewing the plans. Leandro Ramos added that he is working with staff from other branches to develop a protocol/contract with CHP detailing locations of where CHP can conduct their inspection of citrus loads.

Kevin Olsen stated there is an operational issue with regards to nursery stock which will be addressed during the Full Committee meeting on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next Operations meeting will be held on June 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.