

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
REGULATORY TASKFORCE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Friday September 14, 2018

The Regulatory Taskforce meeting was called to order at 8:30 am on September 14, 2018 by the Taskforce Chair Etienne Rabe.

Taskforce Members Present:

Aaron Dillon*	Link Leavens*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*
Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Mark McBroom*	Keith Watkins*
Victoria Hornbaker	Angela McMellen-Brannigan*	

Taskforce Members Absent:

Joel Nelsen	Nawal Sharma
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Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins*	Henry Gonzales*	Edwin Moscoso*
Jill Barnier*	Brian Guess*	Keith Okasaki
Dr. Kyle Beucke	Anmol Joshi*	Linda Pinfeld*
Sarah Bowles*	Sara Khalid	Monique Rivera*
Delia Cioc*	Melinda Klein*	Cressida Silvers*
John Demshki*	John Krist*	Stephanie Stark*
Holly Denniston-Sheets	Dr. Jason Leathers	Don U*
Rick Dunn*	Leslie Leavens*	Michelle Wineman*
John Eliot*	Raymond Leclerc	Bob Wynn*
Sara Garcia Figuera	Magally Luque-Williams*	Sandra Zwaal*

*** Participated via Webinar**

Opening Comments

Dr. Etienne Rabe welcomed the Taskforce, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. It was noted that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Review Current ACP Regional Quarantine Maps

Etienne asked Victoria Hornbaker to review the regional quarantine maps and the criteria that was used in developing the maps. Victoria gave a brief description of the process that was followed in developing the regional quarantine area. This started in 2015 with the formation of the Regional Quarantine Working Group (RQWG), which was tasked in looking at the expansion of the ACP quarantine and formulating a plan to facilitate the movement of bulk citrus while mitigating the artificial movement of ACP on bulk citrus loads. The RQWG originally felt that growers should pack bulk citrus where it is grown, however upon examination it was decided that the appropriate capacity did not exist in all citrus production areas. So the group began

looking at things like the flow of bulk citrus, where is it grown and where is it packed, and if there are natural geographic barriers that would prevent the natural movement of ACP from one area to another. The group considered the ACP populations in each area, HLB detections, as well as areas that had contiguous citrus production in grouping the State into regional quarantine zones.

Keith Okasaki reviewed the pest risk criteria that are listed in the regulation for establishing a regional quarantine zone. These include similar ACP population and distribution, areas with HLB detections, proximity to US Mexico border, geographical barriers, contiguous commercial citrus growing regions, capacity of packinghouses in each region and the directional movement of bulk citrus and citrus nursery stock. All the criteria were considered and evaluated when establishing the regional quarantine zones. There are seven regional quarantine zones for bulk citrus.

Victoria noted that originally the bulk citrus and nursery regional zones were the same but based on the input of nurserymen on the CPDPC it was determined that the Committee needed additional participation from the nursery industry and a Nursery Working Group was established to assist in developing regional quarantine zones for nursery stock. The nursery regional quarantine zones were based on the same criteria but was only divided into three zones and movement of nursery stock is based on risk. Movement can occur from low to high for indoor and outdoor nursery stock with tagging and treatment, but from high to low risk, movement can only occur from an insect resistant structure.

Etienne asked about establishing a quarantine and Victoria responded that quarantines are established based on a single ACP detection. She explained that in addition to the establishment of a quarantine, the area is delimited for one year and if no additional ACP are detected the trapping reverts to detection trapping arrays.

The group discussed the regional quarantine zones and how areas were placed into those zones and what it means to be in certain zones, such as being grouped with zones that are adjacent to areas with higher ACP populations or near HLB areas.

Analyze ACP Regional Quarantine Bulk Citrus Movement Regulation

Victoria explained that Dr. Gottwald will be revising the risk model to give it a 20 percent bias to commercial citrus, as well as developing a stand-alone risk survey for commercial survey. Etienne asked about the risk of moving bulk citrus across an HLB quarantine area. Victoria responded that if the load is tarped at origin and moves across the HLB quarantine without stopping, the risk of moving ACP and HLB is mitigated. Etienne mentioned that we are only concerned with ACP populations in these regions, but it was noted that we should not be disassociating HLB from ACP. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell confirmed that it is unknown where HLB exists and that is why the Program must be cautious with moving bulk citrus.

Etienne asked Sara Garcia Figuera to discuss the Qualitative Risk Model developed by the McRoberts group. Sara noted that the desire is to discuss the model and to focus on the methodology and refine it through the Taskforce to make it a flexible model. She discussed the methodology used in developing the model, which included establishing a definition of risk,

developing a tree structure to estimate risk that is based on USDA APHIS PPQ guidelines for Pest Risk Assessment (PRA), determining risk factors and assigning qualitative ratings of “negligible,” “low,” “medium” or “high” and using the DEXi program for qualitative multi-attribute decision-making. Sara noted that she looked at the criteria for establishing the regional quarantine zones, as well as the USDA APHIS PPQ guidelines for PRA and from this she developed a risk evaluation tree. Then she combined the qualitative ratings in DEXi that fed into a final risk matrix. She reviewed the matrix and noted that the structure of the model is flexible to accommodate changes in the risk factors selected, or the way they are grouped in the tree.

There was extensive discussion about the risk matrix and why movement from a low risk area to a high-risk area would be high risk. Sara mentioned that the risk matrix was populated by a group of four persons from the McRoberts group. She stated that risk factors can be easily rated by a panel of experts based on available data, and ratings can be updated over time. Sara reminded the group that the model is qualitative. It was determined that Sara would send the risk evaluation tree to a select group; Aaron, Dillon, Keith Watkins, Mark McBroom, Etienne Rabe, Link Leavens, Beth Grafton-Cardwell, Rick Dunn, Victoria Hornbaker, Ray Leclerc and Bob Atkins for review and additions/edits. Once Sara receives the revisions, she will rerun DEXi and revise the risk matrix. The Taskforce will review the revised risk matrix at the next meeting.

Victoria reviewed a map of the California citrus layer with the Gottwald model HLB risk areas overlaid. She pointed out that there are high risk areas very near commercial citrus in several regions. Sara noted that risk areas are associated with probability of a detection.

Review Mitigations for the Movement of Bulk Citrus Between Regions

Etienne mentioned the mitigations that are currently available for facilitating bulk citrus movement between regions, these included pre-harvest sprays, field cleaning and wet wash. The group decided to table further discussion on mitigations until the revised risk matrix can be reviewed.

Reassess Bulk Citrus Zone Three Designation

Etienne discussed a letter that was received from growers in zone three. Link Leavens stated that they feel that the growing area in Monterey is distant from any previous ACP detections and they have not had a find in almost over a year in the Monterey County. Leslie Leavens noted that the detections in Monterey were miles away from the 101 corridor. The growers representing Monterey advocated to separate Monterey from San Luis Obispo. With clarification the growers noted that they are looking for a protocol to move Monterey out of zone three and into zone one. Beth stated that she is concerned about the risk associated with residential citrus in zone three.

ACP Regional Quarantine Removal Criteria

Dr. Kyle Beucke, Primary State Entomologist discussed his analysis of the question about removing an area out of an actively managed zone to zone one. He noted that the Science Advisory Panel recommended two years as potential trigger for removing an area from an ACP quarantine area. He also noted that the ability to identify a detection as a hitchhiker could provide support that these detections are isolated incidents. It is difficult to prove that a detection of an ACP was a hitchhiker, but that with delimitation trapping and survey and a period of time without additional ACP detection, a protocol might be developed that USDA would accept for

moving an area out of a quarantine zone. It was noted that the Monterey growing areas are very isolated and the majority of bulk citrus moves from Monterey to Ventura with limited amounts moving to the Central Valley. Beth suggested combining zones three and four because the bulk citrus flow is southward, the geographical barriers between zone three and four would mitigate the risk of artificial movement from Ventura northward. Aaron Dillon asked about the reduction in timing of delimitation trapping from two to one year and if that was the plan, how would you ever prove two years without detections. Beth noted that trapping would continue at a lower rate. Keith Watkins noted that he was concerned with the risk to San Luis Obispo and Monterey if zones three and four were combined. It was suggested that Kyle work directly with Beth and the other scientists to develop a protocol for removing an area from an active zone to zone one if it meets a scientifically based criterion.

Etienne mentioned that with the revised risk matrix the mitigations may be revised based on risk.

Henry Gonzales, Monterey County Agricultural Commissioner discussed the four ACP detections that have occurred in Monterey, noting that three of the delimitations have ended without detections and the fourth will end in November. He also mentioned that the County conducts urban detection trapping. He wanted the group to consider a protocol for assessing the detections prior to moving an area from zone one to an actively managed quarantine zone.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.