

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM
JOINT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND REGULATORY TASK FORCE
SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, December 6, 2018

The joint Science and Technology and Regulatory Task Force Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm on December 6, 2018.

Science Subcommittee Members Present:

Aaron Dillon*	Dr. Melinda Klein*	Kevin Olsen*
Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Dr. Jason Leathers*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*

Science Subcommittee Members Absent:

Ed Civerolo

Regulatory Taskforce Members Present:

Aaron Dillon*	Victoria Hornbaker	Mark McBroom*	Nawal Sharma*
Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell*	Link Leavens*	Dr. Etienne Rabe*	

Regulatory Taskforce Members Absent:

Angela McMillian-Brannigan Joel Nelsen

Interested Parties:

Bob Atkins*	Mario Ibarra	Sylvie Robillard*
Dr. Kyle Beucke	Dr. Karen Jetter*	Cressida Silvers*
Teri Blaser*	Sara Khalid	Roger Smith*
Holly Deniston-Sheets*	Daniel Lee*	James Williams*
Rick Dunn*	Brianna McGuire	Kurt Williams
Adam Frenchoni	Dr. Neil McRoberts*	Bob Wynn*
Sean Farnum*	Keith Okasaki	Judy Zaninovich*
Sara Garcia Figuera	Gabe Olmos*	Sandra Zwaal*
Jim Gorden*	Monique Rivera*	

*** Participated via Webinar**

Opening Comments

Dr. Etienne Rabe 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.

Strategy 1-Quickly Detect and Eradicate Diseased Trees

Update on Discussion with Dr. Jetter re Project Future

There were no significant updates, and Dr. Etienne Rabe noted that this agenda item may be dropped in future meetings, depending on what the committee decides.

Strategy 2-Control Movement of Psyllids around the State; Regulations

Review Quarantine Performance Standard Options

Evergreen Direct Spray Update

Lori Apodaca sent an emailed update stating that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) granted California Citrus Mutual (CCM)'s Section 18 request to use Evergreen as a post-harvest treatment option for all citrus in California. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) issued a Section 18 quarantine exemption to the appropriate County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC) last week. DPR worked with the EPA to approve this request as a quarantine, instead of specific exemptions. This section has been approved for about two and a half years, and the emergency exemption will expire February 9, 2021. In the interim, data would need to be developed to move this to a Section 3 registration by the expiration date. Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell commented that there is a two-and-a-half-year approval for Evergreen to allow time for Ethyl Formate to become registered, which may be more effective and easier to use, and will most likely replace Evergreen. The plan is still to achieve full registration for both products.

Ethyl Formate Update

No updates.

Review Revised Qualitative Risk Model and Exposure

Sara Garcia Figuera and Dr. Neil McRoberts presented their final report for the qualitative risk model for bulk citrus regional movement. The objective was restated as estimating the risk of introducing CLas-infected Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) when moving bulk citrus between the regional quarantine zones in California. A timeline of this project was presented, along with the initially proposed matrix, and the agreed risk evaluation tree. The majority ratings for the risk factors were displayed on a table. Utility tables were also agreed upon; and this along with the combination of ratings were used to generate each member's risk matrix and the consensus matrix. There was one final exercise, which coded each person's matrix, the consensus matrix, and the initial lab matrix. Each panel member was asked to rank the ten risk matrices in order of agreement. The final exercise indicated that the consensus matrix had the highest level of agreement. In conclusion, the consensus model developed through the interaction with the Regulatory Task Force does not provide evidence to change the mitigation requirements for bulk citrus transportation based on the level of risk. Therefore, the recommendation is to maintain the quarantine regulation as it is. It was asked why the risk of movement from Zone 3 to Zone 4 is considered a high risk. Sara explained that the risk is the probability of ACP or Huanglongbing (HLB) being in the zone of origin, but also what the impact would be if an ACP carrying CLAs were introduced in the zone of destination. One reason could be because there is citrus in Zone 4, and favorable conditions for establishment of ACP. Other factors include host availability, commercial citrus acreage, and the volume of fruit. There was also a discussion of combining Zones 3 and 4 since they have the same risk factors. This would allow Zone 3 to move without mitigations, aside from tarping. Dr. Neil McRoberts explained that aside from Zone 6 (which must have double mitigation due to the presence of HLB), there was no differentiation for mitigation requirements, so there has not been analysis yet of what difference the different mitigations based on risk levels make. Dr. Rabe suggested to send this presentation out to the entire committee for additional comments and questions, specific items that have been raised, and to decide a path to move forward. Victoria also suggested that she will create a narrative and work with Link Leavens to determine if combining Zones 3 and 4 would be beneficial.

Dr. Neil McRoberts also mentioned that Brianna McGuire's report on exposure has been completed, and a draft report has been emailed out to Jim Gorden and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to be vetted. Dr. McRoberts commented that a methodology has been created to use exposure as a regulatory approach. Once it has been approved, it will be readily available to the public.

Discuss Revised ACP Regional Quarantine Removal Criteria

Dr. Kyle Beucke recommended to move San Benito County to Zone 1, since there have not been any finds for the past two years. He also recommended for all counties that have only had one ACP find and negative finds for the past year to also move to Zone 1. Dr. Beuke noted that one find can be based on a hitchhiking event, so placing a county under quarantine can create a large burden on growers. Dr. Grafton-Cardwell commented that that there should be a two-year period of negative finds instead of one. She also stated that just because there is only one ACP find does not mean it is a hitchhiker, and it could still be an infestation. It could be dangerous to northern counties as well because even though the risk is lower in the north, it must be said for every county which could have higher risks. Potentially, counties can also be moving in and out of quarantine due to effective treatments that it could be difficult to detect psyllids. Victoria commented that CDFA will be looking at all counties that meet the two-year time frame. She also clarified that if there was a single detection in a county, one additional year with no finds, and treatment and delimitation activities, in that instance CDFA would recommend moving that county back into Zone 1. If there were multiple detections, that would trigger the two-year clock, and would be a staggered response. Moving counties into Zone 1 also protects those counties from unmitigated bulk citrus and nursery stock into that area and allows protection of counties with negative trap detections. Victoria also reiterated that a subsequent find would move that county back into the Zone they were previously in. Dr. Rabe suggested that a formal proposal needs to be put forth to this subcommittee, and then a decision can be made. Dr. Grafton-Cardwell also commented that she would like to see the level of trapping in each area, if they are equivalent, and if risk factors are being considered. Victoria suggested that a map can be created before the next full committee meeting in January that shows counties with only one detection, when that detection occurred, and counties with multiple detections which are close to the two-year mark. Once the map is created, it can be sent to Sara Garcia Figuera, who can look at the map in relation to her risk criteria. A narrative will also be written regarding the movement of counties.

Strategy 3-Suppress Asian Citrus Psyllid Population

Mapping out Periods of Treatment

Ray Leclerc will be drafting a treatment calendar to share at a future meeting.

Other Discussion Items

Kurt Williams from Monterey County wished to discuss coming up with a mitigation procedure that would be permissible with CDFA and their local CAC for harvesting lemons in their county. Victoria mentioned that CDFA leaves that primarily up to the county, as long as stems and leaves are removed. If there is something new that is being proposed, CDFA will help assist and inspect. Victoria and Keith Okasaki will work with Monterey County to help with an approved structure.

This meeting was adjourned at 2:59 pm. The next Joint Science and Technology and Regulatory Task Force meeting has not been scheduled.

