

CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION PROGRAM OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 3, 2019

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Operations Subcommittee was called to order at 9:00 a.m. on April 3, 2019 in Visalia, California by Chairman Keith Watkins.

Committee Members Present:

Ted Grether* Keith Watkins

Committee Members Late:

Jim Gorden Roger Smith*

Committee Members Absent:

John Gless Zac Green Kevin Severns

CDFA Staff:

Cassandra Davis	Gavin Iacono*	Ray Leclerc*	Nawal Sharma*
Tina Galindo*	Sara Khalid	Magally Luque-Williams*	
Victoria Hornbaker	Luci Kumagai*	Lea Pereira*	

CRB Staff:

Franco Bernardi	Rick Dunn	Holly Deniston-Sheets
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Guests:

Bob Atkins	Leslie Leavens*	Tobias Moyneur*	Jason Schwartze*
Kevin Ball*	Link Leavens*	Curtis Pate*	Jack Williams*
Casey Creamer	Jessica Leslie*	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich
John Krist*	Mark McBroom*	Cressida Silvers*	Sandra Zwaal*

*** Participated via Webinar**

Keith Watkins welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. He stated that there was no quorum for the meeting. When Jim Gorden and Roger Smith joined the meeting later, a quorum was established.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB

Laboratory Update

Luci Kumagai stated that California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) tested 7,931 plant samples in March. CDFA, the Citrus Research Board (CRB) and the University of Arizona tested 2,485 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples. She stated that 29,531 plant and ACP samples have been tested to date in 2019. She noted that the March ACP samples were down. 1,196 Huanglongbing (HLB)-positive trees have been detected to date; 307 trees from Los Angeles County, 886 trees from Orange County, and three trees from Riverside County. She stated that two

new cities in Los Angeles County, Montebello and El Monte, have each had one HLB-positive tree find and that two trees were found in La Puente this year.

HLB Detection and Tree Removal

Tina Galindo stated that Orange County HLB treatment areas have been expanding and surveyors have discovered new areas in Los Angeles County. She explained that no-contact residents in Whittier and Temple City are now being treated. She stated that area-wide treatments are completed at the Imperial and San Diego border, in Imperial Grove, San Pasqual and Ventura. She noted that Imperial and San Diego area-wide border treatments were not conducted in some areas previously completed due to a lack of ACP detections. Only San Pasqual in San Diego and Ventura City and part of the Camarillo area in Ventura County reached 90 percent compliance to be treated. She explained that Anaheim, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, El Monte and Westminster have meetings pending for expansions. Rosemead is a new treatment area expanded from Temple City, La Puente expanded into a new area, and Montebello is a new area expanded from Pico Rivera.

Tina gave an update on the progress of delimitations in Los Angeles County, noting that delimitation surveys are 96 percent complete in Whittier, 33 percent complete in San Gabriel, 99 percent complete in Lakewood, 89 percent in Temple City and Rosemead, and 85 percent complete in La Puente. She noted that Montebello and El Monte find sites still require 400-meter HLB survey sampling. She stated that 215 inconclusives, 482 adjacent trees and 445 remaining trees at find sites have been sampled. When asked, Ray Leclerc explained that CDFA is working to fill 106 citrus positions within CDFA's Pest Detection and Emergency Projects branch and to hire new permanent citrus employees and seasonal workers. He noted that transitioning away from using the Cooperative Agricultural Support Services Authority staffing to using state workers has been an issue. He noted that Magally Luque-Williams and Tina will each be getting eight new team members, and Victoria Hornbaker explained that additional staff will be placed in Kern County, Ventura County and other potential gaps.

Magally Luque-Williams explained that Cycle 1 of the 2018 HLB risk-based survey was completed with a total of 55,358 sites surveyed, 19,292 entomology samples and 7,529 plant samples taken. She stated that Cycle 2 of 2018 is in progress and expected to conclude by the end of May 2019, with Los Angeles taking longer. Of the 29 counties being surveyed, Alameda, Imperial, Kings, Merced, San Mateo, Santa Barbara and Santa Clara Counties are completed. She noted that 37,615 sites have been surveyed so far this year. She stated that active 400-meter delimitation surveys are in progress in Anaheim, Garden Grove, Westminster, Santa Ana and the new area Huntington Beach. HLB was detected at 891 properties, with a total of 1,196 HLB-positive trees and 230 positive ACP. The Imperial border survey is completed, and the San Diego border survey is three percent complete. When asked, she explained that border sites are sampled between one and four times per year.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations

Regulatory Activity Update

Nawal Sharma stated that in three months, the grate field cleaning pilot program moved 4,306 bins and inspected 64 percent of those bins. He noted that the maximum leaves found in any bin was 80, and that high-leaf bins consistently originated at the Corona College Heights (CCH)

packinghouse, shipping from Ventura to Riverside. He explained that the Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner issued a letter to CCH on March 21, 2019 to discontinue their participation in the pilot program. Nawal noted that harvesting has begun in the HLB quarantine area in Riverside. That area has 22 growers, the largest of which is the University of California Riverside. Growers moved 994 bins of citrus outside the quarantine area and moved approximately 400 bins internally. He explained that the HLB/ACP grower information webpage has been updated with a clarification that to move fruit from ACP quarantine areas (Zones 2, 3, 5 and 7) to an HLB quarantine area (Zone 6), there are two options: process and final packing inside the HLB quarantine area, or moving the fruit to another packinghouse outside the HLB quarantine area to be wet washed. Standard HLB/ACP forms and tarping are still required.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression

Trapping and Treatment Updates

Cassandra Davis explained that 3,263 adult ACP were collected in 2019 for live analysis at CRB by Southern California grove sampling. It was explained that every sentinel tree is sampled every six months, and each area is visited four times a year. Cassandra noted that trap numbers in the Fresno district have decreased, with some delimitation traps becoming detection traps. Fresno, Kern and Tulare County have seen the steepest decline. She explained that in 2019, ACP have been found in the city of Soledad in Monterey County and one ACP found in Tulare County in a commercial grove outside the Porterville area. She stated that ACP find information has been distributed to grower liaisons. When asked, she agreed to include information on finds in the Sacramento area in the future. It was suggested that finds be listed by month or season rather than by calendar year. Cassandra explained that both Soledad 400-meter treatments were completed. Soledad 1 had 67 total find sites with 14 treatment refusals and 417 properties treated, and Soledad 2 had one find site with four treatment refusals and 88 properties treated. The Porterville find was in a grove with no adjacent properties to treat, but delimitation traps were deployed.

Biocontrol Update

Victoria stated that the Biocontrol Program has released agents in San Luis Obispo, with April 2019 releases scheduled for Tulare, Santa Barbara and Monterey. Biocontrol protocol allows Bob Atkins, Victoria and Dr. David Morgan to make the call when doing Biocontrol releases in the area in collaboration with the county agriculture commissioner. Dr. Morgan has been working in areas where they have life stages like Visalia, getting permission from county agricultural commissioners to do Biocontrol releases in urban areas. Victoria recommended that Dr. Morgan increase agent releases in Santa Clara due to ACP finds. Ray noted that treatment is in progress in Santa Clara.

Regional ACP Update

Bob stated that there is one outstanding grower liaison position with a contract in progress. He stated that grower liaisons are currently evaluating Southern California on issues such as meeting the 90 percent threshold or the lack of finds in San Joaquin Valley. He noted that a major ranch was purchased by a Native American tribe and hopes that they can be persuaded to allow treatment. He explained that there is a MAC-funded Biocontrol project with Dr. Greg Simmons occurring adjacent to Hemet commercial groves to evaluate Biocontrol agents. He stated that an Early Detection Technology Task Force is scheduled for April 30, 2019. He added that Dr. McRoberts believes that using data from local Asian and Hispanic communities would refine Dr. Gottwald's

high-risk mapping data and identify high-risk areas that may not have been picked up by the model. He requested that high-risk maps be made available to agricultural commissioners.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that quadrant sampling began earlier than DATOC previously believed. The quadrant sampling is now correctly set before a large spike in confirmed HLB-positive tree finds in third quarter 2017. She explained that DATOC has created graphs for HLB-positive tree detections and plant samples collected in Orange and Los Angeles County. She noted that Garden Grove has the most dramatic rise in HLB-positive tree finds, while Anaheim has the second most dramatic rise. It was stated that quadrant samples are only counted as one sample for the purposes of these data sets despite involving four times as many samples taken. It was noted that the survey size was reduced from 800-meter to 400-meters around find sites, and expands if new detections bump out the core. Holly explained that the data was consistent, and that HLB-positive tree finds have increased even when samples collected have decreased. When asked, Tina stated that a positive result in a lab can take one to two weeks and an HLB-positive tree should be removed within a week of being found to be positive. Holly noted that the data analysis was based on collection rather than when the sample is reported as positive. She explained that based on the collected samples and HLB-positive tree detections, the cost to detect an HLB infection has decreased over time: \$293,000-\$471,000 in 2012, \$49,000 in 2015, \$50,000 in 2016, \$4,100 in 2017, \$2,400 in 2018. It was suggested that there are more HLB infections to detect now than there was in previous years, which would skew DATOC's data.

When asked, Holly noted that approximately 37 percent of finds are discovered with quadrant sampling. Tina explained that old find sites in San Gabriel are being resampled to 400 meters as time and new delimitations permit. Victoria stated that the high-risk survey and responsive treatment programs have their own resources, but the resources can be diverted to outlier sites like Huntington Beach before returning to complete core projects. She explained that CDFA is working on creating an ongoing candidate pool for seasonal and field hires utilizing an electronic exam. It was noted that CDFA's seasonal salaries are uniform across the state, making it difficult to hire seasonal workers in some areas. Victoria suggested that the next Operations Subcommittee meeting include a presentation on resource allocation and dedicated resources.

Holly stated that DATOC is working on documenting residential activities in Southern California, efficiencies, repeating data points, data visualizations and density of infections. She suggested that the infections in San Gabriel and Anaheim behave differently. This may be due to the DNA of different strains being slightly different or how the infections are looked at programmatically. It was suggested that there are three to five different genotypes of bacterium among collected samples, and that genotype overlays of find sites would be valuable data.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn stated that CRB participated in the Voluntary Grower Response Task Force and that there was a DATOC expert panel meeting in Riverside at the International Research Conference on HLB. He noted that Robert Johnson changed the symbology of the HLB detections on the statewide citrus layer program. It was requested that the symbology on the citrus layer be made

clearer, particularly on squares to differentiate no sampling versus sampling with no HLB detections.

CLOSING COMMENTS & ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m. The next Operations meeting will be held in Visalia, California on May 1, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.