

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION  
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, January 15, 2020

The regular meeting of the Full Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 15, 2020 in Visalia, California by Chairman Jim Gorden.

**Committee Members Present:**

Craig Armstrong*	Bob Felts, Jr.	Mark McBroom
Kevin Ball	John Gless	James McFarlane
Brad Carmen	John C. Gless	Kevin Severns
Ed Civerolo	Jim Gorden	Roger Smith
Aaron Dillon	Nick Hill	Keith Watkins

**Committee Members Present But Not Voting:**

Dr. Etienne Rabe

**CDFA Staff:**

Carl Baum*	Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki*
Brian Bishop	Sara Khalid	Lea Pereira*
Kiana Dao*	Luci Kumagai*	Lydia Rodriguez*
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams*	Maegan Salinas
Amelia Hicks	Dr. David Morgan*	Nawal Sharma*
Gavin Iacono*	Alex Muñiz*	Jennifer Willems

**CRB Staff:**

Rick Dunn	Marcy Martin	Qijien Xiang
Dr. Melinda Klein		

**Guests:**

Price Adams	Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell	Alexa Silvera
Bob Atkins	Subhas Hajeri	Cressida Silvers*
Jill Barnier	John Konda	Jason Schwartze
Teri Blaser	Ellen Kragh*	Karen Westerman*
Holly Deniston-Sheets*	Link Leavens*	Jack Williams*
Casey Creamer	Jessica Leslie	Helene Wright
Melissa Cregan	Dr. Neil McRoberts*	Judy Zaninovich
Sara Garcia-Figuera*	Curtis Pate*	Sandra Zwaal*
Jason Gless	Sylvie Robillard	

\* Participated via Webinar

**Opening Comments:**

Jim Gorden welcomed the Committee, staff, and members of the public participating in person and online. He stated that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Victoria Hornbaker stated that the Citrus Division hired David Gutierrez as the Branch Chief for the Citrus Division. She stated that he has hired district managers: Jennifer Willems for the Central Valley region and Ventura County, Anmol Joshi for Southern California and Amelia Hicks for Northern California, data management and geographic information system (GIS) mapping. Brian Bishop is the Citrus Division's GIS specialist.

**Public Comment:**

No public comment.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**

Jim stated that the Consent Agenda consists of the meeting minutes from the November 12, 2019 Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee meeting.

**Motion:** To recommend approving the Consent Agenda as presented.

**First:** John Gless

**Second:** Keith Watkins

**Motion carries:** Motion passed unanimously.

**FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT****Review 2018/2019 Budget Expenditures and Revenue**

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that total expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 were \$23,527,472 as of the January subcommittee meeting. He explained that the significant expenses were: the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) southern survey at \$800,000; ACP statewide biocontrol at \$200,000; Huanglongbing (HLB) statewide survey at \$1,200,000; HLB statewide diagnostics at \$250,000; and HLB state regulatory at \$750,000. He noted that FY 2018-19 is not yet closed out, with projected expenditures reaching \$25,000,000. Victoria explained that the state FY closes on June 30, but the Committee is aligned with the federal FY which closes on September 30 and July, August and September expenditures are still open. Bob stated that historically the program's yearly expenditures were approximately \$30,000,000 to \$35,000,000. He explained that invoices of up to \$5,000,000 in total are suspected to be missing, and the low FY 2018-19 expenditures are due to redirections of expenditures from the Pest Detection/Emergency Projects (PDEP) to the Citrus Division. He stated that actual spending for the General Fund is down significantly and there is a one-time opportunity to move money from the Food and Agriculture Fund to the General Fund.

Bob stated that FY 2018-19 November revenues were \$116,870 and the year to date total is \$18,464,753. He noted revenues are \$464,000 over the \$18,000,000 in projected revenues and that there will not be any more money coming in for FY 2018-19.

**Review 2019/2010 Budget Expenditures and Revenue**

Bob stated that the program spent \$1,361,591 in October, \$1,042,284 in November and \$942 in December for a total of \$2,404,817 to date in FY 2019-20. He explained that the ACP southern survey expensed \$750,000 when only \$332,571 was budgeted. Victoria suggested this was a

misallocation from HLB survey to ACP survey; ACP survey expenses are specifically for border surveys while the HLB survey is a much more robust budget. Bob stated that other significant expenses were: ACP statewide biocontrol at \$285,000; ACP statewide regulatory at \$333,000; ACP/HLB statewide administration at \$200,000; and ACP/HLB statewide outreach at \$174,000. He stated that the Subcommittee discussed the potential for a monthly budget, but he noted that last year's numbers were atypical due to the Financial Information System for California (FI\$Cal) transition. Victoria explained that prior to FI\$Cal, the program received a lag letter detailing lag items. Carl Baum and Ryan Fong will be developing a similar program to better understand expenditures that are waiting to hit the budget. Victoria explained that Ryan Fong's prior Staff Services Analyst (SSA) position has been backfilled, allowing him to focus on developing the tracking system outside of FI\$Cal. She expects to hire several student assistants for data entry and expenditure tracking.

Bob stated that FY 2019-20 revenues were \$581,000 in November, \$1,200,000 in December for a total of \$1,783,375. He stated that the FY 2019-20 projected budget is \$17,370,000 with an estimated outstanding \$15,586,624.

## **EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **Update on Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division Progress**

Victoria stated that Citrus Division has hired three district managers and will be hiring nine Senior Environmental Scientist (SES) Supervisors next week. The SESs will hire their Environmental Scientists (ES) and other Pest Prevention Assistants that have not been hired yet. She stated that the program is missing one Office Technician and one SSA for administrative staff. She explained that administrative work performed by PDEP is transitioning to the Citrus Division. The discrepancy between the 226 required Citrus Division positions and 164 staff actually allocated will be backfilled by seasonals. She explained that she, Etienne Rabe and others will be meeting with Pest Control Districts (PCDs), Task Forces and grower liaisons on January 29, 2020 to see if PCDs and Task Forces have staff available to take on additional work on behalf of the program. She explained that the Citrus Division enters into cooperative agreements and contracts with Counties to perform trapping and regulatory activities, and PDEP allows staff to work for the Citrus Division when not busy with other projects.

Victoria added that all Citrus Division field offices will have an SES Supervisor or a lead ES. She explained that Citrus Division intends to place resources nearer to citrus production. She stated that Jennifer Willem's Ventura office will service Ventura, Santa Barbara and part of San Luis Obispo Counties. Staff have also been added to Fresno, Kern, and San Diego Counties. She noted that Northern California operations for Sacramento County and the Bay Area will be sourced from Sacramento headquarters. She stated that Citrus Division and PDEP are performing a co-relocation site search to combine and co-relocate San Marcos and Spring Valley offices. Carl Baum explained that the San Marcus lease does not meet the Department of General Services (DGS) standards, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) must vacate. The Spring Valley office does not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Victoria stated that it is difficult to find an ADA-compliant space in the Imperial Valley willing to take on a state contract. It was suggested that the Coachella Valley Pest Control

District (PCD) has locations available with the Farm Bureau. Victoria noted that leasing an office is an eight-year commitment; four years firm term and four years soft term.

Victoria added that staff coming to the Citrus Division from PDEP will bring resources like vehicles when they transition. Digital assets like cell phones and computers will be transitioned, though the department is refreshing all Windows 7 machines and cell phones to bring them up to security standards. He added that vehicle storage is the major difficulty in acquiring new Citrus Division office space.

### **Review of Committee By-Laws**

Victoria recommended that the Committee review the by-laws for the first time in two years.

### **Ventura Member Vacancy**

Victoria stated that Nathan Michael Lurie was unable to accept the vacant Committee position, and the vacant Ventura position will be reposted.

### **Officer Elections**

Etienne Rabe suggested that the Committee look at the Citrus Research Board (CRB) and Farm Bureau two-year model where cycling the Executive Committee allows more consistency. It was recommended that it not be entered into the by-laws, to allow for more flexibility. Bob recommended renewing the existing Executive Committee rather than cycling Executive officers. Jim suggested supporting Mark McBroom as chairman, but that he will agree to continue as chair if that is the will of the Committee.

**Motion:** To recommend renewing the existing Executive Committee (Jim Gordon as Chairman, Mark McBroom as Vice-Chairman and Etienne Rabe as Secretary/Treasurer) for a two-year term.

**First:** Bob Felts, Jr.

**Second:** Roger Smith

**Motion carries:** Motion passed with 11 yays; Kevin Ball, Brad Carmen, Ed Civerolo, Aaron Dillon, Bob Felts, Jr., John Gless, John C. Gless, Nick Hill, Mark McBroom, Roger Smith and Keith Watkins, two nays; James McFarlane and Kevin Severns, and two abstaining; Craig Armstrong and Jim Gorden.

## **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB Regulations and ACP Suppression HLB Risk Based Survey Update**

Magally Luque-Williams stated 37,437 properties have been visited during Cycle 1 of 2019, collecting 9,280 entomology samples and 6,141 plant samples. She explained that only Los Angeles County and Orange County were still underway, but due to be completed by the end of the month. She stated that the Imperial County fall HLB border survey was just completed and the winter cycle has begun. The San Diego County winter HLB border survey is 82 percent complete.

Magally stated that 56 staff are working on the statewide high risk-based survey: five staff in Kern; nine in Tulare; nine in Fresno; two in San Bernardino; three in Riverside; four in Orange; 11 in San Diego (three working border survey); 12 in Los Angeles; and one in Kings

County.

### **Orange County HLB Survey Update**

Magally stated that for the 400-meter HLB delimitation, 42 percent of Anaheim's 70 areas are complete with 332 HLB-positive trees removed; 26 percent of Garden Grove's 44 areas are complete with 480 HLB-positive trees removed; 29 percent of Westminster's 19 areas are complete with 190 HLB-positive trees removed; 31 percent of Santa Ana's 31 areas are complete with 213 HLB-positive trees; 83 percent of Tustin's 12 areas are complete with 14 HLB-positive trees; 43 percent of Placentia's six areas are complete with seven HLB-positive trees; 78 percent of the City of Orange's 20 areas are complete with 44 HLB-positive trees; 45 percent of Montclair's two areas are complete with two HLB-positive trees; 51 percent of Corona's four areas are complete with 17 HLB-positive trees; and two percent of Colton's ACP find site delimitation is complete. She stated that Ontario's ACP find site delimitation is 14 percent complete and the re-survey of San Bernardino is 45 percent complete. She stated that HLB has been detected on 1,279 properties with 1,767 HLB-positive trees and 281 ACP positives. She explained that 529 quadrant samples have been completed in December 2019 for a total of 6,853 year-to-date. 33 Orange County quadrant samples have been completed in January 2020. Magally explained that Victoria received information on strong anti-government sentiment from residents and had the outreach contractor conduct intensive hyper-local outreach in the Corona area and survey staff in working in Corona inform the Corona police department daily on their survey sites due to incidents with residents. She noted that some residents incorrectly link CDFA Virulent Newcastle disease activities with ACP surveyors.

Magally stated that she has six staff in Orange County working on delimitation: two in Santa Ana; one in Tustin; one in Placentia; one working quadrant sampling; and one working tree removal. She has 11 staff working in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties: three in Montclair; two in Ontario; two in Colton; and four in Corona. She added that five staff in Orange County are permanent, with one seasonal staff in Orange County and 11 seasonal delimitation staff in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. She added that five seasonals will start work in Orange County tomorrow.

### **Los Angeles HLB Survey Update**

Tina Galindo stated that delimitation in El Monte area 2 is 41 percent complete, two expansions in Whittier are 13 percent complete and two expansions in San Gabriel are 97 percent complete. She added that expansions Pico Rivera area 33 and Montebello area 17 are pending public meetings. She stated that the fall tissue sampling is complete for the CRB's 18 chosen sites and will be sampled again in February. She added that tissue sampling will be performed when the program returns to find sites to remove trees.

Tina stated that she has four staff working delimitation in El Monte, one in Pico Rivera, one in Montebello, and four in Whittier. Nine staff are working on the high-risk survey and two on find sites and adjacent intensive sampling and the CRB seasonality sampling. She noted that the program will be posting job vacancies for two surveyors.

### **HLB Diagnostic Update**

Lucita Kumagai stated that the CDFA lab received approximately 6,400 plant samples and 4,400

ACP samples, and CRB received approximately 4,466 samples for December 2019. She stated that the yearly total was 79,375 plant samples and 36,397 ACP samples, 25 percent below the previous total. As of January 5, 2020, 281 positive ACP samples and 1,767 HLB-positive trees have been detected on 1,279 positive sites. She noted that 73 percent of HLB-positive trees are detected in Orange County; 63 percent of those finds from Anaheim and Garden Grove and 31 percent from Santa Ana and Westminster. 25 percent of HLB-positive tree finds are in Los Angeles County. Lucita stated that in Los Angeles County, positive plant samples drive up sampling frequency by triggering delimitation surveys which leads to more finds. But *Candidatus liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs)-positive ACP finds spiked in 2017 despite a 34 percent decrease in ACP samples taken. She noted this may be partially due to the start of quadrant sampling. The 2017 spike in CLAs-positive ACP led to a spike in HLB-positive finds and hotspots. Positive ACP finds lead to treatments which seems to lead to a decrease in ACP populations in subsequent years. She stated that in Orange County, positive finds continue to rise despite 2019 having a 25 percent decrease in samples due to the finds being in hotspot clusters. Orange County also saw a spike in ACP finds in 2017, and the ACP positives led surveyors to the hotspot areas. She added that the first positive ACP in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties were detected in 2017. She stated that in 2019 the lab detected 769 positive trees, a 0.96 percent infection rate, and 75 CLAs-positive ACP samples, a 0.21 percent infection rate, across 533 sites.

Lucita stated that Mary Lou Polek and Kris Godfrey organized a meeting with Michelle Cilia and members of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Center for Plant Health Science and Technology lab who are doing genotyping work to look at Chris's preliminary inoculation and pathogenicity work on the six different genotypes that have been identified in California. She explained that Kris noted phenotypic differences in the strains based on symptomology; timing of symptom onset, types and severity of symptoms and position of symptoms in the plant. She hopes to see Kris also do ACP acquisition work. She stated that 100 isolates from Mexico will be included in the genotyping work.

Dr. Melinda Klein noted that psyllid titers increased once Texas stopped removing trees. She explained that Roger Magaery is managing a modeling project that could coordinate with Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) and look at work done in San Gabriel since 2015. The model can be used to compare the current rate of finds to the expected rate of finds based on activities. Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that preliminary data suggests that the program's actions had a positive effect. Dr. Tim Gottwald's group previously contributed data to the project and linked Weiqui's model.

Victoria noted that neither the 132,000-sample capacity CDFA lab nor the 100,000-sample capacity CRB lab are working at full capacity. She asked the Committee if the program should not renew the contract with the 23,000-capacity University of Arizona (U of A) lab and divert those samples to CDFA and CRB. She explained that if the U of A contract lapses and is renewed in the future, the lab would need to hire and train one or two new technicians.

**Motion:** To recommend not renewing the University of Arizona contract for testing Asian citrus psyllid for the bacteria that causes Huanglongbing.

**First:** Keith Watkins

**Second:** John C. Gless

**Motion carries:** Motion passed unanimously.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations Bulk Citrus Movement into HLB Quarantine**

Keith Okasaki stated that the regional HLB quarantine became effective January 1, 2018. CDFA issued the Quarantine Commodity (QC) Permit 1486 and a Pest Exclusion Advisory on January 24, 2018 to allow bulk citrus to move into a Huanglongbing (HLB) quarantine without the ACP-free performance standard mitigations. He added that safeguards during transit and an ACP-free declaration are still required. He stated that 6,538 bins were moved into the Zone 6 HLB quarantine zone for packing between September and November 2019. He specified that under QC 1486, Kern County moved 2,000 bins and Riverside County moved 3,916 bins for final pack.

It was suggested that CDFA place ACP traps in the Zone 6 packinghouses. Nawal Sharma explained that it would be difficult to determine if any ACP caught came from bulk citrus movements rather than the generally infested area. Victoria suggested that Nawal and Keith discuss the matter with the packinghouses to determine the feasibility of traps. She noted that bulk citrus being moved outside the quarantine still requires mitigation. CDFA cannot require bulk citrus shipped to Zone 6 to only originate from area wide treatment areas, but individual packinghouses in the past have required bulk citrus to only come from area wide treatment areas. It was noted that the QC Permit can be revoked if necessary.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression Regional ACP Management**

Bob Atkins stated that the Operations Subcommittee requested more hard data for neglected and abandoned orchards. He stated that data is still being gathered for next Operations Subcommittee meeting. He noted that 66 of 88 neglected or abandoned orchards in Tulare County have been removed in the last two years thanks to good support from their board of supervisors. San Diego County had 185 voluntary abatements in 2018 and 357 voluntary abatements in 2019. He added that San Diego County put in \$87,000 towards abatement.

### **Biocontrol Update**

Alex Muniz stated that CDFA increased biocontrol releases in 2019 but cold weather affected CRB's field cages. He explained that CDFA released 4,531,017 *Tamarixia radiata* in 2019 and 16,711,937 agents since 2011. He stated that most agents are being released around HLB treatment areas. Releases in border areas have increased due to providing releases to USDA International Services (IS) for release into Mexico. He stated that the program is trying to transition to a barrier approach, releasing *Tamarixia* along the HLB quarantine perimeter nearer to commercial citrus. He added that the eastern side of Riverside and northwestern Los Angeles would be prioritized, with Long Beach and Orange County as a lower priority. Victoria explained that USDA IS has requested that CDFA continue to provide biocontrol agents for release in Mexico through June 30, 2020.

**Motion:** To recommend continuing to provide 9,000 *Tamarixia radiata* per week to the United States Department of Agriculture International Services for release in Mexico through June 30, 2020.

**First:** Kevin Ball

**Second:** Aaron Dillon

**Motion carries:** Motion passed unanimously.

Victoria stated that a Biocontrol Task Force meeting is set for 9:00 a.m. on January 28 at Mount Rubidoux. Meeting information will be available through the CRB offices and on the CDFA

website. Alex explained that Dr. Hoddle's report found *Tamarixia* at over 90 percent of monitoring sites. Victoria noted that Dr. Morgan has anecdotal data of *Tamarixia* found eight miles from the nearest release site.

### **Southern California Trapping and Treatment Update**

Tina stated that HLB treatment progress was slow in December due to weather and the holidays. She explained that HLB treatment in Anaheim is complete, Montebello is complete but with a meeting pending and Santa Ana is 95 percent complete. The Hacienda Heights and La Puente retreatments are complete, and the San Gabriel retreatment is 35 percent complete. She stated that Santa Barbara, San Bernardino and Coachella area wide treatments are complete with Fresno staff helping in Hemet and around the University of California Riverside (UCR). Ventura County is 50 percent complete. She stated that the Borrego Springs and San Pasqual area wide treatment will be completed this week and the San Diego County border treatment meeting is set for next week. She added that the Imperial County grove treatment is complete but the border area wide is still in progress. Meetings for the City of Orange, Huntington Beach and Westminster will be next week, with meetings pending for Colton, El Monte, Whittier, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Garden Grove, and the San Bernardino, Duarte and Lakewood retreatments. She stated that area wide treatments are complete in Santa Barbara, San Bernardino and Coachella, the meetings for UCR and Hemet are in progress and the meeting for the Ventura area wide is on January 22. She added that staff will be redirected to Orange County after area wide treatments are complete.

## **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing**

#### **DATOC Update**

Sara Garcia-Figuera explained that DATOC was working on a CRB project on coordinating insecticide applications for ACP. She coordinated with Tina and the grower liaisons to gather area wide participation level data. She explained that voluntary area wide treatment is coordinated through Task Forces and Psyllid Management Areas (PMAs). Some PMAs have mandatory area wide treatment by PCDs. Grower liaisons gather pesticide use reports (PURs) and calculate the treated citrus acreage to discover the participation level. If participation exceeds 90 percent and an ACP has been detected within one mile of the commercial groves in the last year, CDFG may treat residential areas within 400 meters.

Sara is analyzing historic participation levels to determine if they can be used to decide which PMAs qualify for residential buffer treatments. She explained that this would give grower liaisons time to gather PURs in the current season, give CDFG time to plan buffer treatments and increase treatment efficacy. She also suggested that this would incentivize consistently high PMA participation over time. She explained that she studied average coordination in area wide management treatments from Fall 2016 to Fall 2019. She noted that areas with PCDs usually have participation above 90 percent with less variation than areas with Task Forces and PMAs. She stated that the averages of area wide treatment participation for the 93 PMAs in DATOC's data has not been increasing, but that there are more data points above 70 percent with a median of 79 to 92 percent participation.

Sara described a proposal that PMAs that reach 90 percent participation in at least two out of the previous three seasons would qualify for the residential buffer treatment. She explained that 47 PMAs qualified for area wide treatment after the Fall 2019 treatment, while 39 would have

qualified if using the proposed criterion. She added that two PMAs would have qualified based on the previous three seasons even though they were below 90 percent participation following Fall 2019. Ten wouldn't have qualified even though they were above 90 percent in Fall 2019 because they had never or only met the threshold once. She suggested that this proposal would be more forgiving to regions that have high participation but miss the threshold once.

Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell explained that each district works slightly differently, complicating Tina's scheduling of treatments and public meetings. She hopes that buffer treatments can be aligned with grower treatments. Victoria recommended that the three previous treatments be winter-fall-winter due to the small timeframe between fall and winter treatments. Beth suggested adding an exception rule for new PMAs that first hit 90 percent participation to allow them to be considered.

**Motion:** To recommend amending the area wide treatment requirements to allow treatment if the Pest Management Area (PMA) achieved 90 percent in two of three past treatment periods, with flexibility for PMAs that have achieved 90 percent for the first time.

**First:** Roger Smith

**Second:** John Gless

**Motion carries:** Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Neil McRoberts stated that the Committee should consider whether the Canine Scouting Guidelines and Suggested Response to an Early Detection Technology (EDT) Alert documents be put up on the DATOC website and if it should be stamped with the DATOC logo. Victoria suggested that the document be changed to allow growers to request testing for ACP from any certified lab. She explained that three labs are certified to process grower samples. Victoria noted that the document contains a footer for distribution in Ventura County which would be inappropriate for a general scouting guideline. She recommended creating a broader introduction for the generalized canine survey guidelines.

**Motion:** To recommend posting the Canine Scouting Guidelines and the Suggested Response to an Early Detection Technology Alert documents with edits to the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center website.

**First:** Kevin Ball

**Second:** Roger Smith

**Motion carries:** Motion passed unanimously.

Neil noted that DATOC is on track for the long-term analysis of the program's cost-effectiveness. He explained that Holly is running simulations of San Gabriel using the agent-based model and DATOC is holding an expert panel meeting on January 16, 2020.

## **OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 –Outreach and CPDPC**

#### **Outreach Update**

Price Adams stated that following the Montclair HLB detection, Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) conducted media outreach in Los Angeles County. She added that a collaborative press release regarding Montclair resulted in 54 stories and 15,000,000 impressions. NST initiated hyperlocal

outreach in San Bernardino County, briefed Montclair city staff and Reeder Ranch grove managers and notified Citrus Insider subscribers and Plant California Alliance members. Price explained that following the Corona HLB detection, NST conducted media outreach resulting in 93 stories. She noted that NST worked with city officials to correct misinformation regarding Corona. She stated that NST will brief the nearby city of Eastvale on the disease later in the month and has requested briefing dates for other nearby cities.

Price stated that NST distributed a new Public Service Announcement, worked with CDFA to host a booth at the Mountain Mandarin Festival, distributed information to Pasadena and Santa Ana and distributed doorhangers in Soledad, Colton and the Highlands. NST also coordinated with the San Diego County Department of Agriculture to hold a meeting for nurseries, held workshops in Exeter and Santa Paula and reached out to cities in the newly expanded HLB quarantine area. She noted that NST has secured 159 news stories to date in FY 2019-20, compared to 51 in FY 2018-19. Page visits and unique visitors to Californiacitrusthreat.org have increased by 25 percent, and Citrus Insider's page visits have increased by 30 percent and unique visitors have increased by almost 50 percent. Price explained that NST is working on the FY 2018-19 annual report, results on homeowner awareness research, the World Ag Expo and Lunar New Year, and an industry resource center on Citrus Insider. Victoria added that Neil, Beth and Monique are supporting outreach efforts with scientific data.

#### **USDA UPDATE**

Helene Wright stated that USDA received approval to fully fund the cooperative agreement. She explained that USDA has released a new nursery protocol that will continue to be updated in response to reader comments. She stated that in mid-December, CLas positive ACP were collected from five small retail nurseries in Tijuana and Tecate.

Helene stated that USDA doesn't have enough scientific evidence to confirm the area is ACP-free. She noted that USDA is still considering CDFA's request to move counties to Zone 1. Victoria explained that USDA can default to declaring all of California quarantined for ACP while the state has the regulatory framework to manage regulatory activities within the state. She noted that this would impact nurseries shipping citrus out of California. Helene suggested trading partners may misunderstand the federal government quarantining the state as a loss of confidence in the state's regulatory framework.

It was suggested to sample the groves in the five-mile sweet orange scab zone, citing the cost to growers. Victoria noted that the block found in Blythe was removed. Helene

#### **CCM REPORT**

Casey Creamer stated that the budget has been agreed on. Program funds will increase from \$12,144,000 to \$12,800,000 in the next FY.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m. The next meeting will be held in Ontario on March 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.