

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

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 15, 2020

Committee Members Present:

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

Committee Members Absent:

Craig Armstrong

CDFA Staff:

Carl Baum	Gavin Iacono	Lea Pereira
Karina Chu	Laura Irons	David Phong
Paul Figueroa	Anmol Joshi	Lydia Rodriguez
Ryan Fong	Magally Luque-Williams	Michael Soltero
Alisha Garcia	Dahmoon Maesomy	Youngsoo Son
Erik Gasca	Zachary McCormack	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Alex Muñiz	Kristina Weber
Amelia Hicks	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker		

CRB Staff:

Rick Dunn	Dr. Melinda Klein	Marcy Martin
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Guests:

Price Adams	Lisa Finke	Luis Oquendo
Lori Apodaca	Sara Garcia-Figuera	Danny Pierce
Rebekah Ban	Gulshan Garg	Curtis Pate
Apolinar Barrales	Sandipa Gautam	Katharine Quist
Dory Bennett	Cydean Gillespie	Dr. Monique Rivera
Seth Birenbaum	Moises Gomez	Sylvie Robillard
Teri Blaser	Emily Hesselgrave	Rowena Romano
Margaret Blumer	Taylor Hillman	Taylor Roschen
Sam Botkin	Geoffrey Hollenbeck	James Roska
Cara Brents	Alyssa Houtby	Gregorio Rundini
Alasdair Burton	Ed Ishida	Margo Sanchez
Delia Jimenez Cioc	Jeff Jeffredo	Heather Scheck
Casey Creamer	Tracy Kahn	Jason Schwartze
Ed Call	Richard Knight	Cressida Silvers
Kyle Colyn	George Kociuba	Clayton Smith

David Cooke	Penny Kole	Hugo Soltero
Chad Cox	Ellen Kragh	Karen Suslow
Melissa Cregan	Phyllis Lee	Tyler Tkachuk
Eric Curiel	Jessica Leslie	Dave Tomlinson
Natalie DeAngelo	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Damara Trumbauer
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Diana Mo	Jeff Warner
Dan Dreyer	Tom Mosley	Roberta Willhite
Perry Edwards	Teri Muse	David Wirta
Craig Elder	Bill Neese	Helene Wright
Bryan Eya	Daniel Nelson	Judy Zaninovich
Raquel Falco	Le Nguyen	Mandy Zito
Enrico Ferro	Maggie O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal

Opening Comments:

The Committee meeting was called to order via webinar at 10:00 a.m. Chairman 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.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

The Chairman stated that the Consent Agenda consists of the meeting minutes from the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting on May 13, 2020.

Motion: To recommend approving the consent agenda as presented.

First: John Gless

Second: Mark McBroom

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Request for Financial Analyst

The Citrus Division received a waiver from the State Controller's Office and the Finance Department for a financial analyst. A scope of work has been submitted to the Contracts Office, and the request for proposal is in process.

Review 2018/2019 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19 has been closed out. The Program expended approximately \$30,600,000, which is \$12,000,000 short of the budget. The program received just over \$18,500,000 in revenue, which was over the projected revenue.

Review 2019/2020 Budget Expenditures and Revenue

The program expended \$15,817,967 through June 2020. The largest expenditures were: Huanglongbing (HLB) Southern Eradication at \$2,267,886; Statewide Diagnostics for HLB at \$1,880,961; Asian Citrus psyllid (ACP) Statewide Regulatory at \$1,715,409; ACP/HLB Administration at \$1,532,649; and Statewide Survey at \$1,459,009. Revenue for June 2020 is \$1,985,060, totaling \$15,224,223 to date.

Discuss 2020/2021 Budget Preparations

Ms. Hornbaker stated that the Citrus Division is developing budget projection worksheets for all existing line items and expects a draft budget projection for the Finance Subcommittee in August 2020.

EXECUTIVE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Grower Liaisons and Assembly Bill 5 (AB-5) Review

The Citrus Division received language from the Legal Office for the pending Statewide Coordinator, San Diego Grower Liaison and Riverside Grower Liaison contracts. The Committee requested the formation of a working group to evaluate the impact of AB-5 on the Grower Liaison program. Judy Zaninovich, Mark McBroom, Price Adams, David Gutierrez, Kevin Ball and Casey Creamer will comprise the working group.

Citrus Division Staffing, Office and Vehicle Needs

Ms. Hornbaker stated that the Citrus Division continues to fill vacancies. Long-term vehicle rentals from the Department of General Services were delivered to field offices the week of July 13th, 2020. Lease negotiations were underway for the Citrus Division headquarters office. She noted that it is smaller than originally anticipated due to the ability of staff to conduct telework.

Review Committee and Subcommittee Calendars

Committee and Subcommittee calendars were presented to the Committee for review. Dr. Etienne Rabe suggested reducing the bi-monthly CPDPC meetings to quarterly. It was noted that Subcommittee meetings can be adjusted as necessary after approval.

Motion: To recommend approving the 2020-2021 Committee and Subcommittee meeting calendars as presented.

First: Kevin Sevens

Second: Etienne Rabe

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Review Committee Term Renewals

Ms. Hornbaker welcomed Gregorio Rundini to the Committee. It was noted that several CPDPC members' terms are expiring in September and all have requested to extend their membership on the Committee.

Motion: To extend membership terms of expiring CPDPC members Aaron Dillon, Bob Felts Jr., Nick Hill and Etienne Rabe for an additional four years.

First: Kevin Sevens

Second: Roger Smith

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To extend membership terms of expiring CPDPC member Craig Armstrong for an additional four years.

First: John Gless

Second: Mark McBroom

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency (CCTEA)

Ms. Hornbaker presented the annual MOU between CDFA and the CCTEA, noting that every year the Citrus Division signs this MOU at the recommendation of the Committee.

Motion: To recommend signing and approving of the MOU with CCTEA.

First: James McFarlane

Second: Nick Hill

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Delimitation Resource Allocation Discussion

Keith Watkins explained that by changing from 400-meter to 250-meter HLB treatment area the resources saved may be allocated to increase delimitation survey and treatment productivity. Ms. Hornbaker explained that the Citrus Division will be developing a timeline of activities at the 400-meter and 250-meter treatment levels to demonstrate potential efficiency increases.

Report from the Regulatory Working Group

Keith Okasaki stated that a regulatory working group was formed to evaluate mitigation requirements for growers and certified producers (CPs) in the HLB quarantine area, and to evaluate ACP Bulk Citrus Regional Quarantine Zone 5.

The working group proposed to add grate cleaning as a mitigation option for intra-HLB quarantine movement and as a dual mitigation option for movement out of the HLB quarantine. Mr. Okasaki noted that this is an additional organic option for intra-HLB quarantine movement, but wet wash is the only organic option for movement out of the HLB quarantine.

Motion: To recommend including grate cleaning as a mitigation measure for use by growers in an HLB quarantine area to facilitate bulk citrus movement within the contiguous HLB quarantine. Additionally, grate cleaning will be used as one of the two mitigation measures for bulk citrus movement out of the HLB quarantine when used in conjunction with a second approved mitigation.

First: Roger Smith

Second: Mark McBroom

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Okasaki stated that CP mitigation when moving from the HLB quarantine zone to farmer's markets has not changed and still requires the fruit to be free from stems and leaves. This is a small quantity of fruit with simple enforcement and helps prevent non-compliant fruit movement allowing CPs to move fruit out of the HLB quarantine zone without dual mitigation. Concerns were expressed that this would be condoning CPs moving fruit from the HLB quarantine area to farmer's markets.

The working group also provided the recommendation to evaluate ACP Bulk Citrus Zone 5 and consider splitting it or keeping it intact. By keeping Zone 5 intact, CDFA would issue a modified QC permit allowing fruit to be moved into an HLB quarantine zone. Under the permit systematic approach, only the surrounding zone may ship fruit into the HLB quarantine zone without mitigation other than tarping and pre-shipment notification. This can be applied to future isolated HLB quarantine zones with packinghouses. It also would reduce unintended consequences of revoking QC 1486, doesn't require splitting Zone 5, reduces required inspections and program cost, and will apply to future HLB quarantine areas, but may potentially add more ACP to the HLB quarantine area.

Motion: To recommend developing a permit to allow unmitigated, but tarped bulk citrus from areas directly adjacent to an HLB quarantine to move into the HLB quarantine for packing. Growers moving fruit under the permit will be encouraged to participate in area-wide treatment.

First: Mark McBroom

Second: John Gless

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously.

Review of Buffer and ACP Response Treatment Areas

Dr. Monique Rivera stated that residential acceptance and availability of treatment, and application timeliness, can all inhibit the success of border sprays.

Dr. Rivera stated that contact insecticide treatments will cause adult ACP to move to the nearest citrus tree. She noted that all regions receive Tempo and Merit treatments, but that systemic Merit uptake is not good in all areas and sublethal exposure is a major driver of ACP resistance in Florida. She explained that Dr. Setamou conducted an unpublished mark and recapture study that suggested ACP are mostly coming from residential areas within 100 feet of groves. CDFA is in the process of providing tree identity data digitally, which is critical to risk assessment because lemons can host more ACP per year. Dr. Rivera stated that it should be assumed there is available flush at all times in backyards throughout the year.

Dr. Rivera recommended reducing border treatments to 100-200 meters, with a two-week treatment window (ideally 1-3 days). It was noted that reducing treatment area would require a Committee recommendation.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing (HLB)

CDFA Operational Update

Southern District:

David Gutierrez stated that 85-90 percent of Risk Survey Cycle 1 for 2020 is complete and will be completed by the end of July. The border buffer survey is complete in San Diego and Imperial Counties. Delimitation treatments and survey continue in Orange, Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties. The fall cycle for area wide treatments will begin in UCR and Santa Barbara, Ventura, San Diego and San Bernardino Counties in

early August 2020. Staff removed 15 HLB-positive trees in June, with 32 pending removal and five awaiting warrants. This brings the total number of HLB positive tree to 1,924 in the Southern District. Additionally, two positive ACP were found in Los Angeles County and three in Orange County.

Central District:

Mr. Gutierrez stated that two new ACP were detected (one in Strathmore, Tulare County and one in Arvin, Kern County). Strathmore samples were confirmed on June 29 and delimitation trap deployment was completed on June 26 with 169 traps. Treatment was conducted and completed within 50 meters from the find site on June 29. Arvin samples were confirmed on June 24 and delimitation trap deployment was completed on June 25 with 53 traps. CDFA staff will service traps and grower will conduct treatment at the grove find site.

Northern District:

Mr. Gutierrez stated that there were no active ACP treatment areas or new detections, however, there was a suspected ACP detection in Santa Clara County. In San Jose, delimitation will continue through October 2020 and detection trapping continues in counties with year-round activities. HLB risk-based survey was completed in Stanislaus County but will continue in San Joaquin County through July 2020.

HLB Diagnostic Update

Mr. Gutierrez stated that 7,622 plant and ACP samples were collected in June 2020. 1,924 HLB-positive trees were detected with most in Orange County.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations
Regulatory Activity Update**

Mr. Okasaki stated that a new regulatory agreement period began July 1, 2020. Enforcement will focus on fruit sellers and an increased enforcement presence.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 –ACP Control/Suppression
Buffer Treatment Timing Discussion**

Ms. Hornbaker explained that Merit treatment is out of sync and the treatment window will be missed due to the label requirement of one year between Merit applications. Discussion centered on when best to begin treatment. It was decided that to begin August treatments with Tempo until this issue is resolved.

Regional ACP Management

Judy Zaninovich stated that the Grower Liaisons in Tulare and Kern Counties have contacted all growers about the ACP detections and treatment in progress. Southern California area wide treatments are in progress or preparing to start. The F-1 Canine Group has established an office in Ventura County and growers can contact them directly for early detection work. San Diego and Riverside Counties and the Statewide Coordinator post are currently without contracts.

Biocontrol Update

Production of *Tamarixia radiata* is going well. The position vacated by Alex Muniz was backfilled and Grace Radabaugh has accepted the Environmental Scientist position.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Ethyl Formate Registration Update

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that the Ethyl Formate package is with the United States Environmental Protection Agency. Dr. James Cranney and Casey Creamer will work on expediting the process, and Dr. Cranney is in discussion with the California Department of Pesticide Regulations to complete the process concurrently in California.

Effectiveness of HLB Tree Removal

Dr. Neil McRoberts stated that the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) is using an agent-based model to assess the effectiveness of tree removal as an HLB suppression strategy. The data suggests 70 percent of trees will be infected in ten years if no removal is employed, and 35-42 percent of trees infected using treatment delimitation of 250 or 400 meters.

Organic Fruit Movement Options

Dr. Rivera stated that she conducted a preliminary organic trial to see if any adjuvants extend the life of other products. The trial used a 150-gallon tank of PTO-mounted Pak Blast in a grove with 108 trees per acre. Results show that 12 days after organic treatment an explosion of nymphs occur because the insects will move to lay their eggs. She stated that one organic-approved insecticide treatment is not enough, and grate cleaning is likely more effective at removing psyllids. Insecticide treatments are an investment in long-term management and the need to catch ACP populations early.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

DATOC Update

Dr. McRoberts stated that DATOC finished updating the UC guidelines for pesticide use.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 –Outreach and CPDPC

Outreach Update

Price Adams stated that Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) developed a paid media plan to reach Hispanic and Asian audiences throughout Los Angeles. Chinese audiences had the strongest engagement, followed by Vietnamese and Korean. NST developed a news release across 22 radio stations and paid Facebook ads in Madera and Fresno County. NST updated its blog, homeowner resources and postcards. The program is coordinating with the California Association of Pest Control Advisors and California Citrus Mutual (CCM) on an online Continuing Education course focusing on regulatory mitigations and approved products for ACP control. NST distributed social media content to over 1,200 elected and appointed officials to share with followers.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Update

Helene Wright stated that USDA has a new policy manager in Riverdale, Maryland.

CCM REPORT

Casey Creamer stated that federal funding is in the Congressional appropriations process. California would receive \$14,000,000 at best, if approved prior to the Nov election. The CCM tree removal block grant with CDFA is running out; they restructured the grant and are doing additional outreach. CCM is also creating a website to give guidance on tree treatment and removal.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report

Marcy Martin stated that the Biosafety Level 3 lab has secured *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* plant material and are close to finalizing the bid for greenhouse expansion. Projects continued but the grower nomination will be eliminated or pushed back until Fall 2020. Fall events such as the citrus conference will be canceled, and she hopes to replace them with a grower seminar series.

Recap of Action Items from this Meeting

ACTION ITEM: Working Group to review bill AB5 and Grower Liaisons and report to the Outreach Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: Request CDFA to produce a timeline of the process from sampling to tree removal and report to the Science Subcommittee.

ACTION ITEM: Executive Committee review of meeting length and frequency.

ACTION ITEM: Operations Subcommittee to develop a timeline comparing efficiency of 250-meter and 400-meter HLB treatment survey.

ACTION ITEM: Operations Subcommittee to review county inspection reports for tracking purposes.

ACTION ITEM: Regulatory Working Group to review the proposal for CPs to move fruit out of HLB quarantine areas without dual mitigation, Operations Subcommittee to recommend action.

ACTION ITEM: Operations Subcommittee to consider reducing buffer border treatments to 100-200 meters with a maximum of two-week treatment window, ideally one to three days.

ACTION ITEM: Operations Subcommittee to determine if there are variances for extending buffer zone treatment beyond October due to COVID complications. Dr. Monique Rivera to recommend treatment timing to the Operations Subcommittee.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 p.m. The next meeting will be held by webinar on September 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.