

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 9, 2020**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Kevin Ball | John Gless | Roger Smith |
| Brad Carmen | Zac Green | Keith Watkins |

CDFA Staff:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| Fidan Aghayarova | Karla Huerta | Zachary McCormack |
| Karina Chu | Laura Irons | David Morgan |
| Kiana Dao | Mathew Jian | Keith Okasaki |
| Paul Figueroa | Anmol Joshi | David Phong |
| David Gutierrez | Marina Kaiser | Patty Tran |
| Amelia Hicks | Daniel Lee | Claudia Vazquez |
| Victoria Hornbaker | Magally Luque-Williams | Jennifer Willems |

Guests:

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Bob Atkins | John C. Gless | Sylvie Robillard |
| Teri Blaser | James Gorden | Cressida Silvers |
| Holly Deniston-Sheets | Melinda Klein | Krista Smith |
| Rick Dunn | Curtis Pate | Judy Zaninovich |
| Lisa Finke | Etienne Rabe | Sandra Zwaal |

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:02 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2020. Keith Watkins welcomed subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing
Huanglongbing (HLB) Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal**

Anmol Joshi reported on HLB finds that occurred last month in three new areas: Fontana, Eastvale/Corona, and Irvine. He added that the HLB-positive trees in these areas were removed, trees in adjacent sites were treated and quadrant samples were taken from adjacent properties. He noted that delimitation survey and treatment began in the HLB response areas. A find between two quarantine boundaries in the Eastvale/Corona region of Riverside County resulted in an expansion of the quarantine zones.

Mr. Joshi stated delimitation surveys are in process in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. A total of 477 quadrant samples were submitted, with 334 samples coming from Orange County only. He added that his staff are collecting roots, peduncle, young leaves, and old leaves for Dr Hajeri's Citrus Pest Detection Program Survey funded by Citrus Research Board. He reported that HLB risk-based surveys for the fall cycle in the San Diego border and Imperial border areas were 100

and 77 percent complete, respectively, and that the winter cycle begins on December 21, 2020.

Mr. Joshi reported a total of 60 trees were confirmed as HLB-positive in the month of November and there were 26 pending removal from the previous month, of these 41 trees were removed and 45 are pending removal. Anmol added that there were two tree removal refusal properties and execution of warrants are scheduled.

Roger Smith requested that staffing level and logistical issues be included in future reports. Mr. Joshi reported his district is approximately 70 percent fully staffed, that vacant positions have or are going to be posted as available, and that it will take approximately one to two months to fill positions that are currently posted.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported the monthly total of plant samples has averaged approximately 6,600 samples per month since July 2020. Although Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) sample numbers have increased in recent months, the CRB lab is still at approximately 50 percent capacity. Year-to-Date, the labs received 94,203 samples and have approximately 11,000 samples remaining, bringing the yearly total to 115,772. She reported the total of 2,184 CLAs-positive trees. Of these, 75 percent were in Orange County, 22 percent in Los Angeles County, 1.5 percent in Riverside County, and 0.7 percent in San Bernardino County. She reported 430 detections for this year and identified Irvine, Paramount, and Fontana as new find areas.

HLB Risk Survey Update

Magally Luque-Williams reported that 2020 Cycle 2 risk-based survey completions range from three to one hundred percent complete. She added that 18,267 properties were surveyed and 508 Section Township Range grids were completed. There are 35 staff working on the HLB risk-based survey, primarily in Southern California.

Repeat Find Site Information

Jennifer Willems reported that of the 45 commercial ACP find sites in Kern County, six were reported as repeat sites. She clarified that only one of these six was a true repeat site, characterized by ACP detection after the site was treated, and that the remaining five finds are trap finds before the site was treated.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) Movement and Enforce Regulations

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki reported regulatory activities continue as normal and that QC 1543, which was issued for fruit moving into an HLB quarantine, looks to be effective and is reducing strain on resources.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression **Update Action Plan Reflecting Two Week Intervals**

Victoria Hornbaker confirmed California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Secretary Karen Ross has signed off on the update and that the action plan will reflect current program activity trapping at two-week intervals.

Trapping and Treatment Updates

Southern District

Mr. Joshi reported the second cycle of area wide buffer treatment will begin in January 2021 and that the 250-meter buffer area will be used per CPDPC direction. He reported the border buffer treatments in the San Diego/Tecate and Imperial border areas have a two-mile radius and are set for December 2020 through February 2021. Currently there are active delimitation treatment areas in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, and he added that CDFA has completion rates between 95 and 100 percent. Of the 239 total refusals and no-contact properties in these areas, most were apartments with no back/external access to the trees and COVID-19 guidelines prohibiting entry through the apartment. Mr. Joshi added that public meetings for these areas have seen an increase in public attendance since moving to a virtual forum. Ms. Hornbaker confirmed that public meetings will continue as webinars due to increased participation from the public and savings in time and resources.

Central District

Ms. Willems reported finds in Kern, Tulare, and San Luis Obispo Counties. The Tulare County find was deemed a regulatory incident, requiring no CDFA treatment. The San Luis Obispo County had five ACP trap detections over three find sites, in the same commercial grove. CDFA staff conducted visual surveys in the groves and no additional psyllids were found, however, there was one ACP found on a trap. She reported that the grower liaison for the area, Cressida Silvers, has been working with the grower who informed her they will be starting treatment as soon as possible. Ms. Willems stated that the traps in the area were serviced this week and no additional ACP were detected.

ACP detection trapping in Madera and Fresno Counties and delimitation trapping in Kern County are ongoing, and that Kern County Agricultural Commissioner staff will be taking over servicing some of the CDFA delimitation traps. There was an expansion in the Arvin treatment area and those properties are covered under the third public meeting held on November 17, 2020. Those new properties can be scheduled for treatment immediately. She added that treatment in Bakersfield began and that eradication efforts in Kern County are the focus for the Central district.

Northern District

Amelia Hicks reported one confirmed adult ACP find in Pinole in Contra Costa County on November 25, 2020, leading to delimitation trap deployment and survey. Amelia also stated that final treatments in San Jose occurred on November 30, 2020 and actions to replace treatments (biocontrol, trapping, collection, and testing) have been initiated. She added that ACP winter trapping began on November 1, 2020, and that CDFA services five counties for winter trapping and three counties year-round trapping.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan reported production and releases have been impacted by COVID-19, but that the total for biological control agent releases from December 2011 to December 2020 is 20,487,003. Dr. Morgan added that monitoring results from January 2015 through December 2020 show a decline in ACP numbers. Releases are being planned in response to the new San Luis Obispo County find as well as in San Jose. Dr. Morgan stated Kern County will maintain a once-a-month release strategy, but that the numbers of insects released will be increased.

Regional/Grower Liaison ACP Update

Bob Atkins reported that the Kern County grower liaison has been very active due to the recent finds. Mr. Atkins added that the Riverside grower liaison vacancy was still open, however, there are successful applicants going through to the second stage of hiring.

ACP Canine Detection Working Group Update

Ms. Hornbaker reported the working group had their first meeting and that seasonal employees may need to be hired to help work with the dog teams. She added that she is developing a request for proposals for rapid ACP screening in the Central Valley.

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

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets reported DATOC has received the most recent database drop from CDFA and they have gone through and updated the data dashboard on the public website. She added that a panel was convened to discuss the Santa Clara County changes and then provided an update to Ms. Hornbaker.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on January 6, 2021.