

**INTERIM CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE  
WEBINAR MEETING**

Meeting Minutes  
Friday, April 10, 2020

**Committee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	John C. Gless	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen	Jim Gorden	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Bob Felts, Jr.	Nick Hill	Keith Watkins
John Gless	Mark McBroom	

**Committee Members Absent:**

**CDFA Staff:**

Jonathan Babineau	Victoria Hornbaker	Lea Pereira
Carl Baum	Gavin Iacono	David Phong
Ryan Fong	Anmol Joshi	Nawal Sharma
Alisha Garcia	Sara Khalid	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Zack McCormack	Jennifer Willems
Amelia Hicks	Keith Okasaki	

**Other Attendees:**

Price Adams	Enrico Ferro	Johnny Martinez
Ruben Arroyo	Sara Garcia-Figuera	Curtis Pate
Bob Atkins	Subhas Hajeri	Sylvie Robillard
Jill Barnier	Michael Hennessey	Alexis Silveira
Teri Blaser	Alyssa Houtby	Cressida Silvers
Casey Creamer	Khoa Lam	Alan Washburn
Melissa Cregan	Jessica Leslie	David Wirta
Dan Delgado	Jasmine Lopez	Judy Zaninovich
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Marcy Martin	Sandra Zwaal

**Opening Comments**

The interim meeting of the Full Committee was called to order by Jim Gorden at 1:00 p.m. on April 10, 2020. He welcomed the Interim Committee, guests and staff participating via webinar.

**Program Impacts Due to Coronavirus**

Victoria stated that Citrus Division staff will only be surveying accessible trees during the HLB Risk Survey and leaving flyers to set up appointments for delimitation survey and treatment. There have been 70 appointments so far. She explained that California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is sending out webinar-based public meetings for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) treatments in response to Huanglongbing (HLB) detections. The first webinar public meeting on April 2, 2020 went well with over 50

residents participating. CDFA is working to equip staff with personal protective equipment due to county work requirements in Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.

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

Carl Baum stated that transition of the Citrus program to its own division is completed effective April 1, 2020. Citrus Division will be able to control its finances and expand manual tracking. He added that space for Citrus Division headquarters is being finalized.

### **Finance Subcommittee Report**

#### **2018/2019 Expenditure and Revenue Reports**

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that expenditures for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018/19 increased to \$29,584,000. \$13,275,000 of Federal funds have been spent, and \$12,500,000 in invoices were moved from the 281 Agricultural fund to the General fund and expended. 281 funds expended to date are \$ 3,800,000. He stated that September 2019 will be closed out shortly and finalize expenditures for FY 2018/19. FY 2018/19 revenues totaled \$18,468,000.

#### **2019/2020 Expenditure and Revenue Reports**

Bob stated that FY 2019/20 expenditures total \$9,988,000, approximately 25 percent of the budget. He noted that FY 2018/19 had expended \$6,000,000 to this point. \$2,100,000 in revenues were received in March. Collected FY 2019/20 assessments are just short of \$8,000,000, slightly ahead of the five-year average. He noted that Citrus Division funds could be borrowed and repaid with interest. The fund condition statement is being finalized, allowing the Committee to get a carry-in number.

### **Operations Subcommittee Report**

#### **Concerns Regarding QC Permit 1486 Revocation**

Victoria explained that at the last full Committee meeting, the Committee recommended to revoke Quarantine Commodity (QC) Permit 1486 which allows unmitigated fruit to be tarped and moved into Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) Zone 6 and the HLB Quarantine Zone for packing. She stated that CDFA sent out an advisory to revoke the permit, effective April 13, 2020.

Keith Okasaki stated that a total of 15,542 bins were moved under QC 1486 since October 2019. He noted that revoking the permit would be consistent with the risk-based model that identified moving fruit into the HLB quarantine area as high risk. Requiring fruit mitigation would help prevent new psyllids being introduced into the HLB area and offers future protection for areas with HLB but low ACP population. He stated that the revocation of QC 1486 could disrupt grower relations with local packers, increase costs and disrupt operations. He explained that field cleaning devices are not readily available and organic growers may need to change business practices and conduct pre-harvest treatments. It may also increase pesticide applications which could negatively impact beneficial insect populations, increase costs, and result in some growers finding other outlets for their fruit in less regulated markets.

It was suggested that revoking the permit would bring everyone that was previously moving fruit under the permit up to the same mitigation standards consistent with the rest of the industry. The Committee recommended more outreach to the affected growers but to continue with revoking the permit. CitrusInsider.org could send out a communication to the industry to further explain the Committee's reasoning for revoking the permit. Sara Garcia-Figuera stated that when the original model was created, the permit did not require records of fruit into Zone 6. The risk was judged to be medium because they did not know how much fruit was moving into Zone 6. It was decided that there were no issues requiring a delay in the revocation of QC 1486.

### **Outreach Subcommittee Update**

Price Adams stated that they are updating the Citrus Insider blast on permits. Nuffer Smith Tucker is shifting plans to adjust to COVID-19 while still having a steady message. They are shifting to be more digital, shifting to Asian and Hispanic audiences and discussing how to communicate best practices while remaining socially distant.

### **Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next CPDPC meeting will be on May 13, 2020.