

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

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 2, 2020**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

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

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

Ed Civerolo	Kevin Olsen	Ram Uckoo
Aaron Dillon	Dr. Etienne Rabe	Jack Williams
Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Monique Rivera	

**CDFA Staff:**

Fidan Aghayarova	Anmol Joshi	Lea Pereira
Jonathan Babineau	Lisa Kirchner	David Phong
Karina Chu	Daniel Lee	Lydia Rodriguez
Kiana Dao	Magally Luque-Williams	Heather Scheck
Paul Figueroa	Zachary McCormack	Arlene Sison
David Gutierrez	David Morgan	Michael Soltero
Amelia Hicks	Alex Muniz	Claudia Vazquez
Victoria Hornbaker	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Laura Irons		

**Guests:**

Bob Atkins	Jim Gorden	Sylvie Robillard
Raman Bansal	Subhas Hajeri	Carol Salazar
Teri Blaser	Leslie Hickle	Cressida Silvers
Casey Creamer	Alyssa Houtby	Greg Simmons
Ed Call	Jonathan Kaplan	Karen Suslow
Natalie DeAngelo	Jessica Leslie	Kim Wilenius
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Jack Williams
Rick Dunn	Le Nguyen	Qijun Xiang
Enrico Ferro	Kevin Nye	Sophia Yun
Liliana Figueroa	Margaret O'Neill	Judy Zaninovich
Lisa Finke	Curtis Pate	Sandra Zwaal

**Opening**

The Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on September 2, 2020. Dr. Etienne Rabe welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

## **SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS**

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing (HLB)**

#### **Effectiveness of HLB Tree Removal**

Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that the agent-based model preliminarily indicates that delimitation activities around HLB-positive trees slows disease spread. The Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) will refine the San Gabriel model with more granularity and a smaller delimitation radius to reflect current Citrus Division activities. Simulations with identical model parameters will run landscapes with commercial citrus to determine the effectiveness of HLB control.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) Movement and**

#### **Enforce Regulations**

##### **Organic Fruit Movement Options**

Dr. Monique Rivera stated that four different compounds have been chosen that may serve as alternatives for organic growers. Two compounds will be tested per year due to funding. Organic fruit movement is facilitated by expanded use of grate cleaning and a permit to allow movement into the quarantine zone from adjacent areas. Experiments will be conducted to optimize PyGanic with adjuvants and oils. An Organic Management Guide will be released before the end of 2020.

Lisa Finke stated that trials are underway for using dogs to detect ACP using field-picked fruit placed in a cooler overnight. Project funding will lapse in October.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – Asian Citrus Psyllid Control/Suppression**

#### **Ethyl Formate Registration Update**

Dr. Rabe stated the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has 19 months from July 19, 2020 to respond regarding the Ethyl Formate registration. California Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR) requested a full risk assessment on all fumigants because tarps are being opened after treatment. Dr. Jim Cranney believes there is good reason not to do the ecological toxicology (eco-tox) package because there is little off-gassing. Dr. Cranney will work with DPR to get a variance for the requested eco-tox data.

#### **Alternatives to Neonicotinoids in Residential Treatment Program**

Ms. Hornbaker noted that there was a Multi-agency Coordination (MAC) grant funded for University of California (UC) Riverside to work on neonicotinoid alternatives. Dr. Rivera explained that there are no chemical options besides compounds for organic growers, and she will be trialing PyGanic. Residential alternatives are being investigated via the Frank Burns grant. Casey Creamer explained that residential uses are not in the scope of the DPR mitigation proposal.

## **OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ITEMS**

### **Business Process Timelines**

Paul Figueroa stated that the optimum timeline for HLB-positive trees was 74-days from collecting samples to end of treatment, based on the average of 1,550 properties in Orange and Los Angeles Counties. He presented a 53-day timeline for *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs)-positive ACP, based on Orange and Los Angeles County

properties. He explained that positive ACP took less time to confirm. He presented a 67-day timeline for positive ACP identification, based on the average of 2,000 properties and the 400-meter residential buffer in the San Jose area. Delays are typically due to multiple response areas running concurrently and COVID-19. Ms. Hornbaker explained that Citrus Division is improving these timelines by increasing efficiency in lab plant sample preparation, in the field activities, and in scheduling public meeting.

### **Update on Pest Control District Discussion**

Amelia Hicks stated that the Citrus Division has been in talks with Central California Tristeza Eradication Agency (CCTEA) and Pest Control Districts (PCDs) in Imperial, Riverside and San Diego Counties about current activities and opportunities to expand activities. CCTEA is willing to conduct ACP trapping in commercial groves and coordination of area wide treatment in the Central Valley. The Imperial PCD could facilitate more outreach and education activities, assist Citrus Division's HLB delimitation survey activities and increase residential visual survey. Coachella PCD could expand outreach and education, ACP detection in residential and commercial groves, and hire additional staff and seasonal staff for residential survey and risk survey activities. San Diego and Hemet PCDs do not intend to expand their activities.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB**

#### **Review Riverside CLas Positive ACP Response**

Mr. Figueroa stated that following the ACP find in the Riverside commercial grove, it took two weeks to survey the two groves and two residential properties within the 250-meter area. All samples returned negative. Rick Dunn added that the Biocontrol program released 8,400 *Tamarixia radiata* around the find.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations**

#### **Review List of Fines/Penalty Structure**

Keith Okasaki stated that certified producers (CPs) grow and harvest their own fruit and must keep fruit free of stems and leaves when taking fruit to market as well as providing a list of the markets they will attend. To enforce regulations on CPs, Citrus Division staff and County Agricultural Commissioner's visit farmer's markets weekly and Citrus Division maintains a statewide list of markets. To enforce regulations on gunny sackers, growers and grower liaisons report fruit movement while the Citrus Division and counties verify destination and compliance. Notices of Violation, Notices of Proposed Action and suspending compliance agreements may follow in both cases, which may include a fine from the county. Fines are based on severity of violation and repeat offenders. Severe violations include unmitigated fruit or blatant quarantine violations, moderate violations include lacking a compliance agreement or poor safeguarding in transit, and minor violations include not having the compliance agreement on hand when required.

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

#### **DATOC Update**

Ms. Deniston-Sheets stated that DATOC updated the HLB Threshold Cycle value analysis briefing paper. After studying titer in HLB-positive plant samples, no apparent

seasonal patterns were found. Titers have been increasing annually. DATOC studied ACP finds when the tarping regulations were implemented, looking at tarping data within five miles of major transportation routes from Kern County and further north. They discovered decreases in ACP detections following tarping regulations. DATOC will be taking over Dr. Bartels's hot spot cluster analysis and looking at ACP population dynamics using grove trapping data.

### **Data Management Report**

Mr. Rick Dunn stated that the Citrus Research Board (CRB) continues to send information to UC Agriculture and Natural Resources and the San Joaquin Valley Area Wide Task Force. The Ventura County citrus layer is in progress and Rick is researching hardware to replace the NOMAD data collection system. Ms. Hornbaker thanked CRB for taking over some weekly mapping duties from Citrus Division.

### **Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on October 7, 2020.