

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2020**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

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

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Kevin Severns

CDFA Staff:

Fidan Aghayarova	Gavin Iacono	Keith Okasaki
Karina Chu	Laura Irons	Lea Pereira
Kiana Dao	Anmol Joshi	David Phong
Paul Figueroa	Luci Kumagai	Grace Radabaugh
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Lydia Rodriguez
Subhas Hajeri	Zachary McCormack	Michael Soltero
Amelia Hicks	Jana Miscevic	Claudia Vazquez
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muñiz	Jennifer Willems

Guests:

Dory Bennett	Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Casey Creamer	Richard Knight	Sylvie Robillard
Natalie DeAngelo	Jessica Leslie	Carol Salazar
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Jim Gorden	Margo Sanchez
Aaron Dillon	Karen Lowerison	Cressida Silvers
Rick Dunn	Mark McBroom	Robert Sisson
Bryan Eya	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Tyler Tkachuk
Michael Frantz	Cerise Montanio	Jack Williams
Sara Garcia-Figuera	Dr. David Morgan	Qijun Xiang
Jim Gorden	Margaret O'Neill	Judy Zaninovich
Chuck Hills	Curtis Pate	Sandra Zwaal
Alyssa Houtby	Francisco Quintana	

Opening

Keith Watkins welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar by calling the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on August 5, 2020.

Business Process Timelines

Paul Figueroa stated that a site is confirmed Huanglongbing (HLB)-positive two to three weeks after being sampled. Field staff will treat the find and adjacent properties within one to three days and schedule tree removal within three to seven days. Citrus Division

Data Analysis Unit provides field staff block maps to conduct surveys and treatments within three to five days, getting Notices of Treatment (NOTs) and Proclamations of Emergency Programs (PEPs) signed by the secretary in two to four weeks. Public meetings are scheduled in four to seven weeks (when conducted in person).

Victoria Hornbaker explained that NOTs and PEPs require maps, consultations with Federal and State agencies, and a signature by the Secretary. Amelia Hicks explained the Program is hiring more staff to perform environmental consultations in-house and is in talks with a vendor to take over public notifications to expedite the process.

Mr. Figueroa explained that pre-COVID, survey staff would collect samples from all properties within the delimitation area within three to five days, have the in-person town meeting, and schedule properties for treatment one to three days after the town meeting. Post-COVID, Citrus Division holds the virtual meeting without survey, then schedules appointments for survey and treatment concurrently within three to five days, followed by a second notice three weeks later for more treatment and survey. The of time taken depends heavily on how many properties are within the boundary.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB Delimitation Resource Allocation

Ms. Hornbaker stated that by reducing the HLB treatment area to 250-meters, the Program could reallocate delimitation staff to perform other work. Citrus Division is cross-training staff in treatment, survey, and regulatory work.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai stated that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the Citrus Research Board (CRB) labs received 7,121 plant samples, 71 percent of the CDFA lab capacity, and 1,298 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples, 16 percent of CRB lab capacity. Sample totals for the year were 54,726, down 20 percent from 2019. As of July 30, 2020, there were 1,974 positive trees, 1,429 positive sites and 308 positive ACP with the majority of finds in Orange County. To date there has been 220 positive tree detections in 2020. Staff will continue sending new isolates to the United States Department of Agriculture lab for genotyping. Chris Godfrey will be looking at California genotypes for pathogenicity, thermology and if some types are being acquired or transmitted more efficiently.

Ms. Hornbaker added that the first positive ACP in a commercial grove was recently found in Riverside County. It will not trigger a quarantine and staff will start the 250-meter delimitation and quadrant sampling around the grove edge. If there are residential properties within the delimitation area, staff will treat the residential area and the grove owner will be contacted to treat within the grove.

HLB Risk Survey Update

Magally Luque-Williams stated that Risk Survey Cycle 1 of 2020 is almost complete. A total of 5,649 entomology samples and 6,924 plant samples were collected. Risk Survey

Cycle 2 of 2020 will begin on August 10 and will survey 36 counties, with 1,636 square miles and 72,330 sites proposed.

HLB Detection, Delimitation and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi stated that some public meetings were held prior to changing to the 250 - meter treatment area and will be completed at the 400-meter area. The border survey was complete in San Diego County and is 64 percent complete in Imperial County.

In July 2020, staff collected 648 quadrant samples in Orange County, 455 quadrant samples in Riverside County and 33 quadrant samples in Los Angeles County. 60 HLB-positive trees were removed in Orange County with 19 trees pending removal; one positive tree was removed in Los Angeles County with three trees pending removal; and one positive tree is pending removal in Riverside County. In July 2020, 50 trees tested positive at 34 new sites.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations Certified Producers Fruit Movement out of HLB Quarantine

Keith Okasaki stated that the current ACP quarantine certified producer (CP) requirement is for fruit to be completely free from stems and leaves. The goals are to minimize the risk of spreading ACP and HLB on fruit sold at farmer's markets, minimize unmitigated fruit harvested by gunny sackers, and enable regulatory staff to enforce requirements. He proposed that CPs must remove all stems and leaves prior to arrival at market, safeguard transit and provide a monthly email notification to CDFA of markets to be visited. CDFA and county staff should establish a regulatory presence at farmer's markets, with CDFA maintaining a list of potential markets and supplementing county staff inspections. This proposal minimizes risk and is feasible to enforce but is only a single mitigation for fruit moving out of the HLB quarantine. County staff can issue Notices of Violation and fines as necessary.

County Inspection Reports

Keith Okasaki stated that regulatory staff sent out a log for counties to report which mitigations are used. Mitigations are traditionally 65-70 percent spray and harvest, but grate cleaning has changed the numbers to 55 percent spray and harvest and 45 percent field cleaning.

Report from Regulatory Working Group

Mr. Okasaki stated that since revoking Quarantine Commodity (QC) permit 1486, county staff reported 107 grate cleaning mitigations at packinghouses. One packer exceeded the tolerance for stems and leaves per bin and CDFA was not alerted by the county in a timely fashion. That packer has since been disallowed to use grate cleaning and the county has implemented internal checks to prevent a repeat of this issue. On July 31, 2020, the program issued QC permit 1543 as an update to QC permit 1486. CDFA updated the online grower page and sent out notifications to the Zone 5 agricultural deputies, and Nuffer Smith Tucker is working on a press release.

Buffer Treatment Timing CDFA Plan

Paul Figueroa stated that buffer and delimitation treatments will be done concurrently. CDFA has a new contract with TruGreen in Los Angeles, Orange and San Bernardino Counties with 32 trucks available and a different vendor for Riverside County with seven trucks available.

Mr. Figueroa explained that the area wide treatment plan will skip properties shown to have no host in 2019. Ventura County treatments will begin on August 10, 2020. Other area wide treatments are pending the decision to do a round of imidacloprid or to skip it and reset the treatment. The University of California Riverside (UCR) areawide buffer treatment will begin on August 19, followed by San Bernardino and the Hemet areawide buffer treatments. The Riverside HLB retreatment is pending a public meeting. San Diego County areawide buffer treatments will begin on August 24, 2020. San Pasqual and Tecate will each take one to three days.

Mr. Figueroa offered two suggestions to streamline treatment. The first was for CDFA staff to lead vendor treatment staff and collect samples at the same time. The second suggestion was to have survey staff do a more intensive survey with mapping and collecting treatment data prior to treatment. The treatment vendor would then treat properties that have been fully surveyed using the gathered data. The pros and cons of each suggestion was discussed.

Casey Creamer explained that the neonicotinoid pesticide class is under review with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) has released a proposed path regulation that would have serious ramifications for the use of neonicotinoids. He recommended that the program not push DPR for a variance on a neonicotinoid. Ms. Hornbaker added there is a study that has been funded through the USDA HLB Multi-agency Cooperative to review imidacloprid alternatives.

The Operations Subcommittee motioned to recommend resetting imidacloprid treatments for San Bernardino, Hemet and San Ysidro.

Trapping and Treatment Updates

Southern California

Mr. Joshi stated that survey and treatment are being done together to minimize COVID exposure. Delimitation treatment is complete for Corona 5, San Bernardino 1 and four areas in Montclair. Treatment is near completion for two areas in Santa Ana, five areas in Anaheim, three areas in Garden Grove, three areas in La Mirada, and Norwalk 4. Progress continued in Tustin 10 and four areas in City of Orange. There was a public meeting for Ventura County area wide buffer treatment on July 28, 2020 and a public meeting for Orange County covering the first 250-meter delimitation areas. There will be a public meeting for Santa Barbara on August 18, 2020 and one for UCR on August 19, 2020.

Central California

Jennifer Willems updated the committee on staff activities in the Central District. Staff continued to assist with treatment in Santa Clara County. CPDPC is servicing 53 delimitation traps with no additional finds. Areawide treatment in Ventura to begin in mid-August.

Northern California

Amelia Hicks updated the committee on the status of ACP finds in Santa Clara County. Adult ACP and nymphs detections resulted in two 400-meter treatment areas. Tamarixia were released in the treatment areas and throughout the delimitation area.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan stated that the Biocontrol Program released 478,000 beneficial insects in July 2020, up from 313,000 insects in July 2019. 78 percent were released around HLB areas and 14 percent were released along the border. Releases year-to-date are 1,800,000; 78 percent of 2019 releases in the same timeframe due to COVID. The program is getting weekly updates from trappers and treatment coordinators, allowing them to release insects almost simultaneously with sites being identified. The Biocontrol Program has been monitoring 26 sites monthly in Southern California since 2015. The flush pattern is tracking almost the same as in 2019, suggesting ACP populations will be similar.

Regional ACP Update

Ms. Hornbaker stated that a request for proposal was posted for the Statewide Grower Liaison Coordinator, and the Riverside and San Diego Grower Liaison positions. The Statewide Coordinator position filing period was extended to August 14, 2020. David Gutierrez stated that the Grower Liaison Working Group has met twice to analyze AB5 and how it affects the Grower Liaison program.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that DATOC has created the DATOC dashboard on their website to provide information about positive detections, sample numbers, grove traps, titer, distribution maps and analytics.

Data Management Report

Rick Dunn stated that he continues to supply data for the public access ACP map, work with Task Force groups and revise the Commercial Citrus Layer. The Ventura County citrus layer is in progress. He stated that he has taken over the weekly ACP overview point and grid maps.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on September 2, 2020.