

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2020**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

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

CDFA Staff:

Fidan Aghayarova	Gavin Iacono	Keith Okasaki
Karina Chu	Laura Irons	Lea Pereira
Kiana Dao	Mathew Jian	David Phong
Paul Figueroa	Anmol Joshi	Michael Soltero
Ryan Fong	Marina Kaiser	Claudia Vazquez
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Jennifer Willems
Amelia Hicks	Zachary McCormack	
Victoria Hornbaker	Colleen Murphy-Vierra	

Guests:

Bob Atkins	James Gorden	Etienne Rabe
Teri Blaser	Subhas Hajeri	Drew Raymond
Amy Chang	Logan Henderson	Monique Rivera
Irene Davidson	Jonathan Kaplan	Sylvie Robillard
Natalie DeAngelo	Melinda Klein	Markcus Santos
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Jessica Leslie	Cressida Silvers
Joe Deviney	Marcy Martin	Greg Simmons
Aaron Dillon	Mark McBroom	Michelle Thom
Rick Dunn	Neil McRoberts	Angela Xue
Lisa Finke	Mia Neunzig	Judy Zaninovich
Paul Frankel	Margaret O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal
Sara Garcia Figuera	Curtis Pate	

Opening

The Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on November 4, 2020. Keith Watkins welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar. Keith noted that Kevin Severns resigned from his role on the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) and the Operations Subcommittee.

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

Anmol Joshi stated that Summer/Fall areawide buffer treatments have been completed in all the areas and the winter cycle will start mid-December and will continue until March. He stated that tree removals are on schedule, 29 HLB positive trees were removed in October, bringing a total of removed trees to 2,114. He stated that trees are mostly removed by vendors because they have the proper equipment. He stated that the average cost to remove and dispose of one medium sized tree in Orange County is \$520. This cost includes vendor labor, salary of California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) staff accompanying the vendor each time a tree is removed, and rental vehicles. The CPCPC would like CDFA to seek opportunities for reducing the per tree removal cost.

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

Notice of Violation and Tracking Structure Discussion

Keith Okasaki presented the Notice of Violations and Notice of Proposed Actions issued per county in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. He stated that most of the violations were coming from transporters at the point of destination. He confirmed with the counties that most of the hauler violations are due to poor or improper safeguarding. He stated that some haulers were moving fruit without a compliance agreement and that from July 2020 to August 2020, counties have conducted 203 grower inspections, 750 hauler inspections, and 100 packer inspections.

Discuss Procedures for Hauling Culls

Keith Okasaki stated letters were drafted to send out as a reminder to packers that culls need to be covered in transit to its next destination. He stated that culls leaving a packing house should be covered because they don't meet the exemption requirements.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression Areawide Buffer Treatment Area Discussion

Neil McRoberts cited previous research that Merit was fully effective within four weeks in Ventura and Riverside and that efficacy is currently under observation in the Hemet biocontrol project. He stated that the program should be improved to prevent movement into groves because insecticide applications can trigger ACP dispersal towards groves if timing is not optimized. He recommended that if buffer treatments need to be reduced to optimize timing of applications and to reduce spread, that prioritization of treatment should be the first 100m from a grove within two weeks and then treat from 100 to 250 meters.

The Subcommittee motioned to recommend to the full committee, moving buffer treatments from 400 meters to 250 meters around groves with the exemptions that are already in place for those areas in Imperial County.

Grove Trapping Discussion

Neil McRoberts stated that in the San Joaquin Valley, trapping data indicated that ACP can be found year-round. He stated that Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center recommends bi-weekly ACP trapping to continue due to an uptick in 2020. He noted that there may be periods of time throughout the year where the climate could affect ACP activity.

The Subcommittee motioned to recommend to the full committee, ratifying the two-week interval for ACP trapping.

Discuss Ceasing Treatment in Santa Clara

Amelia Hicks stated that treatments have been conducted in Santa Clara nearly every day since July. Discussion ensued over treatment costs running over budget and whether treatment should be halted. She stated that various factors need to be taken into consideration during the termination of treatment as well as the actions needed to replace treatment in those areas. She also explained the regulatory status of nurseries and commercial groves in the area. She stated that all nursery stock is treated and tagged, and all fruit is cleaned free from stems, leaves, and remains local. She stated that as of November 4, 2020, there were 48 properties in which ACP has been found. Most of the ACP have been adults, however, in 10 sites, nymphs and eggs have been found. The Subcommittee moved to recommend discontinuing treatment to the full Committee.

Regional Grower Liaison ACP Update

Bob Atkins stated there was a find in northern Tulare County at a packing house, which was a regulatory incident. He stated that there was an outbreak in Kern County, which is being handled by grower liaison Judy Zaninovich. He also stated that the Ventura County Resource Conservation District received grant funds for a pilot project offering to replace residential citrus with either native trees or an alternative fruit tree. He stated that the new San Diego grower liaison is Sandra Zwaal, who is also the grower liaison for Ventura and San Bernardino. Discussion continued on how grower liaisons are working with Nuffer Smith Tucker California Citrus Mutual on how to motivate growers that do not participate in treatment. Grower liaisons are seeking guidance from the Subcommittee on how to do this better.

ACP Canine Detection Update

Lisa Finke stated that HLB Multi-Agency Coordination (MAC) has transferred ownership of the ACP detector dogs to Canine Detection Services. Two dogs were taken to Bakersfield to evaluate how effective their training was. She stated that in two days in Kern County, 68 citrus trees were inspected on 12 residential properties and the dogs alerted on six trees. Average time spent per tree was 38 seconds. She stated that they will tentatively work alongside the CDFA staff and that there is currently no contract between CDFA and Canine Detection Services. All the expenses from the October trip were covered using HLB MAC grant funding. A permit was issued by CDFA to use dead ACP in vials as a pseudo-scent in Kern county. A subgroup was formed to further discuss the canine ACP detection program.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis, and Sharing CalTrap and Citrus Surveyor Update

Colleen Murphy-Vierra presented an update on CalTrap. She stated that Los Angeles County is currently being trained on how to use the software and will begin field testing in November. CDFA is currently working with the vendor on enhancements that will be ready by year's end. Phase two would begin in 2021, to include delimitation and grove trapping. Beginning in 2021, CDFA will roll out the program to 10 counties. An update on Citrus Surveyor was presented. CDFA is currently developing the databases for property, host, survey, and treatment. Additionally, the HLB/ACP Situation Status report dashboard was presented. This report would be accessible to only the CPDPC members and grower liaisons to receive monthly updates on program activities.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on December 9, 2020.