

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE (CPDPC)
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 9, 2021**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	Roger Smith	Keith Watkins
John Gless		

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Brad Carmen	Zac Green
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CDFA Staff:

Kelley Aubushon	Mathew Jian	David Morgan
Karina Chu	Anmol Joshi	Alex Muniz
Alisha Garcia	Marina Kaiser	Keith Okasaki
David Gutierrez	Lucita Kumagai	David Phong
Daren Harris	Betty Lee	Lydia Rodriguez
Amelia Hicks	Daniel Lee	Briana Russell
Victoria Hornbaker	Magally Luque-Williams	Claudia Vazquez
Laura Irons	Zachary McCormack	Jennifer Willems

Guests:

Lori Apodaca	Alyssa Houtby	Curtis Pate
Ruben Arroyo	Roberto Johnson	Drew Posny
Teri Blaser	Jonathan Kaplan	Monique Rivera
Melissa Cregan	Jessica Leslie	Sylvie Robillard
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Dylan Lomanto	Cressida Silvers
Rick Dunn	Jasmine Lopez	Krista Smith
Lisa Finke	Wei qi Luo	Qijun Xiang
James Gorden	Neil McRoberts	Judy Zaninovich
Subhas Hajeri	Margaret O'Neill	Sandra Zwaal

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, June 9, 2021. Keith Watkins welcomed subcommittee members, guests, staff and asked for public comment.

Curtis Pate, Imperial County grower liaison (GL), provided a public comment. He stated that Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) nymphs were discovered in an Imperial County commercial citrus orchard and there was concern that the infestation may be deep in the orchard. He contacted the canine ACP detection team for assistance. The canine team discovered the beginning of an ACP population and the grower was able to act quickly. The orchard was treated and there were no more ACP finds. Curtis thanked Lisa Finke and her canine ACP detection team for their quick action and ability to thwart a potential emergency.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – FIND AND ERADICATE HUANGLONGBING

HLB Detection, Delimitation and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported five huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees in Colton and two in Montclair. These trees are in the same area as the original find sites. The five trees in Colton have been removed, and the two trees in Montclair are pending removal.

In May, HLB delimitation surveys were completed in Colton, Pico Rivera, and Whittier. HLB delimitation surveys in Montclair, Paramount, Ontario, and Huntington Beach are ongoing. The number of quadrant survey samples collected in Los Angeles, Orange, and San Bernardino counties in May were 32, 365, and 379, respectively. HLB border buffer survey in San Diego and Imperial counties is ongoing and expected to be complete by June 21.

Citrus commodity survey in Imperial, San Bernardino, Riverside, and San Diego counties are 77, 65, 62, and 20 percent complete, respectively.

Tissue and seasonality sampling is a CRB-funded program where young and old leaf, peduncle, and root samples are collected from HLB positive trees and non-HLB positive trees that were either inconclusive, had dog alerts, or had *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) positive ACP. The objective is to determine which sampling material and season is best for determining HLB infection. The tissue and seasonality sampling spring cycle started on March 20 and is expected to be completed by June 20. Through the tissue and seasonality sampling program, Anmol reported that there were thirty-one, five, three, and three HLB positive sites detected in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties, respectively.

For the month of May, Anmol reported 32 HLB positive tree detections, 31 HLB positive trees removed, and 18 trees pending removal.

Laboratory Update

Lucita Kumagai reported that the laboratory received 7,111 plant samples and 3,354 ACP samples. Most of the plant and ACP samples were from Los Angeles County. Year-to-date, the laboratory received a total of 36,030 plant and ACP samples, and confirmed 111 HLB positive trees. To date, there have been 1,711 sites with positive HLB and/or CLAs detections, 2,353 HLB positive tree detections, and 338 CLAs positive ACP detections.

HLB Risk-Based Survey

David Phong reported that HLB risk-based survey cycle 2 2020 is 100 percent complete. Survey spanned from August 2020 to May 2021 across 36 counties with 49,000 properties surveyed, 10,800 ACP samples collected, and 12,500 plant samples collected. He noted that CLAs positive ACPs were detected in Fallbrook and Rancho Cucamonga. He reported that HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021 is 23 percent complete in 15 of 36 allocated counties and should be completed this summer. Approximately 6,000 properties were surveyed, 1,750 ACP samples were collected, and 2,000 plant samples were collected in May for both cycle 2 2020 and cycle 1 2021.

Santa Clara ACP Finds

Amelia Hicks presented an update on ACP finds in Santa Clara County. Area 1 was established in July 2020 following an ACP detection on a trap. Treatment was conducted and then ceased in November per Committee recommendation. There are currently 335 traps serviced monthly across 18 square miles. Area 2 was established in April 2021 and treatment around the find was completed in the same month. There are currently 175 traps serviced monthly across 4 square miles. In total, 1,747 properties were treated, and 160 properties refused treatments. Monthly *Tamarixia radiata* releases are focused around the refusal properties, with 75,300 *Tamarixia radiata* released across 230 properties since July 2020. There was one ACP detection in May 2021.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – CONTROL ACP MOVEMENT AND ENFORCE REGULATIONS

Regulatory Activity Update

Keith Okasaki presented county regulatory activities conducted from July 2020 to April 2021. Fresno and Kern County are continuing to be very active with their regulatory activities. Kern County issued a notice of violation (NOV) to a packer that sent dirty bins back to a grove. 68 percent of the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (FY20-21) budget has been expended on county regulatory activities. Keith Watkins stated that he sees trucks on the road that are not tarped or tarped incorrectly and would like the Division to continue to talk to the counties about this.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP CONTROL/SUPPRESSION

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported that HLB delimitation treatment is 100 percent complete in Montclair, Colton, Ontario, Whittier, Glendora, La Habra, Huntington Beach, and Compton. HLB delimitation treatment in La Puente, Santa Ana, and City of Orange are ongoing. Two public meetings are scheduled in June. Southern District has four vacant positions.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported detection trapping is ongoing in Madera and Fresno counties, areawide trapping is ongoing in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and delimitation trapping continues in Madera, Kern and San Luis Obispo counties. County ACP trapping quality control inspections are ongoing. *Tamarixia radiata* releases are ongoing in Kern County. HLB risk-based survey cycle 2 2020 is complete in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties. Staff in Fresno, Visalia, and Shafter offices began HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021. Central District staff began citrus commodity surveys in Ventura, Kern, Tulare, Fresno, and Madera counties. Most vacant positions in the Central District are in Ventura, as the office space is pending occupancy due to minor construction.

Northern District

Amelia Hicks reported that year-round ACP detection trapping is ongoing in Placer, San Joaquin, and Stanislaus Counties and that traps are being serviced by the local County Agricultural Commissioner's offices. Delimitation trapping continues in Contra Costa and Santa Clara counties. There have been no additional ACP detections in Contra Costa County. *Tamarixia radiata* releases are ongoing in Santa Clara County. HLB risk-based survey cycle 1 2021 is complete in eight of the 13 counties. Northern District has one vacant position.

Regional/Grower Liaison Updates

Bob Atkins reported that all Grower Liaison (GL) positions will be filled by July 1. The current Fresno County GL did not reapply for the GL position. Imperial County GL coordinated with the canine team to address the ACP nymph finds in an orchard. San Diego County GL continues to work with the University of California in pursuing a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection grant for neglected and abandoned orchard removal. GLs are continuing to coordinate with CDFA on buffer treatment activities.

Biocontrol Updates

Dr. David Morgan reported that over one million *Tamarixia radiata* have been released year-to-date, and over 22 million have been released since 2011. 72 percent of releases have been around HLB find sites, 11 percent near the United States-Mexico border, 11 percent near citrus corridors, and six percent in recent ACP find areas such as Santa Clara and Kern Counties.

Dr. Morgan requested supplemental funding to transition the maintenance of *Tamarixia* isolines from UC Riverside to the CRB. The subcommittee made a motion to support adding \$33,000 in

supplemental funding to the biocontrol program and to move the request to the CPDPD Executive subcommittee meeting for consideration.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – IMPROVE DATA TECHNOLOGY, ANALYSIS, AND SHARING

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Dr. Neil McRoberts reported on the efficacy of buffer treatments in Hemet and Ventura since those two areas had high refusal rates. He reported that Hemet and Ventura had a treatment refusal rate of 26 percent and 33 percent, respectively. He noted that 30 percent of properties bordering a citrus grove in Hemet refused treatment, and 41 percent of properties bordering a citrus grove in Ventura refused treatment. “No reason given” for refusals was the most frequent response received followed by no access, treatment is believed to be harmful to trees/other organisms, there are animals on the property, privacy, and concerns about chemical/pesticide use. Additionally, 10 properties in Ventura had 25 or more citrus hosts each, which are treated like commercial citrus and staff could not treat these properties. He noted that only 3.8% of the total budget for FY20-21 is allotted for buffer treatment, and that it should be used to consider the efficacy of the buffer treatment program.

OTHER ITEMS

Continuation Hearings

Victoria Hornbaker reported that four continuation hearings were held from May 25 to June 3. Public comments are being consolidated and will be presented to Secretary Ross for her review and determination of whether the program should continue for an additional four years.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:09 a.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on July 7, 2021.