

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 6, 2021**

Operations Subcommittee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	John Gless	Keith Watkins
Brad Carmen	Roger Smith	

Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:

Zac Green

CDFA Staff:

Karina Chu	Mathew Jian	Keith Okasaki
David Gutierrez	Anmol Joshi	Brianna Russell
Amelia Hicks	Magally Luque-Williams	Jennifer Willems
Victoria Hornbaker	David Morgan	

Guests:

Bob Atkins	Subhas Hajeri	Cressida Silvers
Teri Blaser	Jessica Leslie	Krista Smith
Casey Creamer	Margaret O'Neill	Karen Westerman
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Monique Rivera	Judy Zaninovich
Rick Dunn	Sylvie Robillard	Sandra Zwaal
James Gordon		

Opening

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) Operations Subcommittee (Subcommittee) meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:01 a.m. on Wednesday, January 6, 2021. Keith Watkins welcomed subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing

Huanglongbing (HLB) Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol Joshi reported finds in two new areas, one in the city of Riverside and one in Fallbrook, both confirmed Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) were *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLAs) -positive. The find in the city of Riverside is in an abandoned commercial area, comprised of 57 trees. The find site is not near commercial citrus, and the properties in the 250-meter radius fall within the ongoing Riverside delimitation. Anmol stated the find site trees were quadrant sampled, adjacent areas within the 250-meter zone were treated, and tree removals are pending. Bob Atkins added he is working with the property owner in order to have all 57 trees removed. For the Fallbrook find, Anmol reported it was the first ever CLAs-positive ACP found in San Diego County and involves five host trees on a residential property. Anmol stated the find site and adjacent properties were quadrant sampled and treated, and that there are approximately 78 properties in the 250-meter delimitation area. Treatment for the delimitation area will follow the January 7, 2021 public meeting and is expected to start on January 11, 2021. clarified that the Fallbrook find area has some small growers and

nurseries in the area, so although there is no large commercial citrus in the area, there is host material.

Anmol reported that delimitation surveys are on-going in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. Anmol also reported that in 2020, there were 12,675 sites visited for HLB delimitation surveys and the number of entomology samples collected was down slightly from 1,018 in 2019, to 947 in 2020. Anmol stated the slight reduction was due to a combination of factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

Anmol reported the bulk of quadrant samples collected were in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, with 306 and 157 samples, respectively.

Anmol reported HLB border risk-based survey fall cycles are 100 percent complete in both San Diego and Imperial border areas and both yielded low entomology samples. The winter cycle began on December 21, 2020, and Anmol will report those numbers at the next subcommittee meeting.

Anmol reported fewer trees were removed in December 2020 than previous months due to the holiday season, homeowners requesting CDFA return after the new year/holidays, and the COVID-19 surge in Southern California. Anmol stated 22 of the 45 pending removals in Orange County have been scheduled. For refusal properties, Anmol reported there is one site with four trees in Orange County pending a warrant execution.

Anmol provided a staffing update showing 71 permanent staff, 40 seasonal staff, and 12 open positions in the Southern District. Anmol reminded the group that four staff members are away on COVID-19 contact tracing assignment for six to nine months, so they are not available for CPDPD-related work.

Prioritization of Sampling Sites Near Commercial Groves

Anmol stated that the Section Township Range (STR) closest to commercial citrus are assigned the highest priority, although a find in a hotbed area will take priority regardless of its proximity to commercial groves. Anmol added that inconclusive finds are also a high priority and that areas where the climate helps control psyllid populations, such as in coastal areas, are lower priority but are not overlooked.

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

Bulk Citrus Quarantine Enforcement

Keith Okasaki advised a letter regarding safeguarding culls and rots was sent out to packers and transporters last week via mail and email, and counties were provided a two-month timeline for enforcement. Keith reported several counties have not submitted invoices for any activity conducted in the July through November 2020 reporting. Keith stated CDFA staff supplements inspections and have focused mainly on fruit sellers in the HLB quarantine area. Additionally, Keith reported having eight entities using a grate cleaning method to move fruit in the quarantine area and therefore he and staff will update the request and approval process to ensure all necessary information and documentation is received.

County NOV and Tracking

Keith reported only nine additional Notices of Proposed Action (NOPAs) were issued by the counties, all of which were in Tulare County and issued to transporters.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression

Activity in San Jose Since Ceasing Treatment

Amelia Hicks reported treatment in San Jose ended on November 30, 2020, and since then there have been some confirmed adult ACP detection on yellow panel traps, but no eggs or live collected specimens. The last ACP detected was on December 22, 2020, and all the detections have come from the same two grids. Monthly *Tamarixia radiata* releases are ongoing as required by the conditions to cease treatment and there is currently a total of 18 delimitation grids.

Trapping and Treatment Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported 250-meter area wide buffer treatments for winter cycle 2021 have already begun in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Imperial, and San Bernardino counties, and in a two-mile border buffer zone in the San Diego border. Other areas such as Hemet, Coachella Valley, and San Pasqual will start in the middle or end of January. Anmol anticipated that all areawide buffer treatments will be complete by the end of March 2021. Anmol stated that there are active delimitation treatments in Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The rates of completion vary depending on the area, from 65 percent in Westminster to 100 percent in Fontana. Anmol also advised of four public meetings held in December 2020 and three coming up this month, and that public participation seems to be better since moving to an online forum.

Central District

Jennifer Willems reported detection trapping is ongoing in Madera and Fresno counties and that delimitation trapping continues in Madera and Kern counties, with 43 and 2,071 traps, respectively. Jennifer added that San Luis Obispo County had finds in November and December 2020 and that trapping is split between CDFA and the Cooperative Agricultural Support Services Authority (CASS) for this region. She also stated Santa Barbara and Ventura County area wide trapping is ongoing. Jennifer reported that treatments in Kern County are progressing well. A fourth public meeting has been scheduled for January 14, 2021. CDFA staff treated the Madera County find site on December 11, 2020. Adjacent properties did not have any citrus hosts. Since the treatment area is not near commercial citrus, no further treatment action is required. Area wide treatment in Santa Barbara began on December 14, 2020, and there are no new areas for summer treatment. She reported a public meeting for Ventura County with treatment to follow. explained COVID-19 travel restrictions and impact on staffing levels is causing a delay in risk-survey completions in some areas, but all are ongoing. The Central District has 48 permanent positions, and are almost fully staffed; however, several positions are vacant with interviews and/or offers pending. Two staff members are currently out on contact tracing assignments.

Northern District

Amelia Hicks reported the Northern District had one adult ACP confirmed in Contra Costa County on a yellow panel trap on November 25, 2020 and treatment completed on December 23, 2020. CDFA's current focus is on monthly servicing of delimitation traps. Since treatment in Santa Clara County ended on November 30, 2020, Amelia stated biocontrol, trapping, and testing have been ongoing. Amelia added district staff are also continuing winter residential and year-round trapping, and that there are three vacant positions on her team.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan reported production of ACP biocontrol agents for 2020 was down due to COVID-19 compared to previous years, nonetheless, 3.6 million insects were released in 2020. Releases continue to be heaviest in Los Angeles and Orange counties, although insects have been released throughout California. Dr. Morgan reported a total of 20,810,603 biocontrol agents have been released since 2011. Dr. Morgan stated the same pattern has been observed in urban areas over the last four years: a large flush of citrus at the beginning of the year, followed by a sharp decline for the rest of the year. Dr. Morgan also noted that a report by a University of California, Riverside (UCR) researcher showing that since 2015, urban areas where biocontrol agents are utilized have seen a 95% decrease in ACP populations. Although these results cannot be fully attributed to biocontrol agents, the data shows they are having an impact.

Regional/Grower Liaison ACP Update

Bob Atkins reported the grower liaison position (GL) in Riverside is still vacant and will be re-posted in hopes of attracting more qualified applicants. Sandra Zwaal and Bob have been following up with growers in the Fallbrook area and a grower meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2021. David Gutierrez reported receiving feedback on the statewide and the regional responsibilities document and added that the GL working group will meet and submit a proposal to the full committee using this data.

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

Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets reported DATOC has been working on agent-based modeling projects for the Science Subcommittee and that the fourth quarter 2020 report is coming soon. Victoria Hornbaker suggested, with Keith Watkins agreeing, that gathering trapping research on different types of traps and lures would be beneficial. Holly confirmed this research project will be next, and Roger stated a more user-friendly trap could lead to cost savings for the program. Victoria clarified the yellow panel traps CDFA use are only for population density or new detections and trapped ACP are not analyzed for CLAs unless they are collected as part of weekly delimitation trapping. Dr. Monique Rivera added that attract-and-kill traps are not a good option for monitoring purposes, but Dr. Mamoudou Sétamou, Texas A&M University is preparing to publish a method to retrieve DNA from ACP on yellow sticky traps in the field for up to three weeks. Roger requested a full program update report from Victoria for the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division for the next meeting.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 a.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on February 10, 2021.