

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

**Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 3, 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	Lea Pereira
Karina Chu	Anmol Joshi	David Phong
Paul Figueroa	Marina Kaiser	Preetika Pratap
Alisha Garcia	Daniel Lee	Lydia Rodriguez
David Gutierrez	Magally Luque-Williams	Briana Russell
Daren Harris	Zachary McCormack	Michael Soltero
Amelia Hicks	David Morgan	ThuyVy Truong
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz	Claudia Vazquez
Karla Huerta	Colleen Murphy-Vierra	Jennifer Willems
Laura Irons	Keith Okasaki	

Guests:

Justin Aquino	Alyssa Houtby	Sylvie Robillard
Bob Atkins	Scott Hudson	Cressida Silvers
Teri Blaser	Jonathan Kaplan	Krista Smith
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Melinda Klein	Greg Simmons
Aaron Dillon	Jessica Leslie	Karen Westerman
Rick Dunn	Neil McRoberts	Qijun Xiang
Lisa Finke	Margaret O'Neill	Judy Zaninovich
Subhas Hajeri	Monique Rivera	Sandra Zwaal

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, March 3, 2021. Keith Watkins welcomed subcommittee members, guests, and staff.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing

Division Staffing Needs Discussion

Victoria Hornbaker noted that she was asked to provide an update on the current Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) progress and any unmet needs for achieving the necessary workload. She stated that the original assessment in 2018 for a standalone division was 226 permanent staff, but due to a miscommunication, the CPDPD received less staff from the Plant Division than was originally agreed upon. The

organization chart showing provided for the CPDPD includes 168 total permanent positions. Victoria compared the allocation in the 2018 plan to that in the current organization chart and asked the district managers to comment on any additional needed staff. Amelia Hicks reported that the Northern District can complete its work with the current allocated staff and a few additional seasonal staff. Jennifer Willems added that the Central District received less than its originally allocated positions but can still accomplish its work with current allocated staff and additional seasonal staff. Anmol Joshi reported that the Southern District has lost many of its seasonal staff due to low wages, high cost of living, and promotional opportunities and will need an additional 27 permanent and seasonal staff to complete its work. The CPDPD continues to fill its vacancies but the limitations on seasonal staff hinders the Division on the amount of time they are allowed to work or be furloughed. Staff are being cross trained in survey and treatment work in an effort to build a well-rounded workforce. When the Governor's Offices eases on COVID restrictions and as staff get vaccinated, Districts will be able to relocate staff to assist in other areas. Victoria added that she will reach out to HR for additional information on how staff salaries are determined, especially in high cost of living locations.

Victoria also gave an update on vehicle and office space needs. She noted that the CPDPD has received 114 long term lease vehicles and have requested an additional 135 long term lease vehicles to meet the Division's needs. It is not guaranteed that the additional vehicles will be approved, as the Division does not have any vehicles to trade in or an active budget change proposal identifying vehicle needs. In the meantime, the Division is using short term rentals to meet its needs. Currently that the CPDPD is sharing office space where possible and at the direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the CPDPD will be reassessing office space needs and downsizing leases if possible. Due to COVID, staff have been teleworking and reducing time in the office and there is direction from CDFA Executive office to continue to work remotely post COVID.

HLB Detection, Delimitation, and Tree Removal

Anmol reported that HLB delimitation surveys were conducted in the cities of La Mirada, Whittier, Anaheim, Garden Grove, Orange, Irvine, Corona, and Moreno Valley in the month of February. He reported that the surveys were completed in La Mirada, Whittier, Anaheim, and Moreno Valley. Surveys in Orange and Garden Grove were near completion. Surveys were conducted in Corona because it has been one year since the last HLB delimitation survey was conducted will be completed next week.

The number of quadrant survey samples collected in February in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside counties were 17, 124, and 30, respectively.

On February 26, 2021, three positive trees were found in Corona expanding the quarantine boundary. There were a total of 15 trees removed, however an additional 10 HLB positive trees were confirmed from Los Angeles, Orange, and Riverside counties. Two trees in Orange County were scheduled to be removed on March 8, and 11 more were pending removal. Final abatement letters have been issued to six properties and the residents have until March 12 to respond.

The HLB border survey winter cycles are 26 percent complete in San Diego County and 100 percent complete in Imperial County.

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

Regulatory Activity Updates

Keith Okasaki reported that CPDPD will take over nursery greenhouse inspections from United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and those inspections will be the basis for nurseries to move nursery stock intrastate under a special permit. USDA will continue to inspect nursery greenhouses moving stock interstate.

County NOV and Tracking

Keith reported that Riverside County grate cleaning inspections improved since the last subcommittee meeting. He also reported that regulatory workplans were sent to counties for the new agreement period beginning July 1. Over the past week, counties have sent reports and invoices for bulk citrus transport inspections that they conducted. Keith will follow up with counties on details within the report, including violations issued and Notices of Proposed Actions.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression

Trapping, Treatment, and Staffing Updates

Southern District

Anmol reported 250-meter areawide buffer treatments for winter cycle 2021 is ongoing in Ventura, Hemet, and San Diego/Imperial County border buffer. Areawide buffer treatment at UC Riverside is anticipated to start on March 3 and is expected to be complete by mid-March. San Bernardino and Coachella areawide buffer treatments were completed on February 23, and March 2, respectively. HLB delimitation re-treatment started in Corona in February and is 74 percent complete. HLB delimitation treatment in Anaheim and the city of Orange are both 100 percent complete and treatment in Long Beach is 40 percent complete. Two public meetings will be held in March.

Central District

Jennifer reported detection trapping is ongoing in Madera and Fresno counties and that delimitation trapping continues in Madera, Kern and San Luis Obispo counties, with 43, 2,812, and 62 traps, respectively. An ACP detection in Arvin was confirmed on February 17, and a sixth public meeting for this area is scheduled for March 3. The 400-meter treatment area in Arvin is scheduled to start on March 8. The last 400-meter treatment area in Bakersfield was completed on February 10. She added that 72 trees at the Bakersfield College were treated on March 2 and are planning to remove the trees from the campus. She reported that *Tamarixia radiata* releases are ongoing and that county quality control inspections began this month.

Northern District

Amelia reported that there has not been any new ACP detections in Contra Costa County. She reported that Contra Costa County will be servicing the 147 delimitation traps in four grids. She reported three new adult ACP confirmations in San Jose, Santa Clara County in February and that biocontrol releases are ongoing. Winter and year-round residential detection trapping continues with 18 counties servicing nearly 7,300

traps, and CPDPD servicing nearly 1,600 traps in five counties. She reported that HLB risk-based survey is ongoing.

Biocontrol Update

Dr. David Morgan reported over 200,000 *Tamarixia radiata* were released in February, bringing the year-to-date total to over 350,000. Releases were conducted in nine counties, with most of the releases in Los Angeles and Orange County. *Tamarixia radiata* were also given to the USDA for release in Arizona and along the United States-Mexico border. He stated that there are plans for releases in Fallbrook and Santa Barbara.

Regional/Grower Liaison ACP Update

Bob Atkins reported that grower liaisons (GL) are responding to the ACP detections in Exeter and Arvin by contacting growers. He reported that winter treatment from growers is ongoing. Sandra Zwaal is working with San Diego County to identify neglected and abandoned citrus groves. He reported that the GL positions in Riverside and Imperial are still open.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis, and Sharing ACP Trapping Technologies/ Data Analysis and Tactical Operation Center (DATOC) Update

Holly Deniston-Sheets reported that DATOC is gathering information on available ACP trapping methods, including the standard yellow panel trap, pressure-sensitive adhesive, various attractants, and 3D traps with propylene glycol. She reported that there is no recommendation to adopt new trapping technologies. She recommends considering evaluating and funding testing for “no-mess” sticky traps and evaluating lure effectiveness in California. She also stated that research has been done to improve yellow panel traps to include ideal card placement, optimization of card color, and reducing debris with a mesh overlay. The subcommittee expressed interest in testing new trapping technologies, its associated costs, and how DNA can be extracted from ACP before it denatures.

CalTrap/Citrus Surveyor Update

Colleen Murphy-Vierra reported that CalTrap user acceptance is completed and that the help desk is now live and 26 counties have been trained on using the desktop application. Los Angeles County is using CalTrap and CDFA is assisting with identifying and fixing problems. CalTrap will be ready for use in all counties by June 1. CDFA has contracted with the vendor to begin Phase II, which includes enhancements such as delimitation trapping. She reported that a trapping application will be developed for grove trapping. It's estimated that iPads needed for CalTrap will cost \$1,000 each. She then provided an update on the Citrus Surveyor application. She stated that there are currently testers in all regions of the state, and she is utilizing the feedback received to update the application. Improvements to the application include efficacy enhancements, multi-unit apartment complexes, and visual representations. She is also in the process of creating the Citrus Surveyor Supervisor desktop application.

Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on April 7, 2021.