

**CALIFORNIA CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION
COMMITTEE MEETING**

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Kevin Ball	John Gless	Gregorio Rundini
Brad Carmen	John C. Gless	Roger Smith
Ed Civerolo	Jim Gorden	Keith Watkins
Aaron Dillon	Mark McBroom	
Bob Felts, Jr.	Dr. Etienne Rabe	

Committee Members Absent:

Craig Armstrong	Nick Hill	James McFarlane
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CDFA Staff:

Kelley Aubushon	Karla Huerta	Colleen Murphy
Fidan Aghayarova	Laura Irons	Keith Okasaki
Fernando Berber	Mathew Jian	Lea Pereira
Karina Chu	Anmol Joshi	David Phong
Kiana Dao	Marina Kaiser	Grace Radabaugh
Amelia Everett	Daniel Lee	Lydia Rodriguez
Tina Galindo	Betty Lee	ThuyVy Truong
Alisha Garcia	Magally Luque-Williams	Claudia Vasquez
David Gutierrez	Zachary McCormack	Jennifer Willems
Spencer Hom	David Morgan	
Victoria Hornbaker	Alex Muniz	

CRB Staff:

Holly Deniston-Sheets	Melinda Klein	Marcy Martin
Rick Dunn		

Guests:

Price Adams	Deborah Larmon	Cressida Silvers
Bob Atkins	Jessica Leslie	Karen Westerman
Teri Blaser	Amy McGlung	Ed Williams
Casey Creamer	Mia Neunzig	Michele Wineman
Lisa Finke	Margaret O'Neill	David Wirta
Sara Garcia-Figuera	Curtis Pate	Helene Wright
Subhas Hajeri	Sylvie Robillard	Judy Zaninovich
Evelyn Huarto	Briana Russell	Sandra Zwaal

Opening Comments:

The Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Committee (CPDPC) meeting was called to order at 9:05 am via webinar. Jim Gorden welcomed the CPDPC members, staff, and members of the public participating online. Mr. Gorden stated that there was a quorum for the meeting.

Public Comments:

No public comments were made.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

Motion: To recommend approving of the November 18, 2020 Consent Agenda as presented.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: John C. Gless

Motion carries: Motion passed unanimously

FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT**Review 2019/2020 Budget Expenditures and Revenue:**

Bob Felts, Jr. stated that the program expended \$25,387,980 through September 2020. Fi\$Cal is showing a \$3,000,000 shy of the manual tracking expenditures since closure through Fiscal Year (FY) September 2020. Total revenue for FY 19/20 was \$18,491,480. Any adjustments may be related to late fees and interest. Additional 19/20 revenue received after January 2021 will be credited as prior year in FY 20/21.

Review 2020/2021 Budget Expenditures and Revenue:

Mr. Felts, stated that the total expenditures are \$3,495,604 through February 2021. The Finance Subcommittee was notified that all State agencies have been asked by the Governor's Office to reduce general funds expenditures by five percent for the state deficit. Expenditures through December 2020 were thirty percent less than last year due to lagging invoices. He stated the budget is just under \$42,250,000 leaving a balance of \$38,495,604 or expenditures. Revenue received through January 2021 is \$2,288,776. Revenue numbers may be adjusted to reflect credits for overpayments received from packing houses.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**Form 700 Update:**

Victoria Hornbaker stated that Form 700s are due before April 1, 2021 and must be filed electronically. She stated that the trainings for sexual harassment/violence in the workplace and ethics training need to be completed. There is an alternative sexual harassment/violence in the workplace training that is more in line to what CPDPC members need. Contact her for a link to then alternative training.

Election of Office Holders Discussion:

Ms. Hornbaker stated that there is a vacancy on the CPDPC due to Kevin Severns' retirement. She received one resume from Jared Plumlee who is currently with Booth Ranches in Orange Cove, California and the same area that Kevin Severns represented. Victoria reminded the CPDPC members that the election held last January carried a motion to maintain the same officers of the previous two years. Jim Gorden, Dr. Etienne Rabe, and

Mark McBroom's term will end January of 2022. Victoria will send the current bylaws to CPDPC members.

Motion: To appoint Jared Plumlee to the open position for Fresno County.

First: Keith Watkins

Second: Rodger Smith

Motion Carries: 10 Yeas (Kevin Ball, Brad Carmen, Ed Civerolo, Bob Felts, Jr., John Gless, John C. Gless, Jim Gorden, Mark McBroom, Gregorio Rundini, Rodger Smith, Keith Watkins), and 2 abstained (Aaron Dillon, Dr. Etienne Rabe)

OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Current State of the Program (Staff, Leases, Vehicles, etc.):

Ms. Hornbaker stated that there are currently 168 total positions within the Citrus Pest and Disease Prevention Division (CPDPD) and vacant positions are in various stages of being filled. She stated that the Division is in the process of securing new office space in Ventura County. She stated that an initiative brought up by the Governor's Office requires a reduction in lease space and that the only offices leased by CPDPD are the Sacramento HQ/Northern District, Visalia and Cerritos. Other offices are shared with Pest Disease/Exclusions Projects, Pest Exclusion, or other Plant Division Branches. She stated that due to COVID, home storage permits are being implemented to allow work vehicles to be stored at home thus allowing staff to deploy from home to the field. CPDPD received 114 long term lease vehicles and need an additional 135 vehicles. In the meantime, the CPDPD is utilizing short term rentals for meet the needs of the Division. . Leases give the division flexibility and relief from maintenance costs.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate Huanglongbing

CDFA Operational Update:

Southern District

David Gutierrez stated that delimitation and treatment surveys continue in Orange, Riverside, and Los Angeles Counties. San Bernardino County's re-treatment will begin in early March. Survey and treatment were completed on 78 properties in the San Diego (Fallbrook) area, with no new find sites and all sample results were negative. The winter areawide treatment was completed in Santa Barbara, Borrego Springs, San Pasqual, and Imperial Counties and will continue for Ventura, San Bernardino, Hemet, Coachella and the US/MX border buffer. A total of 116 huanglongbing (HLB) positive trees were removed from November 2020 to January 2021. Risk-based survey Cycle 2 was completed in Orange and Imperial Counties, Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, and San Diego will be completed next week. The two-mile border buffer risk survey is 26 percent completed in San Diego County and 53 percent completed in Imperial County.

Central District

Mr. Gutierrez stated there was a new Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) detection on February 3 on a yellow panel trap at the Exeter Specialties Packing house located in Tulare County. Staff conducted a 50-meter visual survey and there were no further detections. This detection was reported as a regulatory incident. Detection trapping is on-going in Fresno and Madera

County. Delimitation trapping is on-going in Kern County. Treatment in Kern County was projected to be completed within the following week.

Northern District

Mr. Gutierrez stated that an ACP was detected on November 25, 2020 in Pinole, Contra Costa County. Treatment was completed on December 23. Delimitation trapping is occurring in four grids and there were no additional detections. In Santa Clara County, final treatments occurred on November 30, 2020 and delimitation trapping is occurring in 18 grids. One ACP was detected on January 13, 2021 and an additional detection on February 4. Monthly biocontrol is on-going. HLB risk survey Cycle 2 is being conducted in over twenty counties and will be completed by the end of February. Winter residential trapping is continuing in over twenty counties and year-round county trapping continues in three counties.

Kern County ACP Update:

Jennifer Willems stated the last confirmed ACP detection was in Bakersfield on January 6 that triggered a 400-meter treatment area. Treatment is nearing completion and staff are coordinating with the pest hotline to treat the remaining properties. She stated that a suspect ACP detection occurred on February 16 in Arvin and staff are waiting for lab results. The find falls between two other 50-meter treatment areas. Staff began a visual survey for the new 50-meter area on February 16.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations

CDFA Regulatory Update:

Keith Okasaki stated the Quarantine Enforcement Cooperative Agreements were conducted between July and December 2020. The next county agreement period will be at least 15 months and will align with the CPDPC's fiscal year starting in October. He noted that workplan documents will be sent to counties to propose work done under the next contract period and will begin in July. Counties have performed 444 grower inspections, 2,359 transporter inspections, 374 packer inspections.

County Regulatory Update:

Mr. Okasaki stated that grate cleaning inspections were requested from Ventura and Riverside Counties on shipments received from other counties. Ventura had not been receiving many shipments from Monterey when grate cleaning inspections started. The majority of inspections were conducted in Riverside County due to shipments arriving in a high-risk area. The chart presented showed an increase in number of bins inspected with a high leaf average, in Riverside County. Those packers were put on notice and numbers still have increased. He noted that they will continue to monitor the numbers closely and act when appropriate, including suspending the grate cleaning when necessary.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression

Status of Request for Proposal (RFP) for Rapid ACP Screening:

Ms. Hornbaker stated that the RFP was sent to the contract's office in early February. Many of the CPDPD contracts got pushed back due to emergency contracts from other divisions. She also stated that the Imperial County Grower Liaison (GL) has expired, and other GL

contracts will be expiring at the end of June and will be posted soon. The Riverside County GL is currently posted.

SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

Effectiveness of Southern California HLB Program:

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that approximately one third of the CPDPD budget, \$15,000,000, is spent on Southern California HLB operations. Currently, there is a statutory mandate to remove HLB positive trees and will need to take this into account or address this mandate if there are any changes in the current process in Southern California. The Southern California area treatment/delimitation operations over the years is less than two percent of the 5,000 square mile total area. He said that the PowerPoint presentation will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing

Ethyl Formate Registration Update:

Dr. Rabe stated that there are no current updates.

Neonicotinoid Risk Mitigation Update:

Casey Creamer stated that the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) Risk Mitigation comment period is closed. DPR is evaluating their analysis as a result of industry comments. The regulation process was delayed, and a second draft will be released this fall.

Data Analysis Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) Update:

Dr. Rabe stated that there are no current updates from DATOC, but they are still evaluating the ACP trap technologies, sticky traps, and attract and kill devices.

CalTrap and Citrus Surveyor Update:

CalTrap:

Colleen Murphy stated that CalTrap received extra funding to include delimitation and other enhancements. Ms. Murphy stated that Los Angeles County is currently using CalTrap with great success and will soon train additional counties to use the application. California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) trapping staff are currently being trained and then they will train the counties. CDFA staff are currently using the CalTrap mobile app out in the field. CalTrap is expected to roll out on June 1 including a help desk feature. iPads may need to be purchased for CalTrap to run efficiently. She also stated that CalTrap is for sticky traps and Citrus Surveyor is for everything else.

Citrus Surveyor:

Ms. Murphy stated that the mobile application began field testing on February 8, 2021 and received good feedback. Applications includes risk survey, delimitation, and treatment. On February 19, she will begin to configure the supervisor application so that duties can be assigned to field staff. Not all field have cell phones and are awaiting deployment in order to run Citrus Surveyor.

OUTREACH SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 – Outreach and Education

Grower Liaison Working Group Update:

Mr. Gutierrez stated that the grower liaison working group received feedback from the Statewide Coordinator and GLs and created two documents. These documents are meant to provide guidance and direction to the GLs and the Statewide Coordinator by identifying overarching responsibilities. CPDPC members complimented the GLs on what they have done with their communications and newsletters. Mr. Gutierrez will send the two documents to the CPDPC members for their review and comments.

Outreach Update:

Price Adams stated that the Nuffer Smith Tucker (NST) published key messages for the *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* positive ACP find in Fallbrook, San Diego County. Ongoing *Tamarixia radiata* outreach continues to be coordinated across several media platforms since fall and has had positive results. She noted that the *Tamarixia* outreach group coordinated with Dr. David Morgan in reaching out to Spanish publications and with multicultural outreach programs. She stated that the website CaliforniaCitrusTreat.org is continuously being updated and now includes in-language sites for Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. This has shown positive results, especially within the Vietnamese/Korean homeowners, who are either unaware or skeptical of the program. Industry outreach through the past few months has played a supporting role with GLs and CPDPC in educating growers on regulatory requirements. Keith Watkins created an editorial for both growers and residents in Kern County on the increase in ACP detections and encouraging treatments. Ms. Adams noted that the website Citrusinsider.org is currently improving with new information to include treatment schedules by region, a new blog page, a quarterly newsletter that includes content not included in existing communication channels, and a flier on how to submit plant samples to be tested. Elected official outreach programs included a pre-recorded video to the City of West Covina City Council and memo briefings to the City of Dinuba City Council and the San Diego County Planning and Development Services Department on HLB/ACP detections and the implications of planting citrus. NST is continuing to put together more informational content for elected officials and county partners on *Tamarixia* releases. She noted the upcoming activities will include an English/Spanish audio news release on *Tamarixia*, multicultural outreach to Hispanic media outlets, nursery outreach, a customizable frequently asked questions flyer for 25 plus growers, packing house virtual meetings, sharing industry success stories and outreach on Lunar New Year.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Update:

Helene Wright stated that the USDA is in the process of turning over intrastate shipping nursery inspections to the CDFA and/or the County Agricultural Commissioner.

Citrus Research Board (CRB) Report:

Marcy Martin stated that a modified calendar has been circulated with the hopes of reconvening in person meetings by the end of summer/fall. Ms. Martin stated to contact her to be added to the CRB distribution list if you are not receiving GL newsletters, DATOC quarterly reports, or meeting materials.

Recap of Action Items from this Meeting:

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Hornbaker will send the CPDPC bylaws to the members.

Action Item: Ms. Murphy to provide updates on CalTrap and Citrus Surveyor at the next Operations Subcommittee meeting, including the cost of iPads that are needed for CalTrap.

Action Item: Mr. Gutierrez will send GL and Statewide Coordinator documents to CPDPC members for their review and comment. The comments will be discussed at the next Outreach Subcommittee meeting and then brought to the next full Committee meeting.

Closing Comments and Adjournment:

This meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.