

Nursery Advisory Board (NAB) Meeting
California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA)
2800 Gateway Oaks Dr., Room 101
Sacramento, CA 95833
Wednesday, February 26, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Voting Members

David Cox
Robert Crudup
Don Dillon
Steve Maniaci
Steve McShane
Scott Nicholson
Elizabeth Elwood Ponce
John Rader

Non-Voting Members

Fred Crowder
Ha Dang
John Kabashima
Marilyn Kinoshita
Eric Larson
Lorence Oki
Karen Suslow

CDFA & Guests

Sara Camara
Nick Condos
John Heaton
Spencer Halsey
Dean Kelch
Kathy Kosta
Phuong Lao
Amber Morris
Michelle Pham
Duane Schnabel
Teresa Swafford
Leronne Wagner
Kristina Weber

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 am by Elizabeth Elwood Ponce, Board Chair.

2. Opening Remarks and Housekeeping

John Heaton welcomed Board Members and guests, and reviewed housekeeping and agenda items. Heaton introduced Duane Schnabel as the new Chief of the Pest Exclusion Branch and Nick Condos as the new Director of the Plant Health Division of CDFA.

3. Review of Minutes from September 11, 2013 Board Meeting

Steve McShane motioned to approve the Minutes for the September 11, 2013 Board Meeting as submitted. David Cox seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Distribution and Overview of Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700)

Leronne Wagner introduced herself as the current CDFA Filing Officer for the Form 700, and she informed the Board that Teresa Swafford would be replacing her after her retirement in July. Wagner informed the Board that this board and others were designated by the Department for filing last year as part of an ongoing revision of the Department's Conflict of Interest Code.

Wagner provided filing guidelines and copies of the Form 700 to all Voting Members of the Board, along with resources for additional information. Board Members are responsible for filing annually by April 1. Joshua Kress will be the Board Liaison for this filing. Only voting members of the Board will be required to file. A copy of submitted forms will be sent to the California Fair Political Practices Commission.

Wagner noted that Board Members can complete one form for all boards served on, and send copies to each respective Board Liaison. Each copy requires an original signature.

Heaton provided additional background on this disclosure requirement, dating back to California's Political Reform Act of 1974. Wagner noted that CDFA currently had over 1,200

designated filers, and that 37 advisory boards were designated for filing at CDFA, as well as numerous commodity boards and district associations.

5. California Drought Information Update

Nick Condos thanked the Board for their service and their role in assisting CDFA with issues that affect nurseries and nursery stock.

Condos provided an overview of the state's coordinated efforts regarding the drought. The Governor created a Drought Task Force, led by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and with representatives from CDFA, the Department of Water Resources, and state Water Boards.

CDFA held a series of public forums to reach out to the agriculture community to discuss both immediate impacts and potential future impacts of the drought. CDFA also met with various industry boards to provide outreach and seek input on this issue.

6. State Budget Process Overview

Michelle Pham provided an overview of the state's budget process (Attachment 1). Each year in September, a proposed spending plan for all Continuously Appropriated Fund budgets for the following fiscal year must be submitted to the Secretary. Pham explained that as a Continuously Appropriated Fund budget, the Nursery Services Program's expenses are paid for by collected revenue and are not included in the state budget passed by the Legislature each year.

Schnabel explained to the Board that any revenue shortfalls relative to Program expenses are covered by the Program's reserve funds. Most programs maintain sufficient reserves to cover between one-half and one year's total budget.

7. Mission and Objectives Working Group Update

Steve McShane presented Board Mission and Objectives developed by the working group appointed during the September 11, 2013 Board Meeting (Attachment 2). Steve Maniaci motioned to adopt the Mission and Objectives as presented. David Cox seconded. Board unanimously voted in favor. Motion carried.

8. *Phytophthora ramorum* (Sudden Oak Death) Quarantine Update

Amber Morris reported that she has returned to her previous role as Program Manager of the Interior Pest Exclusion Program.

Morris reviewed recent changes to the federal quarantine for *Phytophthora ramorum*. In August 2013, USDA stopped requiring inspections for non-host nursery stock for interstate shipments. Starting on March 31, 2014, nurseries in regulated counties that have not had a positive find since March 31, 2011 will no longer be required to have a Federal Shield for interstate shipments. Inspections for *Phytophthora ramorum* will be incorporated into annual nursery inspections, and the sampling quota of 40 samples per nursery will be removed.

David Cox asked how this new rule will affect phytosanitary certificates that cite the federal regulations for Sudden Oak Death. CDFA was informed by USDA on February 25 that Canada will recognize the new rules as meeting their import requirements. Morris reported that CDFA has not received an answer regarding any other countries, but offered to assist nurseries with any issues that come up.

CDFA will maintain list of nurseries that are authorized to ship interstate under this program. The list will not include nurseries that would require a Federal Shield for interstate shipments but

have chosen not to sign a compliance agreement with CDFA under the new program. Nurseries located in regulated counties with a positive find since March 31, 2011 (13 nurseries in California) and nurseries located in quarantine counties will still require a Federal Shield for interstate shipments.

USDA was developing a new sampling protocol for use at these nurseries, as well as a new confirmed nursery eradication protocol. David Cox asked if any members of the industry would be able to review this new protocol before it was implemented. Morris stated that she would ask USDA if the working document could be shared with the Board Members as representatives of the industry.

Duane Schnabel reported that some of the federal funds previously used for required sampling would now be redirected to education and outreach. Morris and Kathy Kosta noted that these funds would be used for outreach on Best Management Practices at nurseries.

Morris reported that *Phytophthora ramorum* was detected in the environment in Trinity County. On February 25, the quarantine was updated to include all of Trinity County; this brought the total number of quarantined counties in California to 15.

Ha Dang asked about the level of funds available for outreach activities for 2014/15. USDA had projected a 30% reduction in funding for the next fiscal year, but how those funds would be apportioned was unknown.

9. Nursery Services Program Budget and Fund Condition Review

John Heaton presented to the Board a summary of Budget and Fund Condition projections for the Nursery Services Program (Attachments 3 and 4). Projected expenditures for Fiscal Year 2013/14 were \$3,101,548, an increase of 6.8% from the prior year. Corresponding revenue and cost recovery for FY 2013/14 was estimated at a combined \$3,165,126, an increase of approximately 6.3% from the prior year. Program reserves at the end of the fiscal year were estimated to be \$1,544,452.

There was a brief explanation that R&C revenue refers to fees collected from participants in the various Nursery Stock Registration and Certification programs.

Increase in projected revenue for FY 2013/14 was explained as likely due to an increase in the number of licensed sales locations for retailers. Salary increases starting in FY2013/14 were explained as due to end of furloughs.

Duane Schnabel mentioned that there may be additional future salary increases for scientists in the program due to a "Like Pay for Like Work" court settlement. Schnabel also explained that additional travel costs for FY 2013/14 were likely higher due to covering for an injured employee, and should go down again in FY 2014/15. Equipment expenses were primarily for the purchase of replacement vehicles.

It was explained that fund condition is reviewed by the CDFA Budget Office each year to ensure that reserves are maintained at an acceptable level.

Program staff will present a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2015/16 for Board approval at the next scheduled Board Meeting.

10. Asian Citrus Psyllid and Sweet Orange Scab Quarantine Update

Victoria Hornbaker updated the Board on Sweet Orange Scab (SOS) finds in three Southern California counties. Hornbaker mentioned that USDA had requested a minimum countywide quarantine for all three counties. Current USDA protocols for SOS did not allow for the movement of host nursery stock from quarantine areas; CDFA was working with citrus nurseries to develop proposed protocols for this movement to present to USDA. An interior state quarantine for SOS was not yet established; discussions with USDA and industry on the establishment of a quarantine were ongoing. Hornbaker also provided a brief overview of the biology of this disease.

Hornbaker provided an overview of the history of Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) and Huanglongbing (HLB) in California and the current regulatory efforts being taken by CDFA and industry. CDFA was working with the citrus industry to coordinate voluntary areawide treatments by growers for ACP in quarantine areas. Hornbaker also provided an overview of the state and federal regulatory requirements for nursery stock moving within and from an ACP quarantine area.

CDFA maintained an intensive survey of around the HLB find in Hacienda Heights since 2012, including testing of host trees up to six times per year. To date, no additional HLB-positive trees had been detected in California.

CDFA was working with scientists from UC Riverside and Cal Poly Pomona on the use of the parasitic wasp *Tamarixia radiata* as a biocontrol agent to combat ACP. CDFA planned to release 1,000 per square mile in heavily infested areas in Southern California starting in Spring 2014. Research was ongoing regarding a second wasp, *Diaphorencyrtus aligarhensis*.

11. Light Brown Apple Moth Quarantine Update

Duane Schnabel updated the Board on Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). USDA denied a petition to deregulate LBAM in February 2014. Regulatory activities for LBAM continued in many counties throughout California. Eradication efforts for LBAM were ongoing in San Diego, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, and Santa Barbara.

Amber Morris updated the Board on a proposal mentioned at the September 11, 2013 Board Meeting for certification options to ship nursery stock to Canada. Discussions with Canada regarding the proposal were still ongoing.

12. County Agricultural Commissioners Update

Marilyn Kinoshita reported on changes to caps on the use of Telone issued by the Department of Pesticide Regulations (DPR). Kinoshita also mentioned that some nurseries had recently reported difficulties in meeting USDA guidelines for the movement of citrus nursery stock due to conveyances not meeting strict pest exclusionary standards.

Ha Dang updated the Board on the investigation reported at the September 11, 2013 Board Meeting. San Diego County worked with USDA Smuggling Interdiction and Trade Compliance (SITC) and CDFA staff to trace down citrus trees shipped from Florida to California via Ohio that were originally detected through the Detector Dog Team Program.

San Diego County worked with the Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) regarding a nursery infested with coqui frogs. CDFW determined that the coqui frog is an invasive pest, and was working with the county to determine the appropriate actions for eradication.

Dang also reported that an infestation of Red Imported Fire Ant at Miramar Air Reserve Base. San Diego County was working with CDFA and USDA and base personnel to determine next actions. San Diego was currently listed as a non-infested county for RIFA.

San Diego County detected snails on a shipment from Hawaii infested with the Rat Lungworm Nematode. The nematode can cause a deadly disease, eosinophilic meningitis, in humans.

John Kabashima was asked for an update on Polyphagous Shot Hole Borer (PSHB). Kabashima reported that recent genetic research suggested multiple introductions of this pest into Southern California. PSHB was recently found in San Diego County in El Cajon. Significant damage was reported in Los Angeles and Orange counties. Duane Schnabel reported that a suspect PSHB was detected in Los Gatos as part of CDFA's wood boring beetle survey. DNA confirmation of the identification was still pending.

Fred Crowder reported that the recently passed Farm Bill may provide additional funds for pest prevention activities in California. Crowder also reported that Santa Clara, Alameda, and San Mateo counties provided outreach regarding ACP and HLB at various Chinese New Year festivals in the Bay Area. Dean Kelch suggested that future efforts also include outreach regarding the invasive weed Japanese Dodder.

13. Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) Pilot Project Update

David Cox provided an update on the National Plant Board's Systems Approach to Nursery Certification (SANC) Committee. Cox is a member of the Pilot Project subcommittee. The subcommittee requested states to seek out nurseries to volunteer to participate in the pilot. CDFA requested the Board's opinion as to whether CDFA should seek participation from California counties and nurseries in this pilot project. The Board decided to wait to make any recommendation regarding participation until more information is available about the program, including draft compliance agreements and associated documents.

14. New Items

John Kabashima reported that he was scheduled to meet with nurseries along with CDFA and county staff to assist with Magnolia White Scale infested nursery stock and begin developing a treatment protocol for nurseries to follow.

15. Public Comments

None.

16. Next Meeting/Agenda Items

The next meeting will be held in Sacramento in late August or early September. A Doodle poll will be sent out by Joshua Kress around June 1, 2013 to determine best date available.

17. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Joshua Kress
Program Supervisor
CDFA Nursery, Seed, & Cotton Program

Approved by Board Motion on August 26, 2014

