

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE  
OPERATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, June 3, 2020**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	Zac Green	Roger Smith
John Gless	Kevin Severns	Keith Watkins

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

John Gless

**CDFA Staff:**

Paul Figueroa	Magally Luque-Williams	David Phong
David Gutierrez	Dahmoon Maesomy	Aurel Quintana
Amelia Hicks	Zachary McCormick	Lydia Rodriguez
Victoria Hornbaker	Dr. David Morgan	Michael Soltero
Gavin Iacono	Alex Muniz	Patty Tran
Anmol Joshi	Keith Okasaki	Claudia Vazquez
Lucita Kumagai	Lea Pereira	Jennifer Willems

**Guests:**

Ruben Arroyo	Sara Garcia Figuera	Curtis Pate
Bob Atkins	John C. Gless	Sylvie Robillard
Teri Blaser	Dr. Melinda Klein	Jason Schwartz
Brad Carmen	Jessica Leslie	Cressida Silvers
Natalie DeAngelo	Jasmine Lopez	Jack Williams
Daniel Delgado	Mark McBroom	Judy Zaninovich
Holly Deniston	Marcy Martin	Sandra Zwaal
Rick Dunn	Dr. Neil McRoberts	

**Opening**

The Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on June 3, 2020. Keith Watkins welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB**

**Laboratory Update**

Lucita Kumagai stated that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) received 3,808 plant samples in May 2020: 38 percent of capacity. The Citrus Research Board (CRB) lab received 3,550 Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) samples: 42 percent of capacity. The labs received 37,987 samples to date in 2020: 42 percent of capacity.

Lucita stated that Orange County had 1,395 Huanglongbing (HLB)-positive tree finds and 205 Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus (CLas)-positive ACP finds across 957

positive sites. Los Angeles County had 465 positive trees and 78 positive ACP across 379 sites. Riverside County had 26 positive trees and 12 positive ACP across 23 sites. San Bernardino County had 10 positive trees and five positive ACP across 12 sites. She explained that 142 positive trees have been detected to date in 2020, with four positive trees found in May 2020 in Anaheim and Santa Ana. Fountain Valley, La Mirada, San Bernardino, Ontario and Colton had positive finds for the first time in 2020.

Sara Garcia-Figuera explained that the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) is experiencing a lack of data for their scientific models due to under-staffing and COVID-19. There is no exponential growth curve for HLB, but this may be due to poor sample size.

### **HLB Risk Survey Update**

Magally Luque-Williams stated that the Cycle #1 2020 HLB risk-based survey has begun in all counties except Madera, San Benito, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Ventura Counties. Imperial and Kings Counties are completed. 17,456 sites across 550 square miles have been surveyed, with 3,783 ACP samples and 4,125 plant samples collected. Magally explained that there are seven high risk survey staff in Kern, two in Fresno, 13 in Los Angeles, eight in Orange, four in Riverside, four in San Bernardino, nine in San Diego, five in Tulare and one in Santa Barbara Counties, totaling 53 staff.

### **HLB Detection, Delimitation and Tree Removal**

Anmol Joshi explained that staff activities have been affected by protests. He stated that delimitation surveys in 51 areas of Garden Grove are 26 percent complete, 12 areas in Tustin are 83 percent complete, six areas in Huntington Beach are 35 percent complete, 41 areas in Santa Ana are 29 percent complete, five areas in Montclair are 77 percent complete, three areas in La Mirada are 83 percent complete and Norwalk expansion 4 is 72 percent complete. He stated that 12 quadrant samples in Los Angeles County and 157 samples in Orange County were taken in May 2020.

Anmol stated that five trees were removed in Orange County and one in Los Angeles County since the May 2020 meeting, with 15 trees pending removal in Orange County, three pending in Los Angeles and one pending in Riverside. There are warrants pending on one Santa Ana property with four positive trees, one Corona property with one positive tree and one property each in Montebello, Pico Rivera and La Mirada with a total of three positive trees. He stated that samples for the CRB tissue and seasonality sampling project have been taken from 17 non-positive sites and two positive trees in Orange County, three non-positives in Los Angeles County and two non-positives in Riverside County. Anmol stated that the spring cycle of the HLB border survey is 100 percent complete in San Diego County and 82 percent complete in Imperial County. Anmol stated that he has six staff working on delimitation survey, 26 staff on delimitation treatment, one on quadrant survey, two on border survey, three on the CRB survey, one on tree removal and five on commodity survey.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations**

### **Discuss ACP Buffer and Response Treatment Areas**

Keith Okasaki stated that the regulatory working group has met twice to evaluate mitigation requirements for HLB quarantine growers and certified producers, and to evaluate ACP Bulk Citrus Quarantine Zone 5. He explained that quarantined growers can either move fruit to a packer in a contiguous area or to a packer outside the quarantine zone with different mitigation requirements. He noted that some mitigation methods are not readily available to all growers, and there are no organic treatment options to move fruit outside the quarantine zone. The working group added grate cleaning as an option for intra-quarantine movement and as part of dual mitigation. He explained that grate cleaning is an organic option for intra-quarantine movement and reduces unharvested groves but will require increased County Agricultural Commissioner's inspections and cost, increased CDFA regulatory oversight and the effectiveness is reliant on no human error. Grate cleaning requires the same approval process as other methods.

The Subcommittee motioned to recommend the grate-cleaning method be added to the list of citrus mitigations for HLB quarantine growers.

Keith Okasaki stated that CDFA does not intend to change the certified producer requirement to safeguard fruit and keep it free from stems and leaves. Certified producers are much smaller than commercial growers, making it feasible to prevent the movement of non-compliant fruit. He noted that certified producers can move fruit out of the HLB quarantine zone without dual mitigation.

Keith Okasaki stated that the regulatory working group is considering how to divide up ACP Bulk Citrus Zone 5, which consists of Imperial, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego Counties. He stated that splitting the zone reduces the unintended consequences of revoking Quarantine Commodity Permit 1486, allows mitigation of fruit moving into Imperial County and protects desert citrus from ACP. He noted that it would impact Imperial County growers by requiring mitigation of fruit moving from Imperial County and Coachella Valley. The suggested divide follows a mountain range from the Mexico border, because 2,500 feet is a barrier to natural ACP migration. It was stated that there would be four packinghouses in the proposed Zone 5b and four packinghouses in Zone 5a, not including those in the donut hole quarantine zone. The Subcommittee agreed to move the issue to the agenda for the full Committee meeting on July 15, 2020.

### **Discuss ACP Buffer and Response Treatment Areas**

Victoria Hornbaker explained that CDFA follows responsive treatment north of the Tehachapis: conducting delimitation trapping, visual survey and treatment following an ACP detection. In generally infested areas, CDFA follows 400-meter buffer treatments around commercial production within a two-to-three-week time window instead. She asked the Subcommittee to think about if the ACP buffer should be reduced from 400 to 250 meters to match the reduced HLB treatment area. It was noted that Dr. Beth Grafton-Cardwell recommended maintaining a large buffer due to the movement of the ACP.

## **Trapping and Treatment Updates**

### *Southern California*

Anmol stated that resident response on treatment appointments has slowed down after the first two weeks. A public meeting for Whittier, El Monte and Pico Rivera occurred on May 20, 2020 and a public meeting is pending for Santa Ana, Westminster, Garden Grove and City of Orange on June 3, 2020.

### *Central Valley*

Jennifer Willems stated that surveys will be discontinued for the summer and resume in the fall. The risk-based survey Cycle #1 2020 is progressing. She noted that staff in Tulare County and northern Kern County will be assisting other counties, ideally coastal and southern counties. She added that Citrus Division hired three trained staff for risk survey and an Environmental Scientist in Ventura County. Staff are being cross trained for regulatory work. Ventura and Santa Barbara County treatments begin in August.

### *Northern California*

Amelia Hicks stated that there have been no new detections and there are no active treatment areas in Northern California. There are 423 delimitation traps in San Jose through October 2020 and staff are removing winter ACP detection traps, delayed due to COVID-19 and protests.

### *Biocontrol Update*

David Morgan stated that the Biocontrol Program has released over one million *Tamarixia radiata* to date, approximately 75 percent of previous years' production. He explained that releases are still focused on HLB find areas. *Tamarixia* deliveries to Mexico are on hold but deliveries to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and to CRB for the studies in Hemet are ongoing.

### *Regional ACP Update*

Bob Atkins stated that San Joaquin Valley continues to be quiet and southern generally infested communities are in the non-coordinated treatment phase. Pest Control Districts in Imperial, Hemet, Coachella, and San Diego will be treating but are not subject to the 90 percent rule or the three-week timeframe and are usually bundled with thrips treatments. He added that the San Diego Grower Liaison position has been vacant since February 2020, the Statewide Coordinator contract ends on June 30, 2020 and the Riverside contract is under legal review. Victoria explained that the CDFA legal team has provided AB5-compliant language for the Grower Liaison contracts but there are difficulties with providing worker's compensation and unemployment because the Grower Liaisons do not work for CDFA. The San Diego and Statewide Coordinator positions will need to be revised and reissued.

## **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing DATOC Update**

Holly Deniston-Sheets stated that Dr. Lukasz Stelinski from the University of Florida joined the DATOC panel in April following Dr. Tim Gottwald's retirement. She explained

that DATOC continues to refine the agent-based model. DATOC has had two meetings to review the model in depth and continue to work on model validation using the agent-based and webidemics models. She stated that a small group from the panel determined that removing infected trees in the absence of ACP control will have little overall impact, which is an argument for ACP control. She explained that the panel submitted a report on Early Detection Technologies to CRB at CRB's request. DATOC monitors and records ACP populations based on trap data and has received Mexico trap data from USDA. It was explained that the Multi-agency Coordination group catalogues existing research prior to granting any funding for shovel-ready projects, and CRB and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture have extensive databases of previous projects.

### **Data Management Report**

Rick Dunn stated that he is providing data to the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources for their public access web map. He is working with Psyllid Management Area groups and HLB/ACP Task Forces. The commercial citrus layer is being revised; Santa Barbara County is complete, and Ventura County is in progress. He added that CRB is researching options to replace the NOMAD data collection system and reallocating GIS mapping tasks between CDFA and CRB.

### **Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:32 p.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on July 8, 2020.