

**CITRUS PEST AND DISEASE PREVENTION  
OPERATIONS AND SCIENCE JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE WEBINAR MEETING**

**Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, July 8, 2020**

**Operations Subcommittee Members Present:**

Kevin Ball	Zac Green	Roger Smith
Brad Carmen	Kevin Severns	Keith Watkins

**Operations Subcommittee Members Absent:**

John Gless

**Science Subcommittee Members Present:**

Ed Civerolo	Dr. Melinda Klein	Dr. Etienne Rabe
Aaron Dillon	Kevin Olsen	

**CDFA Staff:**

Karina Chu	Dr. Jason Leathers	David Phong
Paul Figueroa	Magally Luque-Williams	Lydia Rodriguez
David Gutierrez	Zachary McCormack	Michael Soltero
Amelia Hicks	Alex Muñiz	Claudia Vazquez
Victoria Hornbaker	Keith Okasaki	Jennifer Willems
Anmol Joshi	Lea Pereira	

**Guests:**

Teri Blaser	Jim Gorden	Sylvie Robillard
Natalie DeAngelo	Subhas Hajeri	Margo Sanchez
Holly Deniston-Sheets	Mark McBroom	Cressida Silvers
Sara Garcia-Figuera	Dr. Neil McRoberts	Jack Williams
John C. Gless	Curtis Pate	Judy Zaninovich
Jim Gorden	Monique Rivera	Sandra Zwaal

**Opening**

The Joint Subcommittee meeting was called to order via webinar at 9:00 a.m. on July 8, 2020. Keith Watkins welcomed the subcommittee members, guests, and staff participating via webinar.

**STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – Improve Data Technology, Analysis and Sharing  
Ethyl Formate Registration Update**

Dr. Etienne Rabe stated that the Ethyl Formate registration paperwork has been submitted to the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and James Cranney is working with California Department of Pesticide Regulation to see if the registration can be conducted concurrently with EPA.

### **Effectiveness of Huanglongbing (HLB) Tree Removal**

Dr. Neil McRoberts stated that Holly Deniston-Sheets is using an agent-based model by using historical data from San Gabriel HLB survey and treatment data. This model is set to the start of an outbreak and running a five-year simulation. He explained that chemical control has a much larger effect than tree removal, but that tree removal and treatment have a cumulative effect. He noted that due to COVID-19, United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) is limited in their access to the mainframe and the Data Analysis and Tactical Operations Center (DATOC) can only run a five-year model remotely.

Neil added that Dr. Weiqi Luo is recalibrating the survey risk calculations based on the changes brought about by COVID-19.

### **Organic Fruit Movement Options**

Dr. Monique Rivera stated there are currently no good organic treatment options for Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). She recommends organic growers use the grate cleaning mitigation to clean fruit so it can be moved to packinghouses. She explained that Entrust organic pesticide and other organic treatment options are not efficacious against psyllids. It was suggested that Canine Detection dogs are being trained to detect ACP. Victoria Hornbaker noted that the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) welcomes innovation from growers such as the grate cleaning mitigation method and canine support but cautions that there is no regulatory authority for canine detection results.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – Find and Eradicate HLB Delimitation Resource Allocation**

Victoria stated that CDFA is transitioning from a delimitation survey circumference of 400 meters down to 250 meters. She suggested that the best use of the additional resources is to work through areas faster and streamline processes resulting in less lag time between detection and public meetings. Additionally, revamping resources to focus on risk survey in areas that weren't highlighted in the USDA risk survey. A treatment timeline was requested by the Committee to provide context. She noted that Nuffer Smith Tucker has produced a preprinted post card that will be used to invite residents to public meetings, this will assist in reducing public meeting delays.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2 – Control ACP Movement and Enforce Regulations Review HLB Quarantine Boundaries**

Keith Okasaki stated that the regulatory working group convened to discuss splitting ACP Bulk Citrus Zone 5 and to evaluate a Quarantine Commodity (QC) permit to ship fruit into the HLB quarantine. He noted that splitting the zone would reduce consequences of revoking QC 1486, which resulted in more organic fruit moving from San Diego to Imperial County. He stated that the revised proposal is to keep Zone 5 intact, create a systematic response to isolated HLB detections and issue a permit to move fruit into the HLB quarantine. Growers in the adjacent Zone 5 would be able to move fruit into the 'donut hole' HLB quarantine with only the tarping mitigation. Advantages to this approach is a reduction of unintended consequences of revoking QC

1486, reduce required inspections and program cost, would not require splitting Zone 5 and can apply to future HLB quarantine areas. The disadvantage is that it may add more ACP to the HLB quarantine area. Keith Watkins explained that this was a compromise to try and reduce difficulties for growers. It was noted that revoking the permit did require growers to treat who otherwise would not. The Subcommittee motioned to move the proposal to the full Committee.

### **STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – ACP Control/Suppression**

#### **Analysis of ACP Treatment Areas**

Monique stated that residential acceptance and availability of timely treatment can inhibit the success of border sprays. She explained that 60 percent of properties are receiving treatment. Insecticide treatments cause adult ACP to move, usually to the nearest citrus tree, which can be highly problematic in areas where systemic insecticides are not an option. She added that a currently unpublished study from Dr. Setamou suggests that ACP are mostly coming from residential areas 100 feet away from groves, but she noted that he had very low ACP recapture numbers. She stated that tree identity is critical to risk assessment because lemons can host more ACP per year. She suggested that it should be assumed that most citrus is lemons.

Monique recommended reducing border treatments to 100-200 meters and should be within a two-week treatment window. She stated that the first 100 feet is critical to address the amount of no contacts with owners.

Anmol Joshi noted that no host numbers refer to properties with no citrus hosts and no contacts are owners which could not be contacted in three visits. Neil stated that DATOC can assist Monique with refining her analysis using existing flush data, distributions of different host species, and the data surrounding HLB detections. Keith Watkins recommended returning with a new analysis excluding no host properties at the next Subcommittee meeting.

#### **Closing**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 p.m. The next meeting will be held via webinar on August 5, 2020.