

CITRUS PEST DETECTION PROGRAM (CPDP)
operated by the
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA TRISTEZA ERADICATION AGENCY (CCTEA)

**SPECIAL MEETING
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
CCTEA Conference Room**

September 28, 2017

DRAFT

MINUTES

TAC MEMBERS PRESENT: On-site: Jim Gorden, grower; Dr. Robert Krueger, USDA; Dr. MaryLou Polek, USDA; Mr. Jim Rudig, CDFA, Retired; Tom Tucker, Tulare County Ag Commissioner's office; Dr. Georgios Vidalakis (Chair), UC/CCPP; Dr. Ray Yokomi, USDA/ARS. Via Teleconference: Melissa Cregan, Fresno County Ag Commissioner's office; Dr. Richard Lee, USDA/ARS, Retired; **TAC members absent:** Dr. Ed Civerolo, USDA-ARS (retired); Glenn Fankhauser, Kern County Ag Commissioner; Beth Grafton-Cardwell, LREC; Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA.

ATTENDANCE: CPDP Staff: Jill Barnier, Program Manager; Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Plant Pathologist / Laboratory Operations Manager; Anthony Patino, ELISA Supervisor; Karen Westerman, Field Operations Manager. **Others:** Jimmy Hook, Kings County Ag Commissioner's office; Stan Ishii, Chair, CCTEA Board of Commissioners and Central Valley Pest Control District; Dennis Johnston, Chair, Kern County Citrus Pest Control District; Tom Mulholland, Director, Central Valley Pest Control District; Vijayanandraj Selvaraj and Yogita Maheshwari, visiting scientists, Yokomi lab.

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Georgios Vidalakis called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.
- II. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Attendees made self-introductions.
- III. **APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2015 MINUTES:** It was moved by Mr. Gorden, seconded by Dr. Yokomi, to approve the minutes as presented. The motion carried on a voice vote, all members present voting AYE.
- IV. **SUMMARY REPORT: CTV SURVEY, DETECTION AND REMOVAL, 2009-2017:** Dr. Hajeri reviewed the written report, explaining that in the second 4-year period preliminary implementation of a risk-based strategy began. He stated that the CPDP has just received Dr. Gottwald's HLB risk-based model listing for commercial citrus, and stated that Dr. Gottwald's team continues to work on a multi-pest version for the CPDP's use. Dr. Yokomi reported that his data shows that the incidence of MCA-13 reactive strains is very low. He suggested that those exotics with the threat of virulence are likely to have the same pathway of introduction as HLB, and the developing risk model will address this.
- V. **DISCUSSION: ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES BETWEEN CTV AND HLB EFFORTS** (Talking points: Should CTV survey continue? If so, what percent of funds should be allocated to CTV survey? What is the best use of CTV-allocated funds?): Mr. Johnston spoke to the critical nature of maintaining an Effective Plan, and there was general agreement that it is worth maintaining some CTV effort in order to support Interior Quarantine "suppressive" designations, and to protect the Lindcove Research and Extension Center (LREC). It was pointed out that there is opportunity to do multiple tests from a single collection of plant tissue with little additional cost. There were suggestions that the CPDP 1) be in contact with the CDFA, CPDPC, and pest control districts statewide to review existing survey efforts for possible coordination and to clarify assignment of roles

(residential and commercial); and 2) examine the overlap and differences between pathosystems and the areas suggested for survey based on the risk-based model(s).

A number of suggestions were made for eventual consideration and possible implementation as the CPDP moves forward with involvement in HLB-related efforts. These included: providing psyllid testing; use of early detection technologies; offering survey work under contract to all California pest control districts (become a statewide program); assisting in programs for proactive tree removals.

Operational details to be considered were pointed out, such as: titer and preferred tissue sampling differences between CTV and HLB; the validity of different collection patterns for both CTV and HLB; the need for a period of parallel ELISA and PCR testing to support the change in the CTV program; emphasis on positive psyllid detection as an earlier indicator than symptomatic trees; the critical importance of intensive training for staff members in identification of psyllids and HLB symptoms, as well as survey and collection methods, best accomplished by sending them to Florida for direct exposure; commercial/residential/urban interface survey needs as indicated by the risk model, factoring in Bartel's cluster analysis.

VI. DISCUSSION and VALIDATION OF PROPOSED PILOT HLB SURVEY PROGRAM FOR FALL, 2017: Staff presented a proposal for a pilot project to begin this fall, with stated goals of 1) providing crew training in visual survey for HLB symptoms and for ACP; 2) working with new collections pattern(s), sample tissue selection, and sample handling protocols; and 3) collecting a significant number of samples to increase the throughput of the PCR lab. In extensive discussion, additional emphasis was placed on the importance of sending staff to Florida to get the best training possible, through direct exposure to HLB and its impacts. In addition, the TAC urged ongoing evaluation, culminating in a SWOT analysis (Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat) and a report back to the TAC. It was further suggested that the pilot should include some testing for additional pathogens, and the project would benefit from starting small and scaling up.

The TAC discussed the current status of several HLB early detection technologies at some length. While most were identified as not yet being ready for implementation, those seen as having the most likely application at the CPDP were the phytobiome and serological methods being developed.

Ultimately, the discussions were summed up in the following recommendations:

It was moved by Mr. Rudig, seconded by Mr. Gorden, to proceed with the HLB Pilot Project as proposed, with the following additions: 1) include testing of multiple pests; 2) provide in-depth training of personnel; 3) evaluate while in progress, recording any and all problems encountered, and conclude with a SWOT Analysis (strength, weakness, opportunity, threat) to report back to the TAC; The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

It was moved by Dr. Polek, seconded by Dr. Yokomi, that the TAC recommends development of a new Effective Plan, transferring emphasis from CTV to HLB in a multi-pest program utilizing a high-risk survey model, including an appropriate amount of CTV sampling in order to retain suppressive quarantine status and to protect the Lindcove Research and Extension Center. The motion carried on a voice vote, all present voting AYE.

VII. POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL TAC MEMBERS: Ms. Barnier asked for input as to whether there are any scientific advisors specific to the HLB threat who should be added to the TAC. The consensus was that there may be some experts the CPDP would want to include in specific discussions, it is not necessary at this time to make a change to the membership of the Committee.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS: None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m., with attendees invited to tour the molecular biology laboratory.

Georgios Vidalakis, Chair

Jill Barnier, Program Manager