ALLIANCE OF PEST CONTROL DISTRICTS
22847 Road 140, Tulare, California

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2025

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE at 22847 Road 140, Tulare (APCD office):

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV and John Corkins *(Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD)*
Jim Zimmerman and Steve Scarbrough *(Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD – STCCPCD)*
Jay Gillette and James McKinney *(Central Valley PCD – CVPCD)*
Milo Gorden and Jeff Steen *(Tulare County PCD-TCPCD)*

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; Dr. Saurabh Gautam, Field Manager/Entomologist; Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, Lab Manager/Safety Officer; Ron Carter, Field Supervisor; Hailey Jones, Administrative Assistant; and Jose Pena, Field Operations/QAL

Other: Judy Zaninovich, APCD Grower Liaison (KCCPCD & CVPCD); Christopher Greer, Assistant Tulare County Ag Commissioner/Sealer; Casey Creamer, CCM; Marla Borges, M. Green and co; and Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:
Commissioners: None.

Other: Jessica Leslie, APCD Grower Liaison (TCPCD & STCCPCD); Janet Hayhurst, Grower; Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer; Jennifer Willems, CDFA; Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Services; Manuel Gaitan, Riverside County Citrus Pest Control District General Manager; and Keith Okasaki, CDFA

Absent Commissioners: None.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Fisher IV called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All in attendance identified themselves.

OPEN SESSION:

Public Comments: None.

Presentation of 2024-2025 Annual Audit

Marla Borges of M. Green and Co. gave a report on the 2024-2025 audit report for APCD. She discussed several financial statements and concluded that the auditors issued an opinion that all statements were presented fairly in all material respects.

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to accept the presentation of the 2024-2025 Annual Audit, as presented. The motion carried, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Approval of Budget Revision for FY 2025-2026; Resolution 2025-04

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig presented a proposed budget revision for FY 2025–2026. She highlighted key changes, including the addition of a $120,000 budget line for Grower Liaison services and adjustments to staffing. Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri noted that all districts would contribute proportionately to funding the Grower Liaison positions.

It was moved by Commissioner Zimmerman, seconded by Commissioner McKinney, to approve the Budget Revision for FY 2025-2026, Resolution 2025-04, as presented. The motion carried, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, October 15, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on October 15, 2025, as presented. The motion carried, with all in attendance voting aye.

Departmental Operations:

Field and Lab activities: October and November 2025

Dr. Subhas Hajeri announced the conclusion of the Fall Trapping season and presented the results. A total of over 20,000 traps were serviced between September and December. A graph was presented illustrating increased trapping efficiency over the past two years. Dr. Hajeri also outlined planned changes for the Winter trapping program, including the addition of a third trapper, with each trapper responsible for 750 sites. Trap locations would focus on major highways and high-risk areas. Additionally, turnaround time for servicing traps would increase from two to three weeks, based on research indicating that Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) DNA can remain viable for up to eight weeks in the Fall. Ongoing research will continue across different seasons to evaluate seasonal variables.

Dr. Hajeri then reviewed ACP detections reported in 2025. He noted that ACP were identified at non-citrus trap sites along Highway 126 and the northbound I-5 weigh station year-round. Additional detections occurred at a non-citrus site at a Castaic truck stop and at the Tejon Outlet Mall in Kern County. Several ACP were also found in commercial citrus in Kern County through trapping and tap sampling. Coordinated treatments were implemented, delimitation trapping was conducted, and no further ACP were detected.

This prompted discussion regarding whether ACP detected on APCD traps could be considered "official" findings. Relevant sections of the Food and Agricultural Code, provided by CDFA, had been submitted to the APCD legal team and were under review. Commissioner Jeff Steen referenced a recent meeting with CDFA officials and emphasized the importance of establishing collaboration and clear communication.

APCD Grower Liaison Updates

Judy Zaninovich, APCD Grower Liaison, reported that there had been 24 ACP detections to date. She noted that three detections occurred in Madera County, where no commercial citrus was present; however, a breeding colony was identified, and treatments were underway. Eight detections were reported in Fresno County, including the discovery of a breeding colony on a residential property. Treatments had been initiated, and no commercial citrus was located nearby. Tulare County reported two detections in the Lemon Cove area. Kern County accounted for 11 detections, including five residential detections identified by CDFA and six commercial or non-citrus detections identified by APCD. These included a commercial detection in May in the Arvin area, a non-citrus trap detection in September at the Tejon Outlet Mall, a commercial trap detection in October in the Rancho Road area, accompanied by two additional live adults found through tap sampling, and a single commercial trap detection east of Mettler. Zaninovich reported that all growers cooperated fully with treatment efforts.

Zaninovich then presented historical ACP detection data across districts, categorized by residential, commercial, and citrus-processing sites. Since 2018, 26% of ACP detections have occurred in commercial citrus, 9% at citrus processing facilities, and 65% in residential areas.

Dr. Hajeri expressed interest in periodically revisiting sites where live ACP had been detected to test trees for HLB using alternative tissue, rather than relying solely on symptomatic leaf testing. He explained that data

collected by APCD indicate that *Candidatus Liberibacter asiaticus* (CLas) may remain in the lower portions of the tree for several months. As a result, a negative test from leaf tissue alone does not necessarily confirm the absence of infection. The goal of this approach would be to establish baseline data for these trees.

Libby Ouellette of the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office added that psyllids collected from the live breeding colony discovered at a residential property in Fresno County were tested for CLas and returned negative results. Keith Okasaki of CDFA also noted that following CDFA's reevaluation of risk assessment criteria for selecting areas for multi-pest surveys, locations with previous detections have been closely monitored, with samples collected during those surveys.

Zaninovich concluded with a brief overview of current HLB detections in California, noting that surveillance efforts have shifted away from established hotspot areas toward the outer edges of HLB quarantine boundaries, particularly along agricultural–urban interface areas. She explained that this shift has resulted in a slower rate of HLB detection, although disease spread is expected to continue within existing quarantine boundaries.

APCD and CDFA Meeting Updates

Dr. Hajeri presented slides summarizing agendas from several past meetings with CDFA, highlighting ongoing efforts to clarify the role of PCDs. He also briefly reviewed progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee established by CPDPC, noting that further discussions within the group were needed.

Administrative Activities

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2025-2026

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expenses: October and November 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: October and November 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Gillette, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to approve the Warrant Lists for October and November 2025, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: None.

Reports:

CCM Update

Casey Creamer presented on the topic of developing a citrus commission in California. He provided an overview of the California Marketing Act of 1937 (Food & Agricultural Code, Division 21), which allows growers and handlers of a commodity to collectively fund and manage programs for promotion, research, quality regulation, or protection against threats to their crop. Creamer outlined the steps necessary to establish the commission, including passing enabling legislation, conducting a referendum, and managing the operational transition. He also discussed in detail the structural challenges of the CPDPP and emphasized that transitioning to a commission would provide growers with greater financial and operational control over the industry. Creamer presented a side-by-side comparison highlighting the differences between the current CDFA Citrus Division and a proposed Citrus Commission. The topic prompted an extended discussion among attendees.

Ag Commissioner Updates

Libby Ouellette of the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office provided a brief update on the ACP detection in Fresno County. She reported that two residential properties were involved and that a total of 84 psyllids had been detected to date. Both properties where ACPs were detected had been treated; however,

several nearby residences had not yet consented to treatment, and outreach efforts were ongoing. Delimitation trapping in the area remained underway. No additional detections had been made since October 30, 2025.

Ouellette also reported that Bulk Citrus Transporter inspections were currently in progress. She noted that the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office experienced a $20,000 budget reduction; however, despite the reduction, inspection activity increased. To date, 11 violations have been identified, primarily involving paperwork issues or minor tarping deficiencies.

Additionally, Ouellette shared that Lisa Finke deployed an ACP detection dog to an area of concern in North Clovis. The area, which previously contained commercial citrus but has not been farmed commercially for some time, was identified as a potential risk site. ACP detection traps were also deployed in the area for monitoring purposes. Although the number of trap sites declined due to budget constraints, CDFA assumed responsibility for those sites and supplemented the reduced trapping coverage.

Chris Greer of the Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner's Office reported that Bulk Citrus load inspections were ongoing, with approximately 2,600 inspections completed to date. A total of 65 Notices of Violation (NOVs) had been issued. He noted that while there had been a few repeat offenders, overall violations had decreased compared to previous years. The Agricultural Commissioner's Office was exploring the possibility of elevating repeat compliance issues to the state level, including potential revocation of compliance agreements.

Greer also reported that Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner Tom Tucker was currently addressing approximately 124 parcels associated with abandoned or neglected citrus orchards. He referenced an assembly bill scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2026, which would authorize county agricultural commissioners to issue fines for the neglect or abandonment of orchards.

Additionally, Greer stated that Tulare County continued to participate in a year-round ACP trapping program. He concluded with a brief update on fruit fly detections occurring throughout California.

Cerise Montanio of the Kern County Agricultural Commissioner's Office was unable to attend the meeting but provided an email update.

CDFA Updates

None.

UC IPM Report

Sandipa Gautam, UC Area Citrus IPM Advisor, was unable to attend the meeting but provided a presentation.

Commissioner Milo Gorden reported a significant increase in snail populations and expressed concern regarding potential impacts on crops. He discussed challenges in preventing snails from entering trees and noted that current snail bait use has not been effective. Commissioner Gorden requested input and recommendations from other growers. A conversation on this topic ensued.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Greer announced that discussions were underway on potential updates to DPR regulations to modify the level of fines for pesticide-related violations, including proposals to increase the baseline penalty. He noted that the regulatory changes are still in development and are subject to a public comment period, and he encouraged stakeholders to share information and participate by submitting public comments for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neuhzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager