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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

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 Nate Laux (Sub.) *(Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD – STCCPCD)*
Jay Gillette and Janet Hayhurst (Sub.) *(Central Valley PCD – CVPCD)*
Milo Gorden and Jeff Steen *(Tulare County PCD-TCPCD)*

Staff: Dr. Subhas Hajeri, Managing Director; Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager; 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); Sam Conant, Tulare County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:
Commissioners: None.

Other: Jessica Leslie, APCD Grower Liaison (STCCPCD & TCPCD); Cerise Montanio, Kern County Agricultural Deputy Director; and Fabian Velasco, Sr. Environmental Scientist, CPDPD, CDFA

Absent Commissioners: James McKinney, *CVPCD*; and Steve Scarbrough, *STCCPCD*

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.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 15, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gorden to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 15, 2026, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Adopt Resolution 2026-02: Adoption of Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Steen to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-02 and accept the adoption of the budget for fiscal year 2026-2027, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

Departmental Operations:

Field and Lab activities: April and May 2026

Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri reported that over 15,000 traps were serviced by eight trappers in 33 working days, with an average of 72.5 traps per day. The discussion also covered non-citrus trapping around 69 sites, with eight additional sites added around the Hard Rock casino perimeter in Kern County. The lab

reported screening over 10,000 traps thus far. No ACP had been detected in commercial citrus, however; there was a single ACP detection on a non-citrus trap located near the Tejon Outlet Mall in Kern County. That find was most likely attributed to a "hitchhiker" situation. No additional finds had been detected.

Hajeri discussed testing 377 samples from the LREC Field station with most testing positive for CTV and only one sample testing positive for MCA-13. The lab was working on optimizing protocols for high-throughput testing of ACP samples with all tested samples so far being negative for HLB. The team is also developing a new protocol for processing insect samples, which involves using histo-clear and specific processing steps to separate insects from traps, with a cost of approximately $3 per sample and processing time of about one hour per trap.

Lab manager, Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, discussed DNA extraction methods for detecting citrus pathogens, finding that spin column processing without centrifugation and a 30-minute treatment time produced the best results for HLB and ACP DNA detection. He confirmed that while some glue residue remained on membranes after processing, it didn't affect DNA detection capabilities. The group agreed to focus primarily on ACP and HLB detection (80-90% of efforts) rather than focus too heavily on other pests like GWSS and whiteflies, though they would test 10% of samples for additional pathogens as recommended by the TAC committee. The team was working on developing protocols and plans to present recommendations to the board after completing additional TAC meetings, with the goal of creating a comprehensive operational framework for multi pest detection within the next six months.

TAC Meeting Review

Dr. Hajeri provided a brief update. He noted that further discussion and additional meetings needed to be held. Updates would be provided at the next Board meeting.

APCD Grower Liaison Updates

APCD Grower Liaison Judy Zaninovich provided an update on ACP detections. She stated that in general, most detections were residential, with most occurring during August through November. Zaninovich also discussed ongoing activities that included attendance at various committee meetings and provided updates on the GWSS program, mentioning that it was facing funding challenges and potential program changes.

Administrative Activities

Approval of 25-26 Audit Report

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report. The Board approved a $17,250 audit with M Green for fiscal years 2025-26.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Zimmerman to approve the financial audit report of FY 25-26 as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2025-2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expenses: April and May 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: April and May 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Corkins to accept and ratify the warrant list for April and May 2026, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Additional dollars needed for Microscope, DNA Measurement Machine, ultra-low-temperature freezer

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Laux to approve up to $30,000 for equipment purchases including a stereo microscope, spectrophotometer, and minus 80-degree freezer. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Tulare County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, Sam Conant provided updates on bulk citrus inspections, reporting 1,500 inspections with only 19 violations year-to-date, and noted four open abatements totaling 640 acres in Tulare County.

Kern County Agricultural Deputy Director Cerise Montanio reported that the ACP Bulk Citrus contract had been fully expended for the year and that 35 new compliance agreements had been issued. She provided an update on ongoing ACP trapping efforts and noted that there had been no new detections. Montanio also reported on a GWSS incident involving a northern California Costco which had affected seven consumers in Kern County. Investigations and inspections were underway.

The Board discussed abatement processes for abandoned citrus in Kern and Tulare counties. Montanio clarified that abatement proceedings moved more quickly when adjacent growers made contact and explained that growers need only provide a brief email or phone call to their local Ag Commissioner's office's outlining how the nuisance fields impact their operations

CCM Report

None.

CDFA Updates

Fabian Velasco of CDFA provided updates on ACP findings and response actions in Kern County, including surveys and increased trapping efforts following the recent Tejon Outlet Mall detection. He also reported on 21 newly detected HLB-positive trees in Santa Paula, noting most new cases were on previously positive properties.

UC IPM Report

None.

CRB Report

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jay Gillette emphasized the importance of maintaining regular communication between the BOC and CPDPC and suggested that future BOC meeting agendas include a standing item for updates from CPDPC meetings to ensure the Board remains informed of relevant discussions, program developments, and potential impacts to district operations.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager