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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

MINUTES

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

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

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

Other: Keith Okasaki, CDFA; Judy Zaninovich, APCD Grower Liaison (KCCPCD & CVPCD); Jessica Leslie, APCD Grower Liaison (STCCPCD & TCPCD); Christopher Greer, Tulare County Interim Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; and Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:
Commissioners: None.

Other: Cerise Montanio, Kern County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner; Michelle SansSoucie, Deputy Director-Ag Protection at Kern County Agricultural Commissioner; and Jennifer Willims, CDFA

Absent Commissioners: 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, June 17, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 17, 2026, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Departmental Operations:

Field and Lab activities: June and July 2026

Field Supervisor Ron Carter reported that the Agency's eight trappers completed approximately 32,750 site visits since the start of the season in April and had serviced just over 32,000 trap sites as of August 5, 2026. Trappers were averaging 70 to 75 trap services per day. Carter also reported that approximately 389 non-citrus trap site visits had been completed since January 1, with 366 traps serviced.

Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri provided an extensive update regarding several recent Asian Citrus Psyllid (ACP) trap detections and the Agency's response efforts. The most significant detection occurred in commercial citrus near a citrus packing house in Tulare County. An ACP-positive trap located immediately adjacent to the facility prompted a field investigation. Agency staff subsequently identified a breeding colony containing adult ACP, nymphs, and eggs in nearby trees to the original find. Hajeri reported that no ACP had been detected in the area during winter trapping, and the initial spring trapping round was negative. The ACP-positive trap was hung on May 26, collected on June 11, and screened on June 23, when three ACP adults were identified. CDFA and county agricultural commissioner staff were immediately notified and confirmed additional ACP populations in the area during follow-up surveys. County and CDFA representatives reported that inspections and record reviews did not reveal regulatory violations or evidence of improper citrus movement.

Hajeri reported that grower cooperation following the detection was exceptional. Within approximately 48 hours of the find, growers in the affected area had been notified, delimitation traps were deployed, visual surveys completed, and coordinated treatments initiated. According to the Grower Liaison team, all growers within the treatment area voluntarily applied recommended ACP control measures, with some growers completing additional treatments beyond the standard protocol. Hajeri noted that no ACP spread has been detected outside the original treatment area and credited rapid communication and grower participation for the successful response.

Hajeri also discussed a significant trap find near Orange Cove. One APCD trap contained six ACP adults; however, despite extensive follow-up inspections and additional surveys by APCD, CDFA, and Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's staff, no breeding colony or additional ACP evidence was located. The Board discussed challenges associated with "unofficial" detections found on APCD traps and the importance of continuing delimitation and response efforts regardless of regulatory classification. The Grower Liaison team emphasized that all growers in the area completed voluntary treatments consistent with established ACP response protocols.

Additional ACP detections were reported at a northbound Interstate 5 brake-check area north of Castaic and in commercial citrus south of Arvin in Kern County. Hajeri noted these detections reinforce the importance of transportation corridors as potential ACP introduction pathways. Board members discussed the likelihood of ACP movement through commercial vehicles, personal vehicles, harvest crews, and other transportation-related activities. Hajeri indicated that historical ACP detections have occurred in the Kern County area where the most recent find was identified, making continued monitoring important.

Throughout the discussion, Hajeri highlighted the effectiveness of the current trapping program and response procedures. The Board reviewed the timeline between trap placement, collection, laboratory screening, and field responses. Hajeri indicated that while field operations were functioning effectively, laboratory screening delays continued to create a bottleneck, with some traps remaining in the laboratory for up to two weeks before review. The Agency continues exploring artificial intelligence-assisted trap screening technology and additional staffing options to improve turnaround times and accelerate detection response efforts.

Hajeri reported that laboratory personnel screened more than 29,000 traps during the current season. Screening efforts identified 16 ACP, approximately 4,000 whiteflies, and more than 40,000 Glassy-Winged Sharpshooters (GWSS). The laboratory also processed approximately 1,300 diagnostic samples, including ACP testing and research projects evaluating ACP DNA longevity on traps and improvements to ACP and plant testing protocols. All ACP samples associated with the recent detections tested negative for Huanglongbing (HLB).

APCD Grower Liaison Updates

Jessica Leslie and Judy Zaninovich reported that no new ACP detections had occurred since treatment protocols were implemented around recent detections. Tamarixia releases were conducted in residential areas, and growers have demonstrated excellent cooperation with recommended treatments. Coordinated treatment efforts continued around recent detections in Fresno and Kern Counties, while an abandoned citrus property in Fresno County was being monitored and evaluated for potential treatment options. Additional updates were provided regarding GWSS populations, which were significantly higher than in recent years, as well as potential funding reductions that could affect GWSS programs and associated treatment efforts.

TAC Meeting Updates

Hajeri summarized the July 21, 2026, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting, during which the Committee continued developing the Agency's operational plan and established priorities for monitoring and response activities. Discussions focused on ACP and HLB, Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVCV), Citrus Variegated Chlorosis, and Citrus Leprosis Virus. The TAC recommended maintaining ACP/HLB as the program's highest priority. Staff also reported ongoing collaboration with CDFA and UC researchers to better understand CYVCV transmission pathways and potential insect vectors. Additionally, the TAC continues to refine risk-based trapping strategies by evaluating increased monitoring at locations that may serve as potential ACP introduction pathways, including packing houses, truck yards, transportation corridors, nurseries, and truck stops. The Committee further recommended incorporating local operational knowledge into future trap placement decisions to improve detection effectiveness.

Administrative Activities

Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reported that Commissioner Steve Scarbrough had resigned from both the Southern Tulare Citrus Pest Control District Board and the APCD Board.

The Board expressed appreciation for Mr. Scarbrough's 18 years of service.

Commissioner John Corkins nominated Commissioner Milo Gorden to serve as Vice Chairman of the APCD Board. Commissioner Gorden accepted the nomination.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gillette to elect John N. Fisher IV as Chairman, Milo Gorden as Vice Chairman, and James McKinney as Secretary. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Review and Approve Resolution 2026-03: MOU with SDRMA

Neunzig presented Resolution 2026-03 authorizing an updated Memorandum of Understanding with the Special District Risk Management Authority (SDRMA).

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Steen to approve and accept the updated MOU with SDRMA, Resolution 2026-03, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all in attendance voting AYE.

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2025-2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expenses: June and July 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: June and July 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

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

Capital Expenditures: Two New Vehicles

Neunzig requested authorization to purchase two replacement vehicles not to exceed $76,000. The replacement vehicles would replace two older vehicles aged 16 and 20 years with high mileage.

It was moved by Commissioner Gorden, seconded by Commissioner Corkins to approve the purchase of two new vehicles not to exceed $76,000. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Interim Ag Commissioner/Sealer for Tulare County Chris Greer reported that approximately 2,200 citrus inspections had been conducted in 2026, resulting in 35 notices of violation, with compliance rates continuing to improve. Tulare County continued to address neglected orchard issues through existing authority and new nuisance orchard legislation (AB 732). Greer also reported that environmental justice groups had requested expanded pesticide application buffer zones around schools from one-quarter mile to one mile, and feedback from agricultural stakeholders was currently being solicited regarding the proposed expansion.

Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer for Fresno County Libby Ouellette reported strong compliance with citrus transportation requirements, with continued emphasis on inspecting citrus movement paperwork. She also announced the acquisition of a new USDA detector dog to support inspection efforts. Additionally, non-compliant top-worked citrus trees and associated nursery stock were destroyed in Fresno and Tulare Counties.

Kern County Assistant Agricultural Commissioner, Cerise Montanio reported that no new ACP detections had been identified through county-operated trapping and that no HLB detections had occurred. Bulk citrus movement activities had slowed due to grape season, and packing shed audits had been completed. Trace-back investigations associated with recent Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter (GWSS) detections found no infestations, while neglected orchard enforcement efforts continued to produce positive results. Montanio also announced that Michelle SansSoucie would assume responsibility for ACP and GWSS program oversight following her promotion to Assistant Agricultural Commissioner.

CDFA Updates

Keith Okasaki of CDFA reported that strong coordination continued among APCD, county agricultural commissioners, and the CDFA. He noted that the first ACP detection in San Benito County in approximately 10 years had been identified. Imperial County also recorded its first HLB-positive tree in a residential Mexican lime tree near the U.S.-Mexico border, while additional CYVCV detections had been identified in San Joaquin County. Additionally, an industry ad hoc committee had been established to evaluate potential improvements and future priorities for the ACP program.

UC IPM Report

None.

CCM Report

Milo Gorden reported that a new CCM Director had been hired and was expected to begin September 1, 2026.

CRB Report

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neunzig reminded commissioners to watch for upcoming DocuSign documents requiring signatures.

Field Supervisor Jose Pena advised commissioners of surplus materials available from greenhouse-related operations that could be reused rather than disposed of.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:18 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager