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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2026

MINUTES

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

Commissioners: John N. Fisher IV and John Corkins *(Kern County Citrus PCD – KCCPCD)*
Steve Scarbrough and Nate Laux (Sub.) *(Southern Tulare County Citrus PCD – STCCPCD)*
Jay Gillette *(Central Valley PCD – CVPCD)*
Milo Gorden *(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; Jose Pena, Field Operations/QAL; and Tony Patino, Lab Testing Supervisor

Other: Dr. Ray Yokomi, retired USDA; Judy Zaninovich, APCD Grower Liaison (KCCPCD & CVPCD); Jessica Leslie, APCD Grower Liaison (STCCPCD & TCPCD); Christopher Greer, Assistant Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; and Sam Lok, Pinnacle Technology

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:
Commissioners: Jeff Steen *(Tulare County PCD-TCPCD)*

Other: Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Services; Dr. Georgios Vidalakis, UC Riverside; Cerise Montanio, Kern County Agricultural Deputy Director; and Dr. Sandipa Gautam, UCANR Citrus IPM Advisor

Absent Commissioners: James McKinney, *CVPCD*; and Jim Zimmerman, *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.

Retirement Recognition for Dr. Ray Yokomi

Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri presented a brief overview of Dr. Ray Yokomi's collaborative work and longstanding contributions to the citrus industry in recognition of his retirement from the USDA. The room was opened to give thanks and recognition to Dr. Yokomi.

Review and Approve the Budget Proposal for FY 2026-2027

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the proposed budget for FY 2026-2027.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to approve the proposed budget for FY 2026-2027 as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 15, 2026

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 15, 2026, with the exception of modifying Commissioner Corkins' vote on the acceptance of the regular meeting minutes of December 17, 2025, from "no" to "abstain due to absence from the meeting." The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Departmental Operations:

Field and Lab activities: February and March 2026

Managing Director Dr. Subhas Hajeri provided an update on field and trapping operations. He reported that 63 trap sites had been assigned to non-citrus locations covering major entry points into the valley and other high-risk transportation corridors. A total of 126 traps were serviced between January and March 2026.

Dr. Hajeri also reported on off-season trapping activities conducted between January and March. Three trappers serviced approximately 750 trap sites each, totaling approximately 6,600 traps serviced. No ACP detections were recorded during the off-season program.

Dr. Subhas Hajeri discussed a proposed change to the regular trapping program. Rather than conducting two separate short trapping seasons in the spring and fall, staff recommended implementing a continuous eight-month trapping season running from April through November. Off-season winter trapping activities would continue, resulting in a year-round trapping program. The proposed program would include a total of 5,054 trap sites throughout the valley.

Dr. Hajeri reported on laboratory activities. He reported that between February and March 2026, the lab screened 4,561 traps and detected 1,419 GWSS on them. This information was shared with CDFA officials in the GWSS program. In addition, 312 plant samples had been tested for multiple pathogens.

CDFA recently shared their ACP trap sites, and it was noted that APCD reduced the number of trap sites by about 1,000 to minimize duplication of effort.

Dr. Hajeri provided a brief update on APCD outreach efforts. He reported that APCD participated in and supported an ACP/HLB workshop held at LREC in collaboration with Dr. Sandipa Gautam. APCD also hosted a booth at the CCM 2026 Spring Citrus Showcase. Both events provided opportunities for valuable discussion and information sharing with industry members and attendees.

TAC Meeting Review

Dr. Hajeri provided an update on recent discussions at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. He reported that the TAC committee presented an overview of APCD operational activities, including mapping, trapping, inspections, laboratory operations, ACP treatments, and outreach efforts. Dr. Hajeri stated that the committee discussed a major question regarding what additional activities APCD should pursue to strengthen its multi-pest inspection program. Currently, APCD operations are primarily focused on ACP and HLB, including Citrus Stubborn Disease (CSD) testing due to the similarity of its visual symptoms to HLB. However, several additional exotic pests and diseases could pose significant risks to California citrus if introduced into the region.

Dr. Hajeri presented graphs summarizing multi-pest inspection activities conducted over recent years. The data demonstrated increased pathogen testing efforts and the program's progression from primarily testing for Citrus tristeza virus (CTV) to a broader, multi-pest, multi-pathogen inspection approach. The TAC committee concluded that APCD should continue its current multi-pest inspection program while also increasing field awareness efforts and improving sampling procedures. The committee recommended that trappers receive additional training to become more vigilant in identifying and reporting potential pest and disease symptoms observed during field operations. The next TAC meeting was set for May 21, 2026.

APCD Grower Liaison Updates

APCD Grower Liaison Jessica Leslie provided a brief update on ACP detections within the valley, reporting that no detections had been identified to date in 2026.

APCD Grower Liaison Judy Zaninovich reviewed current HLB activity statewide and explained that recent state reporting no longer fully reflected the spread of HLB, as testing efforts had shifted away from designated hotspot areas toward sampling along the outer edges of quarantine boundaries.

Zaninovich also discussed two CLas-positive ACP detections identified by CDFA, one in a residential area of Santa Barbara and the other in a commercial grove in Fillmore. She stated that CDFA conducted coordinated treatments and follow-up sampling in Santa Barbara, which resulted in no additional positive detections. Heavy sampling efforts were also conducted in the Fillmore area, with no additional positives identified to date. No quarantine was placed into effect. Zaninovich further noted that two additional residential trees testing positive for C-las had recently been identified in Santa Paula.

Administrative Activities

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2025-2026

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expenses: February and March 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report. She noted that more interest than expected was earned.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: February and March 2026

Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to accept and ratify the warrant list for February and March 2026, as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Adopt Resolution 2026-01 Updated Conflict of Interest Code

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Scarbrough, to adopt Resolution 2026-01 and accept the updated Conflict of Interest Code as presented. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Two New Computer Towers and Microscope

Neunzig reported that two computers needed to be replaced and presented the quote. Expenditures would not exceed $6,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to approve the purchase of two new computer towers not to exceed $ 6,000. The motion carried on a roll call vote, with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Dr. Hajeri expressed the need for an updated and more powerful microscope for trap screening and insect identification. The quote was presented, and the price would not exceed $3,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gillette, to approve the purchase of a new microscope. The motion carried on a roll call vote with all Commissioners in attendance voting AYE.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Assistant Tulare County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Christopher Greer reported that GWSS treatments were ongoing in Northern Tulare County. He stated that three full-time ACP Bulk Citrus inspectors were actively

conducting inspections. Greer also informed the Board of a new state quarantine concerning the two-spotted cotton leafhopper affecting the cotton industry. While he noted that it was not considered a significant concern for citrus growers, he wanted to raise awareness of the issue.

Fresno County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer Libby Ouellette reported that interviews for seasonal trappers were underway. The European grapevine moth program commenced in March. General detection trapping, originally scheduled to begin in April, was delayed until May due to budgetary constraints. Ouellette reported that no additional ACP detections had occurred since the breeding colony was detected in North Fresno in 2025 and noted that CDFA had completed treatments in the area. She further reported that Bulk Citrus Transporter inspections were down approximately 20 percent compared to the previous year, which was consistent with the 20 percent budget reduction experienced by the Fresno County Agricultural Commissioner's Office. No major violations have been issued.

Kern County Agricultural Deputy Director Cerise Montanio reported that no new ACP detections had occurred in 2026. She stated that approximately 2,000 traps were currently placed on residential properties, with fewer than 400 traps remaining in delimitation zones associated with 2025 detections. Montanio reported that the Fiscal Year 2026–2027 financial plan had been submitted and that CDFA had approved funding at the same level as the previous fiscal year. The general detection trapping program was approximately halfway through its contract term and had expended 48 percent of its budget. Bulk Citrus Transporter inspections were also approximately halfway through the contract period and had expended 79 percent of the allocated budget. To date, Kern County had issued 28 compliance agreements, conducted 435 inspections, and issued no Notices of Violation (NOVs). Montanio noted that export market inspections had begun to slow because of seasonal changes.

CCM Report

None.

CDFA Updates

None.

UC IPM Report

UC ANR Citrus IPM Advisor Dr. Sandipa Gautam reported that no ACP had been detected on the yellow sticky panel traps located throughout the citrus blocks at the Lindcove Research and Extension Center field station.

Dr. Gautam reported that a CDFA-funded research project had recently concluded. The project evaluated a method for controlling ACP by integrating a *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) gene into *Citrus tristeza virus* (CTV) and using the modified CTV strain as a delivery vehicle in citrus trees. She noted that related research efforts remained ongoing in Riverside. As part of the project, researchers at Lindcove assessed growers' perspectives on technology adoption. One of the primary concerns expressed by growers was the potential impact on consumer perception. To better understand public attitudes, four consumer focus group discussions were conducted in Ventura, Riverside, Sacramento, and Fresno. The discussions revealed a general lack of public awareness regarding ACP and HLB, as well as concerns about pesticide residues.

Dr. Gautam emphasized the importance of outreach and educational efforts to increase public awareness and address concerns regarding the safety and use of pesticides in citrus production.

CRB Report

None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neunzig announced that cake and ice cream would be served in honor of Dr. Ray Yokomi's retirement.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager