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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 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; Jose Pena, Field Operations/QAL; and Tony Patino, Lab Testing Supervisor

Other: Judy Zaninovich, APCD Grower Liaison (KCCPCD & CVPCD); Sandipa Gautam, UC Area Citrus IPM Advisor; Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Ag Commissioner/Sealer

ATTENDANCE VIA ZOOM:
Commissioners: None.

Other: Cerise Montanio, Kern County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer; Jennifer Willems, CDFA; Casey Creamer, CCM; Lisa Finke, Canine Detection Services; and Manuel Gaitan, Riverside County Citrus Pest Control District General Manager

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.

Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting, August 20, 2025

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Gorden, to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on August 20, 2025, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting aye.

Departmental Operations:

Field and Lab activities: August and September 2025

Field Supervisor Ron Carter provided an update on the start of season trapping activities. As of October 9, 2025, nine trappers had completed 6,410 site visits, with 1,907 traps serviced and returned for screening.

The Asian citrus psyllid (ACP) continued to be detected along Highway 126, Northbound I-5, and in Castaic and Truckstop locations. A recent single ACP detection occurred on a non-citrus trap placed in a non-host tree

at the Tejon Outlet Mall parking lot. Although no commercial groves were located within 800 meters of the site, nearby residential properties were notified. APCD Grower Liaison for Kern County, Judy Zaninovich, placed a courtesy call to the nearest commercial grower to inform them of the detection.

A field training day was scheduled in Ventura, where trappers and screeners would observe live ACP specimens to improve field and lab identification skills.

Lab Manager Dr. Dhiraj Gautam reported that all ACP detections from APCD traps had been tested negative for CLas. A discussion followed regarding the ACP movement and population trends.

Dr. Hajeri provided an update on APCD's response to the ACP detection in Lemon Cove. Two 25+ properties were treated by APCD, with treatments carried out by Jose Pena (QAL license holder). Grower Liaison Jessica Leslie, who oversees both Tulare County districts, coordinated efforts with local growers and property owners.

Dr. Hajeri then requested input from the board regarding APCD's potential response to ACP detections outside district boundaries. He asked whether APCD could conduct 25+ property treatments in neighboring counties, such as Madera, Kings, and the West Fresno PCD portion of Fresno County, if the need should arise.

The board expressed support for maintaining a proactive approach in combating ACP and Huanglongbing (HLB) throughout the valley. It was agreed that coordination with CDFA and county agricultural commissioners would occur before any out-of-district work.

Commissioner Jeff Steen raised questions about the legal and insurance implications of operating beyond district limits. Zaninovich clarified that any such treatments would be voluntary and would require registration within the respective counties before being performed. Further discussion followed on this topic.

Dr. Hajeri provided an update on ongoing Citrus Yellow Vein Clearing Virus (CYVCV) research being conducted in the City of Tulare in collaboration with USDA researcher Dr. Ray Yokomi and CDFA. The goal of this study is to identify and confirm the insect vector responsible for transmitting CYVCV. Zaninovich announced that, effective October 1, 2025, CDFA established a quarantine for CYVCV in Tulare County and additional affected areas to the south. Discussion followed on this topic.

Dr. Dhiraj Gautam provided a brief update on laboratory testing activities, presenting a chart summarizing the number of tests conducted for HLB, CYVCV, and Citrus stubborn disease (CSD). During the months of August and September, a total of 1,539 PCR tests were performed.

Administrative Activities

APCD Performance to Budget for FY 2025-2026

Administrative Manager Mia Neunzig reviewed the report.

Income and Expenses: August and September 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report. She made note of certain line items requiring budget revisions due to operational changes.

Review and Ratify Warrant List: August and September 2025

Neunzig reviewed the report.

It was moved by Commissioner Corkins, seconded by Commissioner Steen, to approve the Warrant List for August and September 2025, as presented. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

Capital Expenditures: Generator Replacement

Dr. Hajeri presented the board with a request to replace the agency's old generator. In total, it would cost approximately $9,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Scarbrough, seconded by Commissioner Corkins to approve the purchase and installation of a new generator. The motion carried with all in attendance voting AYE.

APCD Grower Liaison Updates

Judy Zaninovich reported on behalf of her districts, KCCPCD and CVPCD, as well as for Jessica Leslie, who oversees STCCPCD and TCPCD. She noted a residential ACP detection in Kern County, near McKittrick. CDFA was managing the situation, and no commercial citrus operations were located within the affected area. Zaninovich commented that overall, it had been a low detection year.

She provided an update on exotic fruit fly activity, noting that Mediterranean fruit fly quarantine areas had been established and expanded in several regions across California. Additionally, the first-ever detection of the Caribbean fruit fly in the United States was confirmed in the Montebello area of Los Angeles County.

Zaninovich reported that the fall aphid vector treatment program had concluded, with most growers applying imidacloprid. She informed the group that she and Leslie had resumed sending regular email updates and welcomed suggestions for future communications. Finally, she announced that the San Joaquin Valley ACP/HLB Task Force would be reconvening.

Reports:

Ag Commissioner Updates

Libby Ouellette, Fresno County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, reported a male Peach Fruit Fly detection, followed by CDFA delimitation activities that would continue through March 2026. No quarantine had been implemented due to the singular detection.

Ouellette noted that the ACP trapping program experienced a budget reduction, resulting in fewer trap sites. However, the relinquished sites were transferred to CDFA to ensure continuous monitoring coverage. She also reported that the bulk citrus program had been reduced, and cross-training for seasonal staff would be implemented so that while performing other duties, they could monitor for untarped trucks or other major compliance issues.

She informed the board that county surveillance had identified a significant ACP detection in North Fresno involving two neighboring residential properties. A total of 84 ACPs were found, consisting of 63 adults and 21 nymphs. One property had been treated a few weeks prior, and treatment for the second property was scheduled in the coming days. All ACP samples tested negative for CLas. Two separate releases of the biological control agent *Tamarixia radiata* have been conducted and would continue at two-week intervals.

Ouellette noted that host material was limited in the detection area; however, several homeowners had refused inspection by both the county and the state. The origin and movement of the ACP into the area remain undetermined. Both affected trees were established plantings, and no new plant material had been introduced by the property owners.

She concluded by reporting that several packages intercepted through UPS, the U.S. Postal Service, and FedEx were found to contain plant material and Caribbean Fruit Fly, as identified by detection dogs.

Cerise Montanio, Kern County Deputy Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer, appeared via Zoom and reiterated the ACP detection in McKittrick previously mentioned by Zaninovich. Delimitation was conducted; however, due to limited host material, only five traps were deployed. She reported that the European Grapevine Moth trapping program concluded at the end of last month, while the Fruit Fly program will continue through the end of October. Both the ACP and GWSS trapping programs would operate year-round.

Montanio noted that export market inspections were beginning slowly, with harvesting activities underway and staff currently conducting field inspections.

CDFA Updates

Jennifer Willems appeared via Zoom and reported that there were three residential properties in the affected area of the McKittrick find, and all properties had been treated as of October 2, 2025. *T. radiata* releases were conducted in the area. Willems noted that inclement weather in the Fresno area had delayed treatment; however, they were rescheduled to treat in the coming days. *Tamarixia* releases have likewise taken place in that affected area.

UC IPM Report

Dr. Sandipa Gautam reported that updates to the UC IPM guidelines for ACP biocontrol were released in July 2025. She shared that she was participating in a CDFA-funded project to assess growers' perceptions of new technologies being researched in the citrus industry across the United States. A survey distributed as part of the project received 80 responses. Overall, growers expressed openness to adopting new technologies if proven effective, though additional education was needed to achieve broader acceptance. She announced several past and upcoming outreach meetings.

CCM Updates

Casey Creamer appeared via Zoom and reported that he had no major updates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Neunzig reminded the Board that certifications for Ethics and Sexual Harassment Prevention training were due. She requested that Board Members forward any current certificates they have for these trainings and offered to provide links to the courses if needed. She also announced that DocuSign forms would be emailed to TCPCD and STCCPCD members to confirm and update contact information.

ADJOURNMENT

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

John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin. Manager