

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

**APCD-TCPCD Working Group**  
**Special Meeting**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2024**

**MINUTES**

**ATTENDANCE:**

In-Person: John N. Fisher IV., and John Corkins, Kern County Citrus Pest Control District  
Milo Gorden and Jeff Steen, Tulare County Pest Control District  
Dr. Subhas Hajeri, APCD Managing Director, Dr. Dhiraj Gautam, APCD Lab Manager, Dr. Saurabh Gautam, APCD Entomologist/Field Manager, and Mia Neunzig, Administrative Manager

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Fisher IV called the meeting to order at 10:09 am.

**OPEN SESSION:**

**Public Comments**

None

**Current Revenue and Treasury Fund Balance of PCDs and APCD**

During the conversation, Managing Director Dr. Hajeri discussed fiscal year revenues and treasury fund balances of Pest Control Districts and the APCD. He pointed out that TCPCD is currently spending over \$700k to protect the Lindcove Research and Extension Centre (LREC) through Aphid Control and CTV surveying. With the remaining monies available, TCPCD is paying for ACP trapping.

**Discussion on Sharing the Cost of APCDs Operations**

The conversation then shifted towards discussing whether TCPCD should continue its aphid control and CTV survey program. Mr. Fisher offered how APCD can mitigate the cost of LREC protection. The group acknowledges that the LREC has an important role in the citrus industry. The main beneficiaries of LREC include but are not limited to the Citrus Clonal Protection Program, the California Citrus Nursery Society, the University of California Ag. and Natural Resources, the University of California Researchers, the Citrus Research Board, Citrus Division at CDFA, and the California citrus growers. The group would like to have conversations with all these entities about sharing the cost of LREC protection. Dr. Hajeri explained that based on the current knowledge of CTV and discussion with the Technical Advisory Committee, he does not feel that CTV is a major threat to the SJV citrus industry. Dr. Hajeri's suggestion was to stop performing the CTV survey as a sole activity and instead incorporate it into the Multiple pest and disease program that the Technical Advisory Committee recommended in the last meeting held in January 2023. Mr. Steen and Mr. Gorden envision that TCPCD eventually switch over to a multi-pest and disease surveillance program. Mr. Steen proposed step 1 to join the alliance, step 2 to implement a multi-pest program, and step 3 to request increasing the assessment. Mr. Gorden talked about creating the right environment to bring West Fresno Red Scale Protective Districts into the alliance (APCD).

The group agreed with Dr. Hajeri's suggestion and proposed that TCPCD discontinue its CTV survey program. This would free up money dedicated to the CTV survey in the budget and enable TCPCD to rejoin the JPA without having to use its reserves. The group also suggested that the current JPA districts

should contribute to the aphid vector control program to reduce expenses for TCPCD. Mr. Gorden suggested a formula using the relative citrus acreage of each pest control district in the valley as a basis for the percent contribution to the aphid vector control program. During the review of the current TCPCD budget, the group unanimously agreed that eliminating the CTV work saves money that could be allocated to ACP trapping and eliminates the need to use district reserves.

During the conversation, there was a prolonged discussion about how the work done in different districts impacts and protects other districts around them. After much deliberation, the group reached a consensus that there should be a predetermined timeline for all SJV Pest Control Districts to increase grower assessments uniformly throughout the valley, with the objective of achieving identical assessment rates for all SJV Pest Control Districts.

### **Proposal to Amend the Joint Powers Agreement \***

The group agreed to bring this discussion up at the February BOC meeting and have the board approve a motion that invites TCPCD to rejoin the JPA. The next step would be for TCPCD to approve a resolution to rejoin the JPA as of July 1, 2024. The last step would be for all four districts to sign an updated Joint Powers Agreement that defines **predetermined cost sharing**.

### **Announcements**

None

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman Fisher IV adjourned the meeting at 11:10 am.

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John N. Fisher IV, Chairman

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Mia Neunzig, Recording Secretary/Admin.  
Manager

