

CISAC Invasive Shot Hole Borer Subcommittee
February 11th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

ISHB Members Present:

Bea Nobua-Behrman

Shannon Lynch

Tom Smith

Guests:

Claire Aicken
Jonathan Babineau
Nara Baker
Emmett Brady
Rachel Burnap
Neil Church
Julie Clark
Kim Corella
Sara Davis
Joe Deviney
Lucy Diekmann
Amber Durant
Akif Eskalen
Curtis Ewing

Samantha Faul
Fayek Grgis
Jan Gonzales
Fernando Guzman
Lindsey Hack
Stacy Hishinuma
John Kabashima
Moss Le
Shannon Lundin
Robert Mackie
Tanner Mar
Kevin Martyn
David Mauk
Laura McCready

Casey McSwiggan
Alyssa Morgan
Randall Oliver
Drew Raymond
Paul Rugman-Jones
Dave Sanford
Chris Shogren
Cherie Shook
Abigail Stokes
Leonardo Tuchman
Koren Widdel
Karey Windbiel-Rojas
Rebecca Wolff
Brian Woodward

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Invasive Shothole Borer (ISHB) Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on February 11, 2025. Dr. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Discussion:

Current Challenges and Successes – Survey Results and Comments

Question 1: Was the infestation in your area?

Question 2: In your management of ISHB, what was or has been successful?

- Removal of amplifier trees.
- Continuous monitoring and mapping of the beetle.

Question 3: What are the biggest challenges you face moving forward with ISHB management?

- Public awareness of the movement of infested wood, and the lack of any laws that prevent the sale or movement of untreated or infested wood.
- Persuading others to act on infested trees.

Question 4: Those dealing with ISHB for some while, how would you have responded differently, in retrospect? Any lessons learned to share with those now dealing with ISHB infestation?

- Increase public awareness of the impact of invasive species, not just ISHB.
- Would have taken action sooner, acted swiftly versus waiting.

Question 5: What do you suggest for those dealing with a new introduction?

- Monitor closely.

- Remove infested trees quickly.
- Tree replacement program of non-susceptible species.
- Find methods to keep infested material out of green waste spaces.
- Increase awareness through the school system and outreach.

Question: In your management of ISHB, what was or has been successful?

San Jose:

- There is funding to plant trees.
- In every community meeting, people are appropriately alarmed and supportive of proposed management actions.
- Briefed city council members (almost all 10 districts) and the city mayor.

Santa Cruz:

- Good outreach to convey the biological similarity between species.
- Upcoming workshops to engage public and elected officials.

Question: What are the biggest challenges you face in moving forward with ISHB management? Santa Cruz:

- New species and how to approach.
- Resources – spread across many different property ownerships -getting everyone involved in mapping the spread is a challenge.
- Resources for outreach and management are limited – hundreds of trees over the area in a quick amount of time and engage with multiple people.

San Jose:

- Permitting issue – getting agencies to respond is the biggest hurdle.
- Most of the street tree population is Sycamore.
- Potential to plant trees with a federal grant, but tied up right now.
- Hiring freeze and budget cuts.
- Working in riparian areas is a challenge.
- Private properties – no capacity to work with owners (small team, big city).
- Sending in lots of samples for non-reproductive hosts to California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

In 2018, the California Legislature passed AB 2470, which authorized the California Invasive Species Council to develop and allocate \$5,000,000 for the execution of the Invasive Shothole Borer plan. The four elements of this plan include the following:

- ISHB Pathways (Green Waste and Firewood)
- ISHB Research
- ISHB Survey, Detection and Rapid Response
- ISHB Outreach and Education

The report, “*Invasive Shothole Borers Strategic Initiative*,” outlines and details the various components of the plan. Today’s focus will be on the categories of ISHB Survey, Detection and Rapid Response, and ISHB Outreach and Education.

ISHB Survey, Detection and Rapid Response Subcommittee Discussion

The funding recommendations included:

1. Statewide monitoring program to increase ISHB detection and track the infestation level.
2. Rapid Response measures to prevent or slow ISHB spread.
3. Statewide Trapping and Survey Coordinator.

Priorities based on geographical location

Priority 1: leading edge and continuous to the leading edge.

Priority 2: Beyond the leading edge.

The Survey and Detection Program allowed county-level ISHB trapping and visual assessments. The goals included:

1. Define leading edge and fill gaps in areas within the zone of infestation.
2. Enable Early Detection and Rapid Response.
 - Tier 1 counties: Riverside, San Bernardino, Los Angeles, Ventura, and Santa Barbara
 - Tier 2 counties: San Luis Obispo, Kern, Orange, and San Diego
 - Tier 3 counties: remaining counties in the state

The Early Detection and Rapid Response included:

- Amplify tree removal and disposal (funded through CalFire).
- Rapid response plan template developed by Rosi Dagit.
- ISHB management matrix (included in the UC IPM ISHB Pest note).

The Statewide Trapping and Survey Coordinator position includes:

- Training for county-based monitoring by trapping and identification.
- Compile and curate trapping and surveying data from counties and other agencies.
- Quality control of ISHB detections.
- Upgrade and maintain ISHB distribution map.
- Stakeholder engagement
- Liaison with local enforcement agencies

- Participatory Science program

Needs Assessment and Identifying Action Items

What resources are available to conduct tree removal?

San Jose:

- Department of Transportation (only for trees in public right of way, does not include street trees).
- No alleys – public likely to take proactive measures until trees die.
- Need bucket trucks with cranes for tree removal.

Los Angeles:

- Started with areas that would be easier to remove trees – Co. parks (e.g. Whittier Narrows – ground zero)
 - This removed dead hazard trees
- EDRR, Early Detection Rapid Response Plan developed by Rosi Dagit and had Board of Supervisors support in LA County.
- Public Works can help remove trees, but it needs funds.

How can we overcome challenges associated with red tape?

- No ability to enforce private tree removal or monitor what is done with the wood after removal.
- Not “hands-on”
- Need support from the Water Quality Control Board under the Cal Environmental Protection Agency.
 - Need someone from ISCC to get in contact with someone from CAL EPA, so they can help from the top down.
 - Follow up with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Los Angeles:

- Coastal Commission within the coastal zone is another permit issue and needs coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

What guidelines are available for decision-makers when managing infested trees in unhouse communities?

- Need tree replacement program – Monitoring and success planning with rapid responses program.

Who are our focus groups, i.e., which groups should we be targeting more intensely?

- Educate agencies about removals and costs, and needs for access.
- Residents in infested areas.
- Tree care companies, tree contractors and their clients. West Coast Arborists has connections with people on the municipal side.
- Association of Public Works Directors.

What are the gaps in educational materials?

- Education on other tree pests.
- Public workshops? For residents and the clientele of tree care companies?
- Mailers for homeowners who don't seek out information.
- Utility companies send out a leaflet with the bill, or runner on bill online.
- Article in a mass media journal (e.g., LA Times).
- Update and integrate all materials with *E. interjectus – f. floridanum* find.
- Mark trees with caution tape with a QR code.
- Magnetic signs with freeway signs on public works vehicles.
- Consistent messaging (i.e., who to talk to, what to do, etc.).
- Mounted samples/visual aids.

Outreach and Education

- Educating the Agricultural Commissioners on ISHB.
- Quarterly report to compile what is going on.
- Situation Report – engagement has dropped since the pandemic.
- People get on Collaborative tools.
- How to assess a tree and decide which tree should be removed – Management matrix.
 - Diagnosis of Fusarium + beetle

Outreach and Education Subcommittee

- Inventory of current outreach materials and list of target audiences.
- Identified short-term and long-term needs.

Main Priorities:

- ISHB Communications coordinator (funded).
- Regional Outreach Coordinators (to be funded when additional resources are identified).
- Communications operations funds (funded).

Other Priorities:

- Website and social media development – www.ISHB.org

- Online outreach (advertisement buys for video in production by CDFA)

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee ISHB meeting is scheduled for March 18th, 2025, at 1:30 pm.