

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)  
March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**CISAC Members:**

Erik Blosser	Humberto Izquierdo	Bea Nobua-Behrmann
Tim Crothers	Brent Johnson	Tom Smith
Gina Darin	Ricky Lara	Katie Sutherland Ashley
Tom Getts	Shannon Lynch	Martha Volkoff
David Haviland	Lori Nezhura	Lisa Worthington
Stacy Hishinuma		

**CISAC Members Absent:**

Ted Grosholz	Helene Wright
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**Guests:**

Claire Aicken	Victoria Hornbaker	Ambika Saini
Ameer Atrash	Thomas Jensen	Chris Scianni
Jonathan Babineau	Doug Johnson	Chris Shogren
Rachel Burnap	Andrew Justus-Fritz	Brice Smith
Julie Clark	Jenny Ketterlin	Christie Trifone Millhouse
Kim Corella	LeeAnne Mila	Jacob Villagomez
Jim Farrar	David Morgan	Koren Widdel
Fayek Girgis	Alyssa Morgan	Rachel Wigginton
Lindsey Hack	Randall Oliver	Erik Wilkins
Heather Healy	David Pegos	Karey Windbiel-Rojas
Danny Hirschag	Paul Rugman-Jones	David Wirta

**Opening:**

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Dr. Ricky Lara welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Dr. Ricky Lara expressed his excitement about becoming chair of CISAC and looks forward to contributing to the efforts of the CISAC board. His team is moving ahead with Emerald Ash Borer monitoring across fourteen counties, exploring additional sites for trapping and monitoring. He is planning the first release of the Yellow Starthistle biocontrol agent rosette weevil in Yolo County.

Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann is working with Dr. Shannon Lynch on the ISBH subcommittee. They are meeting with stakeholders to determine the needs of the ISHB related to research, early detection and rapid response, outreach/education, and pathways of spread of this pest.

Dr. David Haviland attended the international Integrated Pest Management (IPM) symposium, which offered an invasive species tour highlighting California's work in invasive pest management. Part of the tour showcased the Sea Lavender management in the marsh areas of San Diego Bay, a detector dog demonstration, and research on the South American Palm Weevil.

Erik Blosser stated that California Department of Public Health (CDPH)'s pest of concern is the mosquito species *Aedes aegypti*, the yellow fever mosquito. They are monitoring the spread to new counties, particularly in the Bay Area.

Gina Darin shared that the Department of Water Resources continues managing the fish restoration program and has begun weed management activities for the year.

Humberto Izquierdo went to Washington, D.C, to visit the USDA, Customs and Border Protection, and advocated for maintaining funding for the USDA and CBP, for pest prevention and pest detection support provided in California and throughout the country.

Martha Volkoff informed the committee that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is leading the Golden Mussel Task Force Response in coordination with state and federal partners. Through collaborative efforts, the task force has developed a response framework document, which has been drafted and is circulating through the appropriate agency chains of command for review before preparing a press release.

Dr. Tom Smith shared that the Mediterranean Oak Borer infestation in Sacramento has spread into Yolo County. Additionally, there was a discovery of MOB in a trap located in El Dorado County, and they are working on locating the infested tree. The Board of Forestry have expanded their zone of infestation to include Del Norte County due to Sudden Oak Death

Chris Scianni of the State Lands Commission reported that they are taking action to tighten up the ballast water requirements in freshwater ports. This measure was approved by the commission last month and going through the Office of Administrative Law process to make it effective. They will proceed with the regular rule-making process to make it a permanent rule.

Doug Johnson from the California Invasive Plant Council explained that they are working with partners on the Ignition Reduction Strategy for Vegetation Management Along Roadsides, specifically for Southern California.

Jim Farrar of the UC IPM highlighted that the cooperative extension rice advisors are conveying information about the invasive Nutria to their clientele for awareness.

Rachel Wigginton from the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta Conservancy outlined that the Delta Invasive Species Coordination Team is progressing on the quick state guide for invasive aquatic vegetation in Tidal wetland sites. They are starting to plan the Delta Invasive Species Symposium with the aim of it occurring later this year.

Randall Oliver highlighted that there will be a workshop at the Orange County South Coast Research and Extension Center presenting a variety of topics, including GSOB, MOB, Sudden Oak Death.

Tim Crothers stated that UC Agriculture and Natural Resources is hosting a meeting for Southern American Palm Weevils in San Diego and Orange County.

David Pegos reported another successful Ag Day event. He briefed the group on the national meeting in Washington, D.C. for the Don't Pack a Pest Campaign. Other updates included that the Fruit Fly quarantines are ongoing in Alameda and Orange counties. There was an in-person and online webinar on the Japanese Beetle project in Sacramento County to increase awareness of those monitoring efforts. The Spongy Moth eradication project in LA County efforts are underway for mass trapping.

Lisa Worthington from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) detailed how the department maintains 350,000 acres of state highway right-of-way across California. Most of the state highways present diverse challenges in managing invasive species, varying by factors such as location and climate. Caltrans has been updating its invasive species management strategy to address these challenges, starting with a complete overhaul of its weed list. They have eliminated native California species and aquatic species from the list and are focused on invasive and noxious weeds. This work is guided by utilizing the most benign pesticides available, aligning with the department's pesticide regulations roadmap for sustainable pest management. Tools like the UC Weed Research and Information Center and GIS mapping have played a critical role in identifying infestations and informing the treatment plans.

Caltrans has also revised its vegetation management objectives to improve resilience to wildfire, invasive pests, drought, and climate change. The agency is exploring nature-based solutions, including native plant restoration, and collaborating with other agencies to develop more sustainable strategies. There is a determination to narrow the list of authorized herbicides to only the most effective and least harmful options. Caltrans will engage with stakeholders, including the local county agricultural commissioners, for feedback to strengthen relations and inform program work. The aim is to finalize and share a revised weed list by the end of the school year and continue to refine management practices.

## **Discussion**

Nathan Johnson, a Budget officer from CDFA, explained Proposition 4 funding to the ISCC for \$20,000,000, hoping for approval of funds for Fiscal year 25/26. CDFA is working with the Natural Resources Agency to understand the bond language and clarify the applications and limitations of bond fund usage. Under the statewide Bond Act, capital projects typically involve infrastructure funds such as purchasing land versus supporting funds such as paying salaries.

## **Committee Business**

*North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) Co-host  
(November 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2025)*

Christie Millhouse, the executive director of NAISMA, stated that the NAISMA conference is an in-person experience to connect across diverse groups, develop partnerships and highlight the local partnerships reflecting the culture and community. It will serve as an opportunity to gather all managers to discuss important topics in the field, management strategies, technology, innovative research, and share collaborative experiences. There is a \$5,000.00 co-hosting fee with some benefits that also allow CISAC to be recognized as a sponsor, which CISAC approved.

## **2025 Proposed CISAC Meeting Dates**

CISAC changed the next meeting date to June 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Presentation**

The committee previously developed a list of programs that could benefit from ISCC's allocated \$5 million in funds at the December 10, 2021 CISAC meeting. The list of suggestions included:

1. Invasive Species Summit
2. Operational fund for CISAC/council meetings
3. Invasive Species Tours
4. Shothole borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer funding
5. Expanding use of iNaturalist
6. Collaboration between databases and maps
7. Weed manager rapid responses areas (and other widespread management)
8. Emergency Rapid Response platform

## **Session on Invasive Species Project Priorities – not in any particular order**

1. Mapping and Databases of invasive species – including hotspots for invasive species
  - Generation of a data layer and inventory of landowners where invasive species hotspots are located.
  - Show the capacity of the landowner for performing management
    - Avoid duplicating eddmaps.org
2. Strengthening the iNaturalist reporting system
3. Public outreach campaigns
4. Work with existing resources within agencies -purchasing and maintaining equipment for wood boring pest management
  - Who is using it
  - Who is storing/maintaining the equipment
    - Cal Fire - Fire curtain burners

- CalTrans - spray equipment
  - Tub grinder
  - Including operators' training on equipment – WF development
- 5. Support Golden Mussel Response
  - Boat decontamination stations
  - Upgrading water infrastructure for agricultural use
  - Collaborate with State Water Project
- 6. Support ISHB Response
  - Survey detection and rapid response
    - Traps, tub grinders, chips, drones
      - equipment + operations (i.e. pilot, license, permits...)
  - Outreach + engagement
  - Research
  - Greenwaste and firewood as pathways
- 7. Weed Management area – rapid response
  - Including equipment for applications
    - Applications for chemical, mechanical, or biological operations
  - Determine training and operators
    - Benefit of workforce development
- 8. Support GSOB Response
  - Survey detection and rapid response
    - Tub grinder
  - Outreach and engagement
  - Research
- 9. Funding Firewood Taskforce Meeting
  - Signage
  - General funding
- 10. Don't pack a Pest Campaign
  - Commercial Driver's license renewal opportunity
- 11. Border Protection Station – reduction in hours
  - Additional storage capacity, evaluation tools (microscopes, scanners, hatchets, etc.)
  - Signage (\$1,000,000 per sign)
- 12. Diagnostic lab at CDFA -upgrades
- 13. Biocontrol Facility upgrades and insect facility
  - North CA (Los Alamedas)
  - Rearing of native or endemic species
- 14. Centralized campuses for invasive species facilities
  - Dog training/ biological diagnostics
- 15. UC Cooperative Extension – Stanislaus Center
  - Quarantine facilities at UCD and UCR
  - Anything that a UC Research and Extension (RECs)
- 16. Augment Emergency Response Fund (existing)
- 17. Augment the Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys (existing)
  - 3 crews
- 18. International Collaboration

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 10:00 am.