

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
April 17th, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Erik Blosser | Shannon Lynch | Katie Sutherland Ashley |
| Tim Crothers | Superna Metha | Martha Volkoff |
| Tom Getts | Bea Nobua-Behrmann | Lori Nezhura |
| David Haviland | Brent Johnson | Stacy Hishinuma |
| Ricky Lara | Tom Smith | |

CISAC Members Absent:

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Gina Darin | Ted Grosholz | Helene Wright |
| Humberto Izquierdo | | |

Guests:

| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Claire Aicken | Doug Johnson | Shana Rapoport |
| Cat Archer | Brent Johnson | Ambika Saini |
| Jonathan Babineau | Heather Healy Kevin Healy | Cherie Shook |
| Elizabeth Brusati | Carol Kreger | Brice Smith |
| Brad Cook | Collin McVey | Tanya Veldhuizen |
| Kim Corella | Trevor Moore | Jacob Villagomez |
| Akif Eskalen | Randall Oliver | Koren Widdel |
| Jim Farrar | Michelle Owino | Rachel Wigginton |
| Matthew Fransz | MacKenzie Patton | Karey Windbiel-Rojas |
| Kevin Gallo | David Pegos | David Wirta |
| Lindsey Hack | | |

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:11 a.m. on March 20th, 2025. Dr. Ricky Lara welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Presentation:

Review of CISAC's developed Invasive Species Grant Request for Proposal (RFP)

David Pegos displayed the existing document for members' awareness of past developments, and board members shared suggestions to add or adjust to the document.

Dr. Ricky Lara mentioned adapting RFP online submission, pre-screening applications with criteria to avoid missing items or attachments.

Martha shared the context of establishing the RFP. She highlighted the opportunity to bring good ideas and implementers together, and to put those ideas into consideration for selecting viable projects that could be implemented.

Discussion:

Historical Priorities and Projects Funded

1. Funding the Firewood Task Force.
2. Funding the Don't Pack a Pest campaign and Border Protection Stations.
3. Equipment to enable better invasive species monitoring and mitigation.
4. A dedicated support staff for CISAC (website, operational, and investigative).
5. Items not chosen from the first summit: ecological & economic impact report; rapid response work group; biological control research; increased statewide branding; incentives, certification, and regulation to control high-risk vectors.
6. Updating the living list of Invasive Species and pathways.
7. Interagency cooperation for pathways.
8. Agricultural commissioners assisting with pathways inspection and internet sales inspection.
9. Funding for statewide wood borer and wasp trapping.
10. Funding for evaluation, research, and demonstrations from the West Coast arborists, Master Gardeners, and/ or Cal Naturalists.
11. Funding to restore areas after removing Invasive Species or to prevent invasive species after disasters.
12. Biosecurity.
13. An additional dog training facility and expanded capability for California's dog teams.
14. Funding for workshops and more and larger facilities for biocontrol, and to integrate biocontrol with existing strategies.
15. Funding for smart technology like automated traps and drones.
16. Funding to find existing tools that work with climate change.
17. Development of more pest management tools.
18. Funding for comprehensive youth education and outreach.
19. Education for the general public.
20. Invasive Species Summit
21. Invasive Species Tours

Discussion:

Session on Invasive Species Project Priorities

During the April 17th, 2025 meeting, CISAC prioritized projects that fit within the 30x30 framework and address climate change per the bond mandate.

1. Mapping and databases of invasive species, including hotspots for invasive species
 - a. Generation of data layer and inventory of landowners where invasive species hotspots are, also showing the capacity of landowners for performing management
 - b. But ensure not to duplicate eddmaps.org

2. Strengthening the iNaturalist reporting system
3. Outreach campaigns
 - a. Short-form content on social media platforms to reach a broader audience
 - b. Link short-form content to long-form content (e.g., Don't pack a pest site)
 - c. Featuring scientists and the work they are doing on mitigating invasive species
 - d. TV campaigns - Joe Scheele "caught on the border"
 - e. Comprehensive youth education
 - f. General public
 - g. Invasive species costumes!
4. Increased statewide branding on invasive species
 - a. "Smokey Bear" as an example.
5. Work with existing resources within agencies purchasing and maintaining equipment for wood boring insect management
 - a. CAL Fire Curtain Burners, Caltrans spray equipment
 - b. Tub grinder
 - c. Including operators are training on equipment - WF development
6. Supporting Golden Mussel Response
 - a. Boat decontamination facilities
 - b. Upgrading water infrastructure for ag
 - c. Working with the state water project
7. Supporting ISHB Response
 - a. Survey, detection, rapid response
 - i. Traps, tub grinders, chips, drone (equipment + operations [i.e., pilot, license, permits])
 - b. Outreach and engagement
 - i. signage
 - c. Research
 - d. Greenwaste and firewood as pathways
8. Weed management area rapid response
 - a. Including equipment for applications or cultural solutions
 - b. Training and operators - WF development
9. Supporting a statewide GSOB response
 - a. Survey detention and Rapid response
 - i. Tub grinder + operations
 - b. Outreach and engagement
 - i. signage
 - c. Research
10. Firewood Task Force funding
 - a. Signage

- b. General funding
 - c. Firewood scout - need agreement to be part of that program \$500
- 11. Don't pack a pest campaign
 - a. Commercial Driver's License renewal opportunity
- 12. Border protection station - will be reductions in hours
 - a. Additional storage capacity, evaluation tools (microscopes, scanners, hatchets, etc.)
 - b. Signage (\$1,000,000 per sign)
- 13. Diagnostic Lab at CDFA upgrades
- 14. Biocontrol facility upgrades and new insectary facility (esp. N. California in Los Alamedos), rearing of beneficial endemic species
 - a. Dr. Morgan's facilities
- 15. Centralized campuses for invasive species facilities (dog training/biocontrol/diagnostics)
- 16. UC Support
 - a. Quarantine facilities at UCD and UCR
 - b. Anything that supports UC Research and Extension Centers (RECS)
- 17. Augment the Emergency response fund (existing)
- 18. Augment Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys (3 crews) (Existing)
- 19. International collaboration
- 20. Equipment to enable better invasive species monitoring and mitigation (tub grinders, AI, drones, automated traps, e-DNA and other smart technologies,)
 - a. Case by case situation for many different projects...might be included and incorporated into other "shovel ready projects" rather than funding it as a standalone project
- 21. Updates on ecological and economic impact reports
- 22. Biocontrol research and facilities to do that work
- 23. Controlling high-risk vectors through incentives and research
- 24. Convene science advisory panel with regulation to communicate CISAC outcomes and inform regulation
 - a. It would be helpful especially for Ag Commissioners on B rated pests
- 25. Workshops to support research collaborations among stakeholders
 - a. E.g., use of drones to track invasive species
- 26. Using drones to map invasive species in the wildland (Koren suggested for San Mateo Co.)
- 27. Workshop on internet sales so all agencies working in this arena are equipped to make the seizure.
- 28. Continue funding for statewide wood borer survey and expand to wood wasps
- 29. Statewide support to local entities on invasive plant species mapping - in cooperation with existing WMAs

30. Invest in citizen scientist projects that leverage the use of MG, WCA, Cal Naturalists volunteers in invasive species early detection efforts
31. Funding to restore areas after removing invasive species or to prevent invasive species after disasters
 - a. Availability of plant material at scale is a big hurdle
 - i. Facility to produce and store seed
 - ii. A facility to generate that material within zones would be a good use of those funds
 - b. Funding to quantify the benefits of restoration - impact reporting
32. Biosecurity for tightening up prevention (i.e., island biosecurity)
33. Funding for workshops on sustainable pest management/IPM with an emphasis on biocontrol
34. Collaboration with databases and maps, Google Suite, programs to avoid duplication, including iNaturalist and other citizen scientist-generated maps
35. Invasive species tours
36. Invasive species summit
37. ISCC/CISAC Operational Fund
38. Living list progress updates and maintenance needs
39. Full-time support for ISCC/CISAC
40. Reserve fund
41. Volutaria San Diego Project
42. Incubators, nurseries, greenhouses to rear species and conduct experiments
43. Plant Right updates and needs
44. Caulerpa prolifera updates and needs

Discussion:

Historical Priorities and Projects Funded (cont.)

Multiple members are in support of the Invasive Species tours leading up to the Invasive Species Summit. Support for the operational Fund was echoed by members and remains a project to continue being funded. The living list and pathway prioritization funds were discussed, and the need for improvements on the living list and dealing with maintenance issues was highlighted. Some members suggested asking the proponents of the project to summarize the findings so far and report progress on the project. The full-time support for ISCC/CISAC will be a priority, to be evaluated at a later time. There are two agreements in execution from the reserve fund; members decided that the reserve fund is an important priority.

The Invasive Shot Hole Borer project for counties to do additional trapping remains a high priority. The Volutaria San Diego Project was decided to be a priority, and members suggested asking the project managers to include a yearly report to highlight accomplishments and review progress. The Statewide exotic wood borer survey and the

Statewide aquatic invasive survey are still considered priority projects. The Yellow Starthistle biocontrol incubators were purchased, and the first release occurred in Northern California, a successful example of CISAC funds executed. Exploring additional biocontrol incubators can also be an asset for the infrastructure project funds. The Plant Right is a nursery industry-driven organization, and members agreed there is value in keeping it a priority. The *Caulerpa prolifera* project is currently underway, and members expressed keeping it as a priority.

Members briefly discussed the allocation of funds. Dr. Ricky Lara suggested a hybrid model with two paths, one being the RFPs, and the second path reserved to identify shovel-ready projects.

Shovel Ready Projects Funded to Date

| Project | Funds |
|---|-----------------------|
| <i>Invasive Species Summit</i> | \$118,750.00 |
| <i>Invasive Species Tours</i> | \$136,362.50 |
| <i>ISCC/CISAC Operational fund</i> | \$ 29,687.50 |
| <i>Living list/ pathway prioritization</i> | \$136,562.50 |
| <i>Fulltime support for ISCC/CISAC</i> | \$356,250.00 |
| <i>Reserve Fund</i> | \$682,812.50 |
| <i>Invasive Shot Hole Borer</i> | \$1,502,187.50 |
| <i>Voultaria – San Diego Project</i> | \$250,000.00 |
| <i>Statewide exotic wood borer survey</i> | \$136,562.50 |
| <i>Statewide aquatic invasive survey</i> | \$475,000.00 |
| <i>Yellow Starthistle biocontrol incubators</i> | \$59,375.00 |
| <i>Plant Right</i> | \$296,875.00 |
| <i>Caulerpa prolifera</i> | \$819,375.00 |
| Totals: | \$5,000,000.00 |

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m. The next California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2025 at 10:00 am.