

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
June 12th, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

Erik Blosser	Ted Grosholz	Bea Nobua-Behrmann
Tim Crothers	Ricky Lara	Katie Sutherland Ashley
Gina Darin	Shannon Lynch	Martha Volkoff
Tom Getts	Lori Nezhura	Lisa Worthington

CISAC Members Absent:

David Haviland	Stacy Hishinuma	Humberto Izquierdo
Brent Johnson	Tom Smith	Helene Wright

Guests:

Jonathan Babineau	Fayek Girgis	Ambika Saini
Baljot Biring	Lindsey Hack	Sonia Rios
Elizabeth Brusati	Linda Haque	Chris Scianni
Rachel Burnap	Heather Healy	Chris Shogren
Julie Clark	Lindsey Hethcote	CherieShook
Kim Corella	Jennifer Ketterlin	Claudia Vazquez
Gina Darin	Jordan Key	Jacob Villagomez
Travis Elder	Dahmoon Maesomy	Rachel Wigginton
Jim Farrar	Randall Oliver	David Wirta
Ted Gailey	MacKenzie Patton	
Kevin Gallo	David Pegos	

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on June 12th, 2025. Dr. Ricky Lara welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Dr. Ricky Lara informed the committee on the biocontrol activities for noxious weeds and agricultural pests, such as additional releases of rosette weevil for yellow starthistle. He is continuing monitoring efforts for spotted wing drosophila and announced a new biocontrol project for diamondback moth.

Ted Grosholz shared that the Federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee is focused on two specific topics: biocontrol/security regarding agricultural pests and marine biosecurity.

Gina Darin disclosed progress on aquatic weed control in the Delta and Suisun Marsh restoration sites. The phragmites removal at the Black Rock restoration site has obtained all its permits and will set a precedent for other landowners in the marsh dealing with invasive phragmites.

Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann reported on the results of the golden spotted oak borer (GSOB) “blitz”. Activities included coordinating training on how to identify GSOB, training volunteers to collect data on (infested) trees, and spreading awareness by partnering with multiple Southern California counties. She is also assisting with the threat of the South American palm weevil in Orange County with land managers.

Tom Getts noted the United States Department of Agriculture will be planning to conduct an Environmental Impact Assessment to explore the potential of starting a grasshopper and cricket program in Northeastern California.

Dr. Shannon Lynch detailed the progress the Invasive Shothole Borer Subcommittee has made on the needs assessment for statewide response. Given the new introduction of polyphagous shothole borer (PSHB) in Santa Clara County and the introduction of the greater shothole borer (GSHB), the subcommittee will incorporate new findings in updating the statewide response.

Tim Crothers shared information on the Los Angeles and Orange County Maintenance Superintendent Association meeting, presented on South American palm weevil and the dotted paropsine leaf beetle, among other pests of note.

Dr. Ricky Lara shared additional information on the state survey for the emerald ash borer (EAB) trapping and monitoring projects taking place in Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama counties.

Martha Volkoff conveyed news of a publication examining the Malaysian trumpet snails that are expanding in Southern California and can benefit from outreach and education to the public. The Golden Mussel Taskforce released a framework document and a funding opportunity of \$1,000,000 to apply for funding for prevention and containment actions. Martha also informed that Representative Harter introduced Bill HR 3717 to amend the *Non-indigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act*. The amendment would create a demonstration project in the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Delta.

Committee Business:

Motion: To approve the January 15, 2025 meeting minutes of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

First Motion: Dr. Ricky Lara

Second Motion: Lori Nezhura

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the March 20, 2025 meeting minutes of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee as amended.

First Motion: Dr. Shannon Lynch

Second Motion: Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the April 17, 2025 meeting minutes of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee as amended.

First Motion: Tom Getts

Second Motion: Tim Crothers

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve the 2025 meeting dates for the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

First Motion: Lori Nezhura

Second Motion: Ted Grosholz

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion: To approve Gina Darin becoming the vice-chair of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

First Motion: Ted Grosholz nominated Gina Darin

Second Motion: Shannon Lynch

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

David Pegos reported on the progress of the Japanese Beetle Program in Sacramento County. He discussed the eradication efforts through the means of mass trapping of the spongy moth in Monte Nido. Announced the success of the eradication project on the invasive oriental fruit fly in Orange County. Ongoing eradication efforts of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly quarantine are ongoing in Alameda County.

Jolene Tamm is a Natural Resource Director for the La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians. She provided updates on GSOB, addressing the dense tree mortality along Highway 76. Significant gaps in current state policies, existing pest management rules are not triggered when work is conducted in GSOB-infested areas.

Jennifer Ketterlin anticipates her program to fund up to \$2,000,000 for invasive species projects for the wildlife refuges in our region, including fifteen projects in California.

Rachel Wigginton from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy announced they have received Proposition 4 funding and plan to open solicitation in July. There will be a variety of invasive species funding opportunities, including nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation. The conservancy has scheduled its Biannual Delta Invasive Species Symposium for December 2025.

David Pegos shared information on upcoming events. The Invasive Species Summit will be planned for January 13th and 14th, 2026. Working on narrowing locations for the Invasive Species Tours in Southern California, Northern California, and the California Valley. Interested in exploring a scholarship opportunity for underrepresented and disadvantaged communities.

Caltrans Weed Abatement on State Highways – Refining the Methodology for Pesticide Use

In 1992, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was completed for the Caltrans Vegetation Control Program, analyzing twenty-five herbicides and nine adjuvants for use by Caltrans for Vegetation Management. The Caltrans Noxious and Invasive Weeds List was last updated around 2015-2016 and recorded Fifty-seven plant and one insect species. The data for the updated list contains categories such as the Cal-IPC Rating, availability of Cal-IPC species ID card, weed control methods in WeedCUT, weed control methods in the Weed Research Information Center, the most effective herbicide, percentage of that herbicide control, and the approved Caltrans Herbicide Application Data Sheet (CHADS) scenario.

The new risk assessment methodology involves various components of the CHADS. This scenario-based analysis considers factors such as site-specific conditions, chemical/tank mix combination analyses, and application methods. By transitioning the pesticide use program through the new risk assessment methodology, Caltrans has been able to continue practicing sustainable invasive pest management. This will strengthen certifying recommendations for the usage of chemicals and incorporate an array of risk assessment metrics to inform documentation.

Suggestions for Invasive Species Projects

1. Mapping and databases of invasive species - including hotspots for invasive species.
 - a. Generation of a data layer and inventory of landowners of where invasive species hotspots are, also showing the capacity of landowners for performing management.
 - b. But ensure not to duplicate eddmaps.org data.
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 Schele "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".
5. Work with existing resources within agencies to purchase and maintain equipment for wood boring insect management.
 - a. CAL Fire Curtain Burners, Caltrans spray equipment.
 - b. Tub grinder.
 - c. Including operators that are training in equipment - Workforce development.
6. Supporting golden mussel response.
 - a. Boat decontamination facilities.
 - b. Upgrading water infrastructure for agricultural use.
 - 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 - Workforce 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. CDFA's Border Protection Stations - impacts will include a reduction in hours and potential mitigation of that impact.
 - a. Additional storage capacity, evaluation tools (microscopes, scanners, hatchets, etc.).
 - b. Signage (\$1,000,000 per sign).
- 13. Diagnostic Lab at CDFA upgrades (New equipment and emerging technology).
- 14. Biocontrol facility upgrades and new insectary facility (esp. Northern California in Los Alamedas), rearing of beneficial endemic species.
 - a. Dr. Morgan's facilities.
- 15. Centralized campuses for invasive species facilities (dog training/biocontrol/diagnostics).
- 16. University of California Support.
 - a. Quarantine facilities at the University of California, Davis and the University of California, Riverside.
 - b. Anything that supports the University of California 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 stand-alone 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 a science advisory panel with the regulation to communicate CISAC outcomes and inform the 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 area 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 Weed Management Areas (WMAs).
- 30. Invest in citizen scientist projects that leverage the use of MG, WCA, and iCalNaturalists 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.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for August 21st, 2025, at 1:30 pm.