

# INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL OF CALIFORNIA (ISCC) Annual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

## **Opening:**

The meeting of the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) was called to order at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Building Auditorium in Sacramento, by CDFA Secretary Karen Ross.

## **ISCC Members Present:**

Karen Ross, Secretary – CDFA  
Wade Crowfoot, Secretary – Natural Resources Agency (NRA)  
Julie Souliere, Assistant Secretary – Health and Human Services Agency  
Marlene De La O, Deputy Secretary – California Environmental Protection Agency  
Jaylen Tran, Senior Climate Change Coordinator – California State Transportation Agency (Caltrans)

## **ISCC Members Absent:**

Lori Nezhura, Deputy Director – Office of Emergency Services

## **Staff Members Present:**

David Pegos, ISCC and California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Executive Director  
Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA, Director of Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services  
Jonathan Babineau, CDFA  
Ambika Saini, CDFA

## **Council Business**

**Action item:** Approval of the meeting minutes for the December 17, 2024, Invasive Species Council of California meeting.

First motion: Wade Crowfoot

Second motion: Karen Ross

Motion to approve: No discussion, all in favor, motion carried.

## **Presentations/Discussions**

### **California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce**

Lisa Worthington with Caltrans presented on the California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce (Taskforce) which focuses on tree mortality, invasive species and invasive grasses. Since 2015, the Taskforce has increased Caltrans capability for natural resource management and addressed the tree mortality epidemic of decaying trees contributing to public hazards. The Taskforce's goals are to increase the pace and scale of wildlife and forest health projects, strengthen protection of communities,

manage forests to achieve the state's economic and environmental goals, drive innovation, and measure progress. The connection to invasive species is a sub focus of the Caltrans Division of Maintenance, housed in the Office of Natural Resource Management (ONRM).

The ONRM is responsible for maintenance of land and assets with naturally occurring vegetation in the State Highway System. There are over 168,000 acres of unimproved land, including naturally occurring trees, roadside rehabilitation, noxious and invasive weeds and more. Caltrans is currently updating their Vegetation Control Program Environmental Impact Report. Additionally, Caltrans is part of The California Climate Adaption Strategy (2024) under the priority to accelerate nature-based solutions and strengthen climate resilience of natural systems.

### **Golden Mussel**

Martha Volkoff with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) provided an update on the invasive golden mussel. The infestation is now widespread in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, impacting the state water project and the federal water project through water conveyance systems. Golden mussel infestations are observed to affect the water purveyance infrastructure, watercrafts and local public municipalities. The 2024 data collected from boat inspections where the California Delta was last visited highlights the threat of overland transport of golden mussel.

The Golden Mussel Task Force has completed the Golden Mussel Response Framework, through multi agency collaboration including the California State Parks, Department of Water Resources, CDFA and other collaborators. The framework covers topics including education and outreach, monitoring, research and capacity building. The framework will help inform prevention and containment actions. Through Assembly Bill 149, CDFW has been able to augment the program to include invasive mussels collectively. Other changes include an increased science capacity, further support of water managers on prevention and containment, and capacity to retain statewide monitoring and interception.

### **Climate Bond Proposition 4**

Diane Varley with CDFA presented on Climate Bond – Proposition 4 funding, noting that guidance for distributing \$20 million in grant funding is to follow. NRA is working on agreement terms and conditions, while the department is working internally to set up a grant program.

### **Rats**

Michelle Dennis with CDFA presented on the rat issues occurring in California and the need for vertebrate pest control in relation to protecting agriculture. She noted that in 2024, there was a sudden increase in rat-related damage issues in commercial agriculture, including damage to orchard trees, row crops and infrastructure. In response, CDFA held two stakeholder meetings in cooperation with the California Association of Pest Control Advisors and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE). The group meets weekly to stay on top of rodent issues and have

recently added Department of Public Health. In addition, CDFA and UCCE are working to create an index for monitoring rodent populations.

### **Weed Management Areas**

Michelle Dennis with CDFA provided updates on CDFA weed program, including Noxious Weeds (NW), Weed Management Areas (WMA) and Hydrilla eradication. The California Food and Agriculture code authorizes CDFA as the lead agency for NW, WMAs and hydrilla. The NW grant program has awarded approximately \$5,000,000 million in grant funding and has executed agreements with fifty-five counties. There are currently forty-six known WMA groups statewide that are receiving \$4,751,409.95 in grant funds over three years.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

Dr. Ricky Lara with CDFA's Biocontrol Program presented on the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB), sharing updates on EAB proactive biocontrol and monitoring in California. Presently there are 194 traps deployed across fourteen counties. Coordinated trapping efforts are being undertaken from multiple groups, including: UCCE, Cal Fire, CDFA border stations, and the counties of Shasta, Siskiyou and Tehama. Over 400 trap samples have been examined at CDFA, and there has been no positive EAB confirmations. Dr. Lara reported that there are currently four EAB parasitoids sourced from Asia (native range of EAB) that are being reared and released with United States Department of Agriculture coordination.

### **South American Palm Weevil**

Dr. Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann with UCCE presented on the South American Palm Weevil (SAPW). This invasive species is native to Central and South America and was first detected in San Diego in 2014. She noted that there have been recent SAPW detections in Orange County. The impact of SAPW in Southern California shows severe losses, with over 20,000 palms killed to date and potential economic and cultural impacts to the ornamental palm industry, date industry, and the loss of iconic Southern California landscapes. Management of the SAPW includes palm removal which can be dangerous and expensive and quarterly insecticide treatments. Research is underway to address these challenges that includes attract and kill traps, pheromone mating disruption, and biocontrol. She identified that there is a gap in SAPW monitoring and suggested a regional trapping program be established to facilitate early detection and for rapid response.

### **Highlight ISCC Accomplishments**

David Pegos presented updates on several ISCC projects currently being executed or completed including the following:

- Multiple aquatic invasive species projects (*Caulerpa prolifera* Eradication in Newport Bay and Port of San Diego; Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Survey)
- Weed eradication projects (Volutaria Eradication in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park; Yellow Star Thistle Biocontrol Incubators; and Plant Right)

- Invasive tree pest projects (Invasive Shot Hole Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer Detection and Survey; Statewide Invasive Wood Borer Survey)
- Invasive Species Pathway Analysis Project and Expansion of the Living List of Invasive Species that may Impact California
- Rapid response project (*Plecostachys serpyllifolia* – Petite Licorice – Eradication on Channel Islands Nation Park, Santa Rosa Island)

### **ISCC Discussion on Invasive Species Tours and Summit**

Mr. Pegos provided an overview of the 2018 Invasive Species Summit which was held January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the California State Capitol Building. A diverse group of stakeholders converged over the two-day summit. The first day consisted of opening remarks and case studies, followed by break outs into the following 6 Taxa groups:

- Terrestrial Plants and Algae
- Aquatic Plants and Algae
- Vertebrates
- Arthropods
- Mollusks and other Invertebrates
- Diseases

The second and final day of the 2018 Summit opened with break-out groups by the following 5 pathways:

- Recreation
- Pet Trade
- Horticulture/Plant Industry
- Transportation
- Internet, International Trade and Tourism

The Summit was able to produce a ranked prioritized list of invasive species items/projects and achieved consensus among over 100 diverse groups and organizations on the final list of invasive species items.

In anticipation of the 2026 Invasive Species Summit, four invasive species tours are being planned to provide regional insight into invasive species issues impacting diverse communities and natural ecosystems throughout California. This will include Northern, Central, and Southern California tours including a fourth tour for legislators and their staff. Finally, CISAC recommended and ISCC approved ten scholarships for under-represented/disadvantaged communities to participate in the tours and summit.

Secretary Karen Ross recommended continuing incorporating other agencies and partnerships with the goal of being strategic and directionally focused versus

operational spending. Each representative from the council should have an opportunity to present from their broad agency perspective, allowing for a constructive focus.

Secretary Wade Crowfoot advised continuing the practice of leaning on council partners for arranging the tours and that the focus should be on overlapping invasive species issues to bring interagency value. He asked CISAC to consider including the following questions while developing the Summit and Tours:

- Are there invasive species that cross over different agencies and departments?
- What are best management practices or emerging practices to utilize?
- How do we better evaluate the hierarchy of invasive species management?
- How can ISCC help take a cohesive approach to invasive species management?

Additional recommendations from Secretary Crowfoot include considering how ISCC can be a one-stop shop to understand what the key priorities for invasive species across different agencies/departments are, including sharing the best management practices or lessons learned across agencies and having the ISCC amplify those successes.

Assistant Secretary Julie Souliere recommended having One Health present for CISAC. This will allow the opportunity to share what they have done so far and see where cross collaboration occurs.

Senior Climate Change Coordinator Jaylen Tran recommended continued collaboration with other agencies on overlapping invasive species efforts. One example is the SAPW in Southern California where the Caltrans districts are working closely with partners.

Deputy Secretary Marlene De La O agreed with the importance of continuing cross agency collaboration. She suggested there should not only be a focus on individual invasive species, but also the pathways. Increasing our ability to tackle invasive species prevention and management problems.

Secretary Ross acknowledged the consensus on substantiable pest management road map is prevention. Prevention is the first step for successful implementation of substantiable pest management across all agencies.

Secretary Crowfoot recommended elevating invasive species threats amongst stakeholders. One way to strengthen the summit is to have a goal for each council representative to identify five to ten invasive species that are threats to their own and relevant agencies. Elevate those threats, create visibility, and on the executive level promote successful strategies.

Secretary Karen Ross suggested following up one-on-one and draft concepts to review what we want to achieve. She would prefer brief periodic updates throughout the year to stay informed on the progress of projects.

Secretary Wade Crowfoot said the species-specific presentations given at the meeting were great, but there is uncertainty where the input from the secretaries is expected. He suggested having clear and concise asks for the ISCC members, identify collaboration opportunities with an aim to seek opportunities that build broader community through this council, aligning towards common beneficial priorities.

Staff acknowledged feedback from the secretaries or their representatives and echoed the support for continuing cross collaboration on the invasive species management and the summit/tours.

### **Public Comment**

Doug Johnson from the California Invasive Plant Council commented that there are great opportunities for collaboration and stressed the need for clarity on which state agency is responsible for aquatic invasive species, including aquatic plants.

Steve Shoenig suggested the need to evaluate where biodiversity is being impacted.

Ted Grosholz recommended that pathways should have a species-specific focus.

### **Closing Comment**

Secretary Ross thanked the ISCC members for their participation in the meeting, and the CISAC for their work through ISCC.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

# 2026 Invasive Species Control Grant Program Request for Grant Proposals



**Released:**

DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED 00, 2026

**Grant Applications Due:**

By 5:00 p.m. on DATE TBA 00, 2026

Late submissions will not be accepted.



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Invasive Species Council of California  
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# About the Program

## Background

Invasive species threaten the economic and environmental vitality of California. California is a biodiversity hotspot home to 650 bird species, 220 mammals, 100 reptiles, 75 amphibians, 70 freshwater fish, 100 marine fish and mammals, and 6,500 taxa of native plants. Additionally, California's \$51 billion in agricultural production includes more than 400 commodities and produces approximately 50% of the specialty fruits, vegetables, and nut crops for the United States of America. This unique biodiversity across ecosystems is threatened by emerging and re-emerging invasive species, including land-dwelling and aquatic organisms, that impart a severe environmental and economic impact in the state. Recent and ongoing climate events and increased passenger travel and commerce impact every part of California and creates a favorable environment for the spread of invasive species. Given California's range of geographies and biomes, diverse populations and their needs, and existing infrastructure, invasive species are recognized as a major threat to California's biodiversity and resilience to a changing climate.

## Authority

In November 2024, California voters approved a \$10 billion General Obligation Bond called the Safe Drinking Water, Wildfire Prevention, Drought Preparedness, and Clean Air Bond Act of 2024. It is also commonly known as the "Climate Bond." This bond allocates \$10 billion across state agencies to confront climate change, protect California communities and nature from its impacts, and improve the lives of Californians. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) on behalf of the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) is pleased to announce funding availability for the through the Climate Bond for Invasive Species Control Grants (ISCG) in the amount of \$16,450,000.

## Purpose

The purpose of this grant program is to support work on minimizing the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive species that have been or are likely to be detected in California. Grants of \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 will fund invasive species control work throughout California with an emphasis on projects that restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health. Priority shall be given to projects that are species-specific, time-sensitive, new to a geographic region, and likely to prevent the establishment of that species. Projects shall minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive species and restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health, with particular attention to projects providing direct and meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, and vulnerable populations.

Funded projects may include, but are not limited to, management actions for preventing introduction of invasive species, control, containment or eradication of an invasive species, and outreach, education, and research related to invasive species ISCC will

award grants through a competitive one phase application process. Grant proposals will be submitted to CDFA where they will undergo a two-phase review process, including an administrative review by CDFA and a technical review by California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC). Based on the outcome of the administrative and technical reviews, proposals will be submitted to ISCC for approval and funding. These application guidelines provide an overview of the ISCG application process and requirements.

## Funding, Duration

CDFA on behalf of the ISCC will award \$16,450,000 in Proposition 4 funds for ISCG projects within California.

Individual grant awards can range from \$100,000 to \$1,000,000, and CDFA reserves the right to offer an award amount other than the amount requested.

The maximum grant duration is 24 months; awarded projects and all associated expenditures must be completed within 24 months of the agreement start date. Costs incurred before the beginning of the grant agreement will not be reimbursed. Extensions will not be allowed.

## Priority Funding

The Climate Bond language requires that “at least 40 percent of the total funding made available pursuant to this division shall be invested in programs or projects that provide direct and meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, and vulnerable populations.” The following definitions come directly from the bond (PRC Section 90100) and will be used across 2024 Climate Bond programs:

- Disadvantaged community (DAC): A community with a median household income of less than 80 percent of the area average or less than 80 percent of statewide median household income.
- Severely disadvantaged community (SDAC): A community with a median household income of less than 60 percent of the area average or less than 60 percent of statewide median household income.
- Tribe: A federally recognized Native American tribe or a non-federally recognized Native American tribe listed on the California Tribal Consultation List maintained by the Native American Heritage Commission
- Vulnerable population: A subgroup population within a region or community that faces a disproportionately heightened risk or increased sensitivity to impacts of climate change and that lacks adequate resources to cope with, adapt to, or recover from such impacts. (Note: tribes are considered vulnerable populations)

CDFA will evaluate a target population’s status as a disadvantaged or severely disadvantaged community using the Climate Bond (Proposition 4) (S)DAC Status tool built for this purpose and give scoring preference to these priority populations. CDFA will

evaluate a target population’s status as a vulnerable population using the Climate Vulnerability Map in combination with the definition provided and will give scoring preference to these priority populations.

## Eligibility

Projects must be based in California and provide direct benefit to California.

Eligible applicants must be a:

1. Public college or university,
2. Federal, state, or local government entities, including Tribal entities,
3. 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization,
4. Special district,
5. Joint powers authority,
6. Mutual water company.

## Timeline

Release Request for Grant Proposals	
Webinar	
Grant Proposals Due	
Review Period	
Announcement and Funding Award	

## Technical Assistance Resources

To support the development of competitive proposals, CDFA will offer application technical assistance (TA) to eligible applicants for ISCG funding. Applicants can request TA by emailing the ISCC at [cisac@iscc.ca.gov](mailto:cisac@iscc.ca.gov).

TA providers will support all eligible grant applicants with technical assistance.

Application TA activities may include, but are not limited to:

- Direct application assistance, including clarification of application requirements, financial analysis, review of responses and application coordination.
- Assistance with the compilation/development of all application materials (project proposal, estimated timeline, budget, pre-development documents (if available));
- Identification of project area, integration of projects, and
- Assessment of project readiness

Important points about application technical assistance:

- Applicants are not required to receive TA.

- Receiving application TA does not guarantee that an applicant will be awarded a grant.

An online workshop will be held <INSERT DATE and TIME> to answer questions about the grant opportunity and the grant submissions process. The workshop will be recorded and available to watch through the deadline for submission of applications.

## How to Submit a Grant Proposal

Applicants are required to complete and submit the Invasive Species Control Grant Program Application using the required application template available [insert where the template will be posted].

The Grant Proposal Application consists of the following sections:

- Cover Page and Proposal Narrative (Template Attached)
- Budget and Budget Narrative (Template Attached)

Grant proposals must be submitted electronically to [insert e-mail address] no later than 5:00 PM PST on XXX. Late proposals will be disqualified.

### Files to Upload:

**1. Cover Page and Project Narrative.** Include a complete project narrative.

**2. Budget and Budget Narrative.** Include a complete budget table and budget narrative

**3. Project Leader(s) Resume(s).** Include a two-page resume, including a list of relevant publications. Also include a description of current research/outreach activities; provide information on all current and pending projects, whether or not there is a specific time commitment and how it will impact the proposed project.

**4. Collaborator's Statement of Commitment.** Include a letter from each collaborator describing their role in the project and statement of agreement to participate in the project.

**5. Letters of Support.** Include a letter from each supporter explaining the rationale for their support. Scanned copies of letters are acceptable

## Proposal Review and Evaluation

### Administrative Review

The purpose of the administrative review is to determine whether the grant proposal meets all application requirements, including reviewing the proposal and budget for accuracy and completeness. The administrative review will occur after the application due date.

### Technical Review

A technical review will be completed by the CISAC members, who will review the proposals and evaluate their merits. The CISAC will convene a meeting to complete individual reviews and finalize scores for each proposal. Any member of the committee who is connected to a submitted project will be excluded from any discussions or decisions regarding that project. The technical review will be completed using the review criteria established within this document.

The technical review will not factor matching funds into application scores as that practice can disadvantage low-resource organizations in the process of building capacity

The CISAC will make funding recommendations to the ISCC based on the outcomes of the administrative and technical reviews. The ISCC will select proposals for funding.

### **Disqualifications**

The following will result in the disqualification of a grant proposal:

- Incomplete grant proposals, including grant proposals with one or more unanswered questions and/or missing, blank, unreadable, corrupt, or otherwise unusable attachments
- Grant proposals requesting more than the maximum or less than the minimum award amount
- Grant proposals requesting funds outside of the grant term
- Grant proposals with unallowable costs or activities necessary to complete the project objectives
- Projects occurring out of state or with out-of-state project leads
- Proposals from ineligible entities

**APPEAL RIGHTS:** Any discretionary action taken by the ISCC may be appealed to the CDFA's Office of Hearings and Appeals within ten (10) calendar days of receiving a notice of disqualification from CDFA. Email notification shall serve as the date of service. The appeal must be in writing and signed by the responsible party named on the grant application or their authorized agent. It must state the grounds for the appeal and include any supporting documents and a copy of the decision being challenged. The submission must be sent to the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Office of Hearings and Appeals, 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA 95814 or emailed to [CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:CDFA.LegalOffice@cdfa.ca.gov). If submissions are not received within the time frame provided above, the appeal will be disqualified from consideration.

### **Notification and Feedback**

Grant proposals that are disqualified during the administrative review will be notified by email within three weeks of the grant proposal's due date. All other applicants will be notified by email regarding the status of their grant proposals in [timeframe]. Feedback generated during the review periods will be provided to applicants upon request.

To ensure all communications are received, points of contact listed in the application should add [e-mail] to their email safe senders list, address book, or contact list

## Award Process

### Overview of Grant Management

Successful applicants will receive a Grant Award Procedures (GAP) Manual with instructions on grant administration. The GAP Manual outlines detailed processes and policies for financial management, performance management, grant beneficiary relationships, and requested changes to the grant agreement.

### Grant Agreement Execution

All applicants will be notified regarding the status of their proposal by <insert date>. Applicant's whose projects are not funded may request comments from <insert contact name and email> within 30 business days of transmittal of the funding denial.

CDFA Office of Grant Administration will initiate the Grant Agreement process with successful applicants. The process of executing a grant agreement may take several months. Awardees will receive a Grant Agreement package with instructions regarding award requirements, including information on project implementation, reporting, and payment process.

Communication during the grant execution process is done primarily via email. CDFA will provide deadlines for each step in the process. CDFA reserves the right to rescind an award due to lack of response from an applicant selected for award. Once a grant package is selected for funding it may take CDFA's Office of Grants Administration up to 90 days to fully execute the grant agreement.

## Requirements and Limitations

Funding may supplement, but not supplant, existing activities/programs and funding.

- Supplement is defined as adding to existing funds to enhance or expand existing activities.
- Supplant is defined as replacing existing funds for an ongoing activity or funding an already funded activity.

## Executive Order N-6-22 – Russia Sanctions

On March 4, 2022, Governor Gavin Newsom issued Executive Order (EO) N-6-22 regarding Economic Sanctions against Russia and Russian entities and individuals. “Economic Sanctions” refers to sanctions imposed by the U.S. government in response to Russia’s actions in Ukraine, as well as any sanctions imposed under state law. By submitting a bid, proposal, or application, Bidder/Applicant represents that it is not a target of Economic Sanctions.

Should the State determine Bidder/Applicant is a target of Economic Sanctions or is conducting prohibited transactions with sanctioned individuals or entities, that shall be grounds for rejection of the Bidder’s/Applicant’s bid/proposal/application any time prior to contract/agreement execution, or, if determined after contract/agreement execution, shall be grounds for termination by the State.

## Public Disclosure

ISSC is responsible for reporting on the status and use of Climate Bond funds. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA), which administers the Bond, may require ISSC to report any or all the data collected from the program.

ISSC will post summary information about the applications submitted to these programs, the projects awarded, and outcome information, including project final reports.

Data associated with these grant programs are subject to public disclosure through the California Public Records Act (CPRA). The CPRA states that every citizen has the right to inspect and/or obtain a copy of any public record. Certain records are exempt from disclosure under the CPRA. The CDFA Legal Office shall determine if a record is exempt from disclosure.

## Grant Regulations

All awarded projects are subject to the Grant Administration Regulations set forth by CDFA at: <https://www.cdca.ca.gov/Regulations/General/FinalGrantAdminRegs-Text.pdf>

## Allowable Costs

Allowable costs include those costs necessary to complete the grant objectives and include, but are not limited to the following

1. Salaries and fringe benefits for staff conducting work on the project.
2. Operating expenses for items required to complete work on the project.
  - a. Supplies must be used exclusively for the project.
  - b. Travel necessary to complete the work of the project.
  - c. Equipment necessary to complete the work of the project.

- d. Contractor expenses associated with subawards identified in the agreement for completion of work associated with the project.
- e. Attendance at meetings or conferences in alignment with the work project.
- f. Outreach and communications costs associated with the project.
- g. Training necessary to complete the project.
- h. Indirect costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be specifically identified with a particular project

## Unallowable Costs

Unallowable costs will not be reimbursed and include the following:

### Unallowable Items of Cost

1. Expenses for delta conveyance facilities.
2. Costs associated with compliance with California Environmental Quality Act
3. Costs of promotional items, memorabilia, gifts, souvenirs, and similar items.
4. Costs of advertising and public relations that are not directly related to the purpose or objectives of the grant program or grant award.
5. Costs of alcoholic beverages.
6. Costs for overtime.
7. Costs incurred for contributions and donations from the recipient to other entities.
8. Costs for entertainment, amusement, diversion, or social activities, including any associated costs.
9. Costs resulting from the recipient's failure to comply with grant program requirements, grant award terms and conditions, or applicable laws.
10. Costs associated with fundraising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts, donations, and bequests, and similar endeavors to raise capital or obtain contributions.
11. Costs associated with applications for patents, copyrights, or trademarks.
12. Costs associated with lobbying.
13. Costs such as incorporation fees, business license fees, and other costs related to organizing a business or similar entity.
14. Pre-award costs.
15. Lease-to-own costs.
16. Costs of selling and marketing any products or services.
17. Costs of sponsorships.
18. Costs that accrue due to the negligent or willful failure of the recipient to prevent such costs.

## Grant Terms and Conditions

If awarded a grant from CDFA, the grant recipient will be expected to sign an agreement abiding by certain terms and conditions, including but not limited to:

- Submission of semi-annual, annual and final performance reports. (samples attached)

- The grant recipient understands that CDFA may conduct site visits at any time during the grant period.
- Grantee is required to establish project signage and share videos or press releases about the project.
- Grantee and or cooperators may be asked to provide project updates at ISCC and/or CISAC meetings, in-person or virtually.

## Payment Process

If awarded, recipients will be subject to all applicable State regulations. Recipients are required to submit invoices at least quarterly, but no more frequently than monthly for reimbursement of actual expenses incurred to support approved project activities. Invoices must include documentation to support reimbursement requested. Recipients may be eligible to receive an advance payment to cover anticipated project expenditures. Advance payments may not exceed 25 percent of the total award and will need to be submitted to CDFA for approval. Ten percent of the total amount of the award will be withheld until receipt, review, and approval of the Final Performance Report.

## Reporting Requirements

Reporting requirements include a semi-annual and annual report each year and a final report after the project is completed.

- The semi-annual report will cover the first 6 months of the project year 1 and 2 and is due no later than 60 days after the end of the 6-month period.
- The annual report will cover the second 6 months of the project year 1 and is due no later than 60 days after the end of the 6-month period.
- A final report will be due no later than 120 days after the end of the grant.
- The principal investigator or other key personnel may be asked to present updates or outcomes of the project at CIASC or ISCC public meetings. The presentation will provide information about project goals, objectives, and results.

## Evaluation

### Criteria

All applications will be evaluated based on the criteria detailed below.

EVALUATION CRITERIA	Max points
Project Merit	40

<p><b>Justification</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Need and Beneficiaries:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The defined problem poses an actual or imminent significant threat to California’s economy, environment, or human health.</li> <li>– The defined problem poses an actual or imminent threat across a large geographic scale (regional/statewide level).</li> <li>– Proposed project indicates potential contribution to long-term problem resolution.</li> <li>– For research proposals, new information to be generated is a logical next step based on the previously conducted related research or efforts described in the proposal.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <u>Alignment with Priorities:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Addressing the defined problem aligns with the goals of the grant.</li> <li>– Proposed project will benefit California across multiple sectors (agriculture, environmental, human health).</li> <li>– Proposed project aligns with documented state priorities (department, agency, governor’s).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed objectives effectively address the stated problem.</li> <li>• The proposed objectives align with grant goals.</li> <li>• The proposed objectives align with state priorities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Tasks and Methods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed tasks and methods are appropriate to fulfill the objectives.</li> </ul>	<p>15</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p>
<p><b>Project Team and Resources</b></p>	
<p><b>Team</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaders + collaborators: The project leaders have complementary and integrated expertise, and their leadership approach/governance and organizational structure is appropriate for the project.</li> <li>• The project proposal has strong support from relevant organizations/individuals.</li> </ul>	<p>20</p>
<p><b>Resources</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organizational and institutional support, equipment, and other physical resources available to the project leaders are adequate for the project proposed.</li> <li>• The project will benefit from the unique features of the scientific, cultural, environment, and/or collaborative arrangements.</li> </ul>	<p>10</p>
<p><b>Feasibility</b></p>	<p>30</p>



## Cover Page

**Project Title:** Provide a unique and concise title for the proposed project that describes the project.

**Project Type:** Prevention, containment/control, eradication, outreach, education, research, other (describe)

**Target Species:** Identify the invasive species (one or more) to be addressed by the project

**Geographic Scope**

**Grant Funding Amount Requested**

**Project Start and End Dates**

PROP 4 INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT APPLICATION – COVER PAGE AND  
NARRATIVE APPLICATION

**Applicant Organization:** Legal name of the organization that will serve as lead for the project and will receive and oversee the use of grant funds.

Organization Type

**Taxpayer Identification Number:** Enter the applicants 9-digit taxpayer identification number in the format ##-#####.

**Project Summary (not to exceed 500 words):** Concisely describe the need for the project, approach to be taken to address it, and expected outcomes.

## **Project Narrative**

The narrative must address each section below. This content will be the basis for the review and scoring of each proposal as outlined in the Evaluation section. The Project Narrative should not exceed 12 pages (single-spaced), excluding figures, tables, and references. Supporting documents should be added to the end of the Project Narrative and will not count towards the page limit.

### **Section One: Overview**

- 1.1 Need and Beneficiaries: Describe the problem, and how the proposed project will minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive species. Identify beneficiaries, such as communities, resources, biodiversity, agriculture, water quality, climate adaptation, carbon sequestration, industries, and sectors, etc. that will benefit from this project.

1.2 Alignment with Priorities: Identify and describe how the proposed project contributes to documented priorities relevant to the State, including but not limited to projects that are species-specific, time-sensitive, new to a geographic region, and likely to prevent the establishment of that species. Projects shall minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts caused by invasive species and restore and protect biodiversity and ecosystem health, with particular attention to projects providing direct and meaningful benefits to disadvantaged communities, severely disadvantaged communities, and vulnerable populations. Reference documents, identify specific actions in those documents, and tie them to the proposed project.

## **Section Two: Project Objectives**

2.1 Objectives and the questions to be addressed: Define the objectives, how each objective contributes to meeting the defined need and beneficiaries, and how each objective will be met.

### **Section Three: Tasks and Methods**

3.1 Tasks and subtasks: For each objective, define and describe each task and subtask that will be implemented, and explain how they contribute to that objective.

3.2 Methods: Define and describe the methods that will be used to accomplish each task and/or subtask.

3.3 Timeline. Describe when each task and subtask will be completed. Include interim deadlines and work products, and when data and reports will be shared with CDFA.

3.4 Data Management Plan: Include a data management plan, if applicable, that addresses data collection, quality control, the electronic repository for the data, how it will be backed up and archived, and its availability to the public

## **Section Four: Deliverables, Expected Outcomes and Benefits**

4.1 Define and describe what products, benefits, or intellectual advances will result from the project. Characterize as appropriate for the type of project being implemented.

4.2 Describe how this project benefits the following:

- Protects biodiversity, ecosystem health and/or human health;
- Advances justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion;
- Leverages funding through cost-sharing with collaborations.

**Section Five: Success Criteria**

5. Define and describe how implementation of the project will be assessed quantitatively or qualitatively. Detail what measures will be used to evaluate project outcomes, and how they will be assessed and reported to CDFA.

## **Section Six: Supplemental Information**

6.1 Include any supplementary information/documents/maps which you feel are essential to the review committee in assessing this proposal. If including attachments, submit them as PDF files.

## **Section Seven: Project Team**

7.1 Project Team and institutional resources: List the names of the team members, and describe institutional resources and equipment (if applicable) that will be used for project implementation. Submit a CV/resume for each team member (not to exceed two pages) as a PDF file with this application.

7.2 Partners. List contributing partners on this effort. Substantiate their role with a one-page letter from each on their letterhead, submitted as a PDF file with this application.

7.3 Project Supporters. Attached letters of Support for all entities listed here.

## **Section Eight: Applicant Information**

### ***Project Lead***

Name

Institution

Address

Phone number

Email address

***Contract Administration***

Name

Institution

Address

Phone number

Email address

**PROP 4 INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT APPLIATION – BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE TEMPLATE**

Complete the budget table and provide a detailed budget narrative of your proposed budget broken into years 1 and 2 (see below). An Excel version of the budget table can be found on the ISCC webpage: <INSERT LINK> Costs that are not personnel, operating expenses, or subawards should be listed individually under other direct costs. All allowable and unallowable expenses can be found in detail in the Request for Proposals or the Grant Management Guidelines. Unallowable costs will not be reimbursed.

BUDGET CATEGORY	From: To:			
		Year 1	Year 2	Total
(1) PERSONNEL: <i>Salary and fringe benefits.</i>				
Salary				
Fringe benefits				
(2) OPERATING EXPENSES				
Travel				
Materials & Supplies				
Equipment				
SUBAWARD <i>IDC Calc</i>	<i>Not subject to</i>			

(3) OTHER DIRECT COSTS (ODC) <i>IDC Calc</i>	<i>Subject to</i>			
<i>Other direct cost 1</i>				
<i>Other direct cost 2</i>				
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>				
(4) Indirect (F&A) <u>F&amp;A costs Base</u> <i>Rate MTDC *</i>				
<b>TOTAL COSTS FOR PROPOSED PROJECT PERIOD</b>				
<b>FUNDING REQUESTED</b>				

\* MTDC = Modified Total Direct Cost

## PROP 4 INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT APPLICATION – BUDGET AND BUDGET NARRATIVE TEMPLATE

The budget narrative should be provided in a paragraph format for each budget category. The budget narrative, supported by the budget table, is the basis for the review and scoring of each proposal as outlined in the Evaluation section. Budgets should only include allowable costs as defined in the Allowable and Unallowable Costs section above. Budget narrative should identify the funding from external sources. Provide a clear explanation describing other funding sources and their contributions to the overall project.

Assume a start date of 06/01/2026 and explain all of the following:

1. **Personnel:** *Actual* salary/pay rate and fringe benefit information for all Key Personnel and any Other Personnel (as applicable). When calculating out years, include anticipated Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) and planned salary increases. For new personnel, provide a reasonable estimate based on prior experience or research.
2. **Operating Expenses:** Itemize and justify all of the following operating expenses:
  - A. **Supplies:** Itemize and justify all supplies to be purchased. Supplies include all consumable materials with an acquisition cost less than \$5,000 per unit. Supplies must be used exclusively for the project. For each grant year, provide an itemized list of projected supply expenditures, the approximate dollar amount for each item, and describe how it will support the purpose and goal of the project.
  - B. **Travel:** The maximum travel rates allowable are the \_\_\_\_\_ rates in effect at the time of travel as established by the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) or by their institution's travel policies.
  - C. **Equipment:** Tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost of \$10,000 or more. The acquisition cost includes the cost of any necessary accessories and all incidental costs incurred to put the asset into place and ready for its intended use.
    - i. Special purpose equipment is used only for research, scientific, or other technical activities. For example, electron microscopes, spectrometers, and dairy digesters are special purpose equipment.
    - ii. General purpose equipment is not limited to research, scientific or other technical activities. For example, office equipment and furnishings, modular offices, telephone networks, information technology equipment and systems, air conditioning equipment, reproduction and printing equipment, and motor vehicles are general purpose equipment.
3. **Subawards:** Contractor may be included in the budget but do not submit their own budget template.

PROP 4 INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL GRANT APPLICATION – BUDGET AND BUDGET  
NARRATIVE TEMPLATE

4. **Other Direct Costs:** Identify and explain any additional expenses not covered by the above categories. Other expenses include, but are not limited to: conferences or meetings, communications, speaker/trainer fees, publication costs, data collection, and other budgeted costs associated with the project.
  
5. **Indirect Costs:** Costs incurred for common or joint objectives that cannot be specifically identified with a particular project, program, or organizational activity. Typical indirect costs include but are not limited to rent, utilities and internet service, cellular and land-line telephone service, general office supplies, and insurance. ISSC provides for indirect costs as a percentage of the award but does not oversee the use of these funds.
  - A. ISSC reimburses indirect costs based upon the Modified Total Direct Costs, which is the sum of all costs subject to the indirect rate.
  - B. Applicants may request the following indirect cost rates, as allowable in the Climate Bond Legislation:
  - C. The *de minimis* federal indirect cost rate of 15%
  - D. A previously negotiated indirect cost rate, pursuant to a Primary Applicant/Subrecipient(s) agreement with CDFA (*Supporting Documentation Required*)
  - E. A rate negotiated by the Primary Applicant/Subrecipient(s) in the last 5 years with another state agency (*Supporting Documentation Required*)
  - F. A rate proposed by the grantee in the grantee's program application with the administering state agency if the grantee does not have an existing state rate (*Justification Required. The TRC and ISSC will evaluate the request and justification in the context of the proposal's scope and budget*).
  
6. Indicate any Federal, State, or other grant program(s) providing funding for this project, as well as any partner providing cash funding or in-kind contributions toward the completion of the project. Provide the name of the organization, the name and contact (telephone number and email address) of primary contact of the organization, and the amount(s) of funds and/or in-kind services they have committed.