

California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
August 21st, 2025 Meeting Minutes

CISAC Members:

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

CISAC Members Absent:

Erik Blosser	Humberto Izquierdo	Helene Wright
Stacy Hishinuma	Brent Johnson	

Guests:

Claire Aicken	Heather Healy	Paul Rugman-Jones
Johnathan Babineau	Elham Jamshidi	Ambika Saini
Rachel Burnap	Thomas Jensen	Joe Scheele
Andy Chang	Doug Johnson	Chris Scianni
Julie Clark	David Juliano	CherieShook
Kim Corella	John Kabashima	Stephanie Stark
Atlasi Daneshvar	Gabriella Kalbach	Constance Taylor
Travis Elder	Melonie Morgan	Neil Tsutsui
Jim Farrar	Randall Oliver	Greta Varien
Nathan Fishburn	MacKenzie Patton	Jeremy Wagner
Paul Gilbert-Snyder	David Pegos	Koren Widdel
Lindsey Hack	Sam Raburn	David Wirta
Lu Han	Duke Richardson	
Katie Harrell	Jay Rowan	

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. on August 21st, 2025. Dr. Ricky Lara welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Updates:

Dr. Ricky Lara highlighted the success of the bio-incubators that allowed for the release of the Yellow Star Thistle biocontrol agents. He will be participating at the Entomological Society of America's (ESA) national meeting in November. The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will be putting together a symposium celebrating fifty years of biological control.

Lisa Worthington will be part of a scientific panel presentation on pest related concerns, addressing broader landscape concerns such as enhancing landscape resilience and reducing wildfire incidence.

Martha Volkoff shared the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DWF) will receive a small amount of federal funding for the invasive Golden Mussel. DWF offered \$1,000,000 in grant funding for prevention program efforts and have selected the projects to be funded. The Fish and Game Commission gave their approval to proceed with proactively listing the golden mussel and other non-native species of concern as restricted species.

Ted Grosholz shared the federal Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) is developing a white paper on marine invasive species and border security. The paper will focus on fouling ship hulls and drawing attention to aquarium and pet species of trade.

Gina Darin from the Department of Water Resources (DWR) shared they are collaborating alongside CDFW on the golden mussel taskforce, and the Nutria eradication program. The fish restoration program is successfully continuing efforts on tidal habitat restoration in the Delta and Suisun Marsh.

Dr Shannon Lynch developed a statewide risk map based of the predictive modeling for Invasive Shothole Borer (ISHB), pending release to the public soon. Received funding from CalFire to continue research on the greater shothole borer (GSHB), improve trap optimization, and monitoring efforts in the Santa Cruz area.

David Haviland is planning on a one-year sabbatical leave to continue research work on invasive species issues globally.

Bea Nobua Behrmann gave an update on the golden spotted oak borer (GSOB) Blitz.

David Pegos shared multiple updates. There is a new Medfly quarantine in Santa Clara County. There is an ongoing Spongy Moth eradication project in Monte Nido. Additionally, there is a Japanese Beetle eradication project in Sacramento and Rancho Cordova.

Chris Scianni shared that the California State Lands Commission filed a lawsuit against the Environment Protection Agency (EPA). The lawsuit argues that the EPA's rule issued under the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA), unlawfully overrides the state's established biofouling management program.

Doug Johnson highlighted the Cal IPC symposium in November taking place in Ventura. New funds through Department of Pesticide Regulation to continue working on the WeedCut tool. Working with the national forests on weed management programs.

Joe Scheele from Customs and Border Protections discussed the threat of new world screwworm and various methods of control utilized to minimize the spread.

Dr. John Kabashima commented that the South American Palm Weevil has reached Camp Pendleton and there is concern for it spreading in Southern California. A work

group in Orange County is being organized for a response program with plans for trapping and treatment. Additional work includes research on a new canker pathogen of pine trees to address ghost canker disease affecting mature pine trees.

Koren Widdel is working with David Pegos on the ISHB Trapping/Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB) trapping for the next calendar year. She shared that some Californian county agricultural commissioners have been offered funding for spotted lanternfly surveys for this fall. Funding for the high-risk pest exclusion for inspections at parcel terminal and other various pathways has been impacted, affecting the level of service to continue the inspections. They are looking to utilizing the Comprehensive Pest Prevention Program Analysis Report (C3PA) to advocate for funding to prevent the risk from these various entry pathways.

MacKenzie Patton is an Invasive Pest Management (IPM) advisor for the Central Sierra region. She shared that one of Curtis Ewing's MOB traps in Amador County caught a detection of the beetle. She also provided information on the Glassy-winged Sharpshooters (GWSS) outbreak in El Dorado County and progress on biocontrol for this pest.

Randall Oliver shared they are hosting 2025 ISHB fusarium dieback symposium in September at Madera Ranch. Also reported that the Firewood Taskforce has been able to utilize a Wildlife Urban Interface Climate Action Network Grant to purchase supplies for outreach and education efforts at statewide events.

Committee Business:

Motion: To approve the June 12th, 2025 meeting minutes of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

First Motion: Tom Getts

Second Motion: Tim Crothers

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Proposition 4 (overview)

\$20,000,000 for purposes of funding invasives species projects and activities recommended by the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC).

Potential operational allocations include:

1. Statewide Bond Costs	\$150,000
2. 7% Overhead	\$1,400,000
3. Technical Assistance (set aside)	\$500,000
Remaining funds	\$17,950,000

Overarching considerations for these funds include:

1. Preference shall be given to projects that restore or protect biodiversity and ecosystem health.
2. Consideration shall be given to geographical priority.

The law established that the 2024 Climate Bond requires that *at least 40 percent* of the total bond funding, “shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities”. Of this 40 percent, *at least 10 percent* of the total funding “shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to severely disadvantaged communities”.

Discussion: Proposition 4 (2024) Invasive Species Grant Application

After lengthy discussion, the Invasive Species Grant application will be revisited after further clarity from administration and CDFA contracts.

Discussion: List of Priority Invasive Species Projects

One page proposal will be submitted per project.

1. Strengthening the iNaturalist reporting system – Shaun Winterton
2. Supporting golden mussel response. Martha Volkoff & Ted Grosholz & Paul Gilbert-Snyder & Lu Han
 - a. Boat decontamination facilities.
 - b. Upgrading water infrastructure for agricultural use.
 - c. Working with the state water project.
3. Supporting ISHB response – Bea Nobua-Behrman & Shannon Lynch
 - 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.
4. Weed management area rapid response – Doug Johnson & Tom Getts
 - a. Including equipment for applications or cultural solutions.
 - b. Training and operators - Workforce development.
5. Continuing weed management area funding – Doug Johnson & Tom Getts
6. Supporting a statewide GSOB response – Bea Nobua-Behrman
 - a. Survey detention and Rapid response.
 - i. Tub grinder + operations.
 - b. Outreach and engagement.
 - i. Signage.
 - c. Research.
 - d. Tree removal of amplifier trees.
7. Firewood Task Force funding – Randall Oliver
 - a. Signage.
 - b. General funding.

- c. Firewood scout - need agreement to be part of that program (\$1000/\$500).
- d. Vendors selling firewood.

8. Vector Pathway Outreach Campaign – Lisa Worthington

- a. Don't pack a pest campaign.
- b. Commercial Driver's License renewal opportunity / video on incoming domestic flights.
- c. Transportation oriented outreach.

9. CDFA's Border Protection Stations - reduction in hours and potential mitigation of that impact – Ricky Lara & David Pegos

- a. Additional storage capacity, evaluation tools (microscopes, scanners, hatchets, etc.).
- b. Signage (\$1,000,000 per sign).
- c. Incinerators.

10. Diagnostic Lab at CDFA upgrades (New equipment and emerging technology) – Shaun Winterton & Cheryl Bloomquist & Suzanne Latham

11. Biocontrol facility upgrades and new insectary facility (esp. Northern California in Los Alamedas), rearing of beneficial endemic species – Katie Fillippini & Ricky Lara

- a. Dr. Morgan's facilities.

12. Centralized campuses for invasive species dog training facilities – David Pegos & Martha Volkoff & Mariah

13. University of California Support – David Haviland

- 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).

14. Augment the Emergency rapid response fund (existing) – Martha Volkoff

15. Augment Statewide Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys (3 crews) (Existing) – Ted Grosholz & Gina Darin

16. Updates on ecological and economic impact reports – Karen Jetter

17. Controlling high-risk vectors through incentives and research – David Pegos

- a. Encourage/Support developing specialty crop market
- b. UC Small Farm Advisor

18. Convene a science advisory panel with the regulation to communicate CISAC outcomes and inform the regulation – Koren Widdel

- a. Helpful, especially for Ag Commissioners on B-rated pests.

19. Workshops to support research collaborations among stakeholders – Shannon Lynch

20. Using drones to map invasive species in the wildland (Koren suggested for San Mateo Co.) – Karen Widdel
 - a. E.g., adapting use of drones to track invasive species.
21. Multi-agency workshop on internet sales, so all agencies working in this area are equipped to make the seizure – David Pegos
22. Continue funding for statewide wood borer survey – Joanna Fisher & Shannon Lynch
23. Invest in citizen scientist projects that leverage the use of MG, WCA, and CalNaturalists volunteers in invasive species early detection efforts – Shaun Winterton & Bea Nobua-Behrmann
 - a. Collaboration with databases and maps, Google Suite, programs to avoid duplication, including iNaturalist and other citizen scientist-generated maps.
24. Funding for workshops on sustainable pest management/IPM with an emphasis on biocontrol – Ricky Lara & Shannon Lynch
25. Invasive species tours – David Pegos
26. Invasive species summit – David Pegos
27. ISCC/CISAC Operational Fund – David Pegos
28. Populating Living list – Doug Johnson & David Pegos
29. Full-time support for ISCC/CISAC – Gina Darin
30. Volutaria San Diego Project – Jordan Keys & Doug Johnson
31. PlantRight updates and needs – Doug Johnson & David Pegos
32. Caulerpa prolifera updates and needs – Martha Volkoff & David Pegos
33. Outreach coordinator for invasive species for the state – Shannon Lynch
34. South American Palm Weevil early detection and rapid response – Bea Nobua-Behrmann & Mark Hoddle & Ricky Lara

Public Comment:

No comments.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 16th, 2025, at 10:00 am.

California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
October 16th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

CISAC Members:

Erik Blosser	Tom Getts	Katie Sutherland-Ashley
Tim Crothers	Ricky Lara	Lisa Worthington
Gina Darin	Bea Nobua-Behrman	

CISAC Members Absent:

Ted Grosholz	Humberto Izquierdo	Lori Nerzura
David Haviland	Brent Johnson	Martha Volkoff
Stacy Hishinuma	Shannon Lynch	Helene Wright

Guests:

Claire Aicken	Brad Hooker	Brianne Sakata
Jonthan Babineau	Virginia Jameson	Chris Scianni
Elizabeth Brusati	Karen Jetter	Cherie Shook
Gilbert Canchola	Doug Johnson	Stephanie Stark
Kim Corella	Gabriella Kalbach	Susanna Theroux
Atlasi Daneshvar	Joshua Kress	Neil Tsutsui
Curtis Ewing	Dahmoon Maeesomy	Kelly Vandergon
Katie Filippini	Casey McSwiggin	Diane Varley
Nathan Fishburn	Juan Orendain	Mindy Wilkinson
Kevin Gallo	David Pegos	Nick Waelty
Kris Godfrey	Samuel Raburn	Erik Wilkins
Lindsey Hack	Raisa Rahim	Ellen Willis-Norton
Jeremy Haas	Ambika Saini	Karey Windbiel-Rojas

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:04 am on October 16th, 2025. Dr. Ricky Lara welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Updates:

Dr. Ricky Lara from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) – biological control, shared that they are continuing to rear biocontrol agents for Yellow Star Thistle and the brown marmorated Stink Bug. Release of these agents is planned for later this year. There have been no detections for Emerald Ash Borer from the trapping projects.

Gina Darin from Department of Water Resources (CDWR), shared her department continues to make progress in the tidal wetland habitat restoration. They are continuing their partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on the golden mussel response and nutria response. Additionally, the state water project anticipates the

golden mussel invasion and is preparing to analyze the cost and maintenance of infrastructure in response.

Tim Crothers shared he attended the Invasive Shothole Borer (ISHB) symposium.

Lisa Worthington from Caltrans presented on the Southern California Governor's Wildfire and Landscape Resilience Taskforce covering an array of topics including wildfire risk reduction, fire prevention and invasive species management.

Bea Nobua-Behrmann from the University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR) shared they hosted the ISHB Symposium. Other updates include a detection of one South American Palm Weevil (SAPW) caught in a trap in South Irvine. There was another detection of SAPW in Southern Orange County – Rancho Viejo area.

Erik Blosser from the California Department of Public Health shared information on the *Aedes aegypti* (yellow fever). The virus is moving from Southern Valley to Northern Valley. The San Francisco – Bay Area now has three new counties having established populations: Santa Clara, Almeda, Contra Costa.

Martha Volkoff from CDFW updated the committee on California Assembly Bill 149 – Golden Mussel Response. The language in the bill was amended to be expanded to invasive mussels and be inclusive of golden mussels. Martha Volkoff additionally shared news on the Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species. As the California representative, Martha nominated and secured Sacramento, California as the state to host the 2026 meeting.

Tom Getts with the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) shared there is internal organization re-structuring at the UCCE. Programs are to be broken into four program teams – Ethology, Vertebra, Plant Pathology and Weed management.

David Pegos shared that he attended the League of Cities conference and highlighted various invasive species issues to the public. There is a new glassy-winged sharpshooter (GWSS) infestation in Santa Clara County. Oriental fruit fly quarantines in Riverside and San Bernadino counties are ongoing. Upcoming outreach events will include attending the California Association of Pest Control Advisors, to help inform and educate that demographic on relevant invasive species issues.

Victoria Hornbaker announced she will be taking on a leadership role in the CISAC. In preparation for the Proposition 4 funds, Victoria will be assisting in the grant's development and the ensuring compliance with additional rules and requirements.

Brianne Sakata with the CDWR division of operations and maintenance provided an update on the golden mussel. She noted it has quickly spread throughout the state water project from the Delta all the way to Southern California. It is impacting on the infrastructure, and the initial response is focused on critical systems in the facilities intolerable of biofouling.

Chris Schiani with the state lands commission in the Marine Invasive Species program shared that their program regulates commercial ships in international business, implementing the mandatory bio-fouling management requirements. They have been asked by International Maritime Organization to represent them and their test bio-fouling project to deliver the commercial ships bio-fouling risk assessment and underwater inspection training in the Western hemisphere.

David Pegos inquired the committee members about attending the 2025 North America Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA) annual conference that is approaching in November at Lake Tahoe. Ricky Lara and Lisa Worthington will be interested in attending from CISAC.

Atlasi Daneshvar, Senior Water Resource Specialist from Santa Clara Valley Water, informed the committee the drinking water received from the state water Project and central valley project have been impacted by golden mussel colonization in these two critical sources. They hope to receive support from proposition 4 funding to help mitigate the issue and secure water security for the county residents.

Proposition 4 Overview – Q&A

Diane Varley and Virginia Jameson presented updates to *The Climate Bond and CISAC – Proposition 4*. Diane highlighted two important requirements PCR 93520 and PCR 90140. PCR 93520, states, “preference shall be given to projects that restore and protect the biodiversity and ecological health. Consideration shall be given to geographic equity. The second is PCR 90140, which states, “40 percent of the total funds shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to vulnerable populations or disadvantaged communities. At least 10 percent of the total funds available pursuant to this division shall be allocated for projects that provide meaningful and direct benefits to disadvantaged communities.” Additionally, the statutory criteria CISAC must establish needs to meet requirements to prefer, consider, track and direct, measure and evaluate and ensure recipient eligibility.

CDFA Border Protection Station Invasive Species

Juan Orendain from the California Border Protection Stations Branch gave a presentation to the committee on the history of their branch. The BPR was established in 1921 as the first line of defense against unwanted pests. The mission of the BPRS is to prevent exotic pest introductions via overland highways at California’s borders with neighboring states. The goal is to minimize the chance that vehicles entering the state are carrying commodities infested with pests that pose a serious threat to California’s agriculture. Tactics of inspections include fruit and vegetables, nursery stock, plant debris, firewood, soil, hay, seeds, grain, noxious weeds, aviary etc. There are now sixteen border stations throughout California on all major highways and interstates. All types of vehicles are inspected including private/commercial, passenger, self-moving and recreational. Additional inspections include fish and wildlife watercraft for aquatic invasive species and the CDFA livestock branch.

Comprehensive Pest Prevention Program Analysis

Victoria Hornbaker gave an update to the presentation on the Comprehensive Pest Prevention Program Analysis (C3PA). This will be the first large-scale analysis of CA pest prevention system since 1997. The analysis seeks to identify strategies and tools to support a modern pest prevention system. Additionally, it will evaluate the effectiveness of pest risk abatement from the new pathways and current exclusion system. Victoria announced that the analysis is complete, and CDFA has completed their review and provided feedback. Discussion is taking place on how to streamline the overarching comments and collaboration with the few California agricultural commissioners is underway to include those comments as well.

Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) Meeting Agenda Development

The next presentation was on the ISCC's December 8th meeting Agenda. The following members expressed interest in covering the following topics of interest:

- California Wildfire and Forest Resilience Taskforce – Lisa
 - Tree Mortality/ invasive species/ invasive grasses
- Proposition 4 – Diane/Julie (DNRA)
- Nutria Eradication – Gina
- Golden Mussel – Martha Volkoff
- Climate Smart Ag – Virgina
- Rats – Michelle Dennis/Kevy Mace
- CISAC Summit/ tours – Discussion session
- Weed Management Areas – Michelle Dennis
- Emerald Ash Borer
- South American Palm Weevil
- AB-900: adding stewardship on Proposition 4 and 30x30
- Highlight accomplishments – David

Committee Business

The Board identified members interested in participating in an Invasive Species Tour and Summit Subcommittee meeting: Gina Darin, Martha Volkoff, Humberto Izquierdo, Ricky Lara, Tim Crothers, Lisa Worthington, Katie Sutherland-Ashley, Bea Nobua-Behrmann, Tom Getts, and Shannon Lynch.

ISCC Funding Projects

David Pegos provided an update on the ISCC funded projects. CDFA is working with the University of California Invasive Pest Management (IPM) program and UCANR to finalize the contract for assistance in Invasive Species Summit & the Invasive Species Tours. The operational fund has \$24,708.59 in funds remaining. The work for the Living List and Pathways Prioritization is pending until the agreement with UC IPM and UCANR is in place. Which will help to assist in executing the goals of capturing the

species for the living list and report. The reserve fund has two projects identified: *Caulerpa prolifera* eradication at the San Diego Port and *Plecostachys serpyllifolia* (petite licorice) eradication at the Santa Rosa Islands of the Channel Islands National Park.

For the Invasive Shothole Borer, \$802,187.50 has been identified for the counties to complete trapping projects. A new species of shothole borer (Greater shothole borer) identified in Santa Cruz. The efforts are ongoing for eradicating *Volutaria* in the Borrego springs area of San Diego County; the contract was extended for an additional year to allow for optimal trapping due to weather conditions. The exotic woodborer survey has spent half of the funds in 2024; the other half will be executed in 2025. These funds have allowed for additional locations of traps and types of lures. To support the exotic aquatic species survey there was the acquisition of a boat, and the program plans to use funds to expand opportunities to search for aquatic invasive species. The Yellow Star Thistle Biocontrol Incubators are in operation and producing biocontrol agents which have been distributed throughout the state. Lastly, the *Caulerpa* project in Newport Bay is on-going with diving efforts for eradication of *Caulerpa*.

Public Comment:

Curtis Ewing: California Firewood Taskforce is on track with objectives. There may have been a reported positive of the Mediterranean Oak Borer in Marysville, confirmation is pending. MOB is spreading, presently in Amador, El Dorado and continuing to spread into the Foothills and further.

Karey Windbiel Rojas: Presenting miniseries of webinars to share general information to public, covering topics of invasive pests. Three more webinars will be offered, on the first Wednesday of each month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for December 10th, 2025 at 10:00 am.