

To: Victoria Hornbaker – CDFA Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
From: Nancy Wahl-Scheurich
Subject: **CARCD Request to CISAC for 2026 Conference Sponsorship**
Date: July 18, 2026

Dear Victoria,

As a member of the working group formed by CISAC, I was at the June meeting where conference sponsorships from CISAC were approved. As a result, I'm writing on behalf of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) to request CISAC's sponsorship of CARCD's 81st Annual Conference of statewide Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs), who as you know, are crucial to invasive species control across the state.

Attended by RCDs, federal and state agencies, nonprofits, private industry, and farming, forestry, and conservation community members, our conference has had record attendance (over 300 people per day) and has sold out the last four years in a row. CISAC's sponsorship and visibility at the conference will highlight the work of the Committee and the importance of invasive species control, and importantly, the sponsorship funds will increase CARCD's ability to support RCDs and to enable more RCDs to do more invasive species work.

Basic Conference Information:

- **Conference Name:** CARCD 81st Annual Conference
- **Conference Dates:** November 17-19 (Main conference November 18 and 19)
- **Location:** Doubletree by Hilton Sacramento
- **Expected Attendance:** Approximately 350
- **Audience:** RCD leadership and staff, state and federal agency officials and staff, nonprofits and companies in conservation space, community members including tribes, farmers, ranchers, foresters and conservationists.

CARCD Sponsorship Request:

Based on CISAC's Sponsorship Framework document we have determined that our conference **exceeds the requirements for benefits to CISAC and benefits to statewide efforts** to tackle invasive species.

CARCD requests a sponsorship of \$3,500 at the Exhibitor level. A second option is the \$2,500 Benefactor level. The table on the next page demonstrates how our conference fits with eligibility and requirements for sponsorship and provides further explanation about why we believe the special \$3,500 amount should be considered.

We thank you for your consideration and the work that CISAC is doing and we look forward to continuing to do our part. Please let me know if you have any questions about the table on the next page or anything else about the conference.

Best regards,

Nancy Wahl-Scheurich

Nancy Wahl-Scheurich, CARCD Executive Director

Eligibility - Support	\$2500 Benefactor level sponsorship	\$3500 Exhibitor level sponsorship	Notes
1) Invasive species prevention, management, research, restoration, or policy	X	X	RCDs are already very involved in invasives control through their work with WMAs and restoration projects - habitat, healthy forests, etc. and the topic is included in conference sessions
2) Interagency coordination and information exchange on invasive species	X	X	One of the main purposes of the conference is to enable interagency coordination and information exchange
3) Public awareness and professional development related to invasive species	X	X	Sessions with main focus or inclusion of invasive species; High school speak-off competition subject is <i>"What are different effects that native plants vs non-native invasive plants have on our ecosystems and why does it matter to the work RCDs do?"</i>
Eligibility - Geographic Scope			
Statewide events occurring in California	X	X	
Preferences Noted in Sponsorship Framework Document			
Address multiple invasive taxa (e.g., plants, animals, aquatic species, pathogens)	X	X	While invasive plants are more frequently addressed, the conference includes information on invasive feral hogs, and when final agenda is complete, may include others
Benefit multiple agencies, jurisdictions, or sectors	X	X	
Support broad collaboration among practitioners, researchers, and decision-makers	X	X	
Sponsorship Benefits Requested by CISAC (provide <u>one</u> or more of the following)			
Recognition of CISAC in event materials or sponsor listings	X	X	
Booth or exhibit space		X	Language from Framework on sponsorship amount: "Sponsorships may range from \$500–\$2,500 per event, or as appropriate determined by the Committee ". CARCD hopes that decision makers will consider the benefits to CISAC, attendees, and statewide invasive species control of opting for the Exhibitor level in order to table at the event and draw attention to the work, collaboration, and priorities of CISAC. The higher sponsorship amount also supports CARCD's unrestricted budget to cover participation in working group and WMA support
Complimentary registration for one CISAC member and/or supporting CDFG staff member	X	X	