

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
July 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

Tim Crothers	Brent Johnson	Tom Smith
Gina Darin	Ricky Lara	Katie Sutherland
Ted Grosholz	Shannon Lynch	Martha Volkoff
John Hackett	Lori Nezura	Koren Widdel
David Haviland	Bea Nobua-Behrmann	
Stacy Hishinuma	Steve Schoenig	

CISAC Members Absent:

Tom Getts	Vicki Kramer	Helene Wright
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Guests:

Claire Aicken	Doug Johnson	Karey Windbiel-Rojas
Jonathan Babineau	Jenny Ketterlin	Ambika Saini
Gina Benigno	Rachael Klopfenstein	Joe Scheele
Jim Boyd	David Kratville	Jason Schwartz
Elisabeth Brusati	Carol Kreger	Chris Scianni
Rachel Burnap	Mark Martinez	Chris Shogren
Julie Clark	Casey McSwiggin	Stephanie Stark
David Cox	David Morgan	Katie Sutherland
Alexis Cugini	Randall Oliver	Lynnette Thompson
Chris DeNijs	David Pegos	Tyler Tkachuk
Joanna Fisher	Rach Pitts	Christine Whitcraft
Trish Gilbert	Josephine Poitevin	Rachel Wigginton

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. on July 17, 2024. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Public Comments:

Shannon Lynch promoted the Invasive Shot Hole Borer Symposium (July 18th) which will have a variety of speakers covering Risk Mapping and Biocontrol for Northern California and San Jose.

Ted Grosholz provided updates for State and Federal partners on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force. The task force meeting was in June where the European Green

Crab National Management Plan was reviewed and will go through the next steps for approval.

Gina Darin continuing work on the tidal wetland habitat restoration in Delta and Suisun Marsh. Involved in interagency efforts with the Delta Interagency Invasive Species Coordination Team (DIISC). Acting as liaison to the Department of Water Resources for Nutria Eradication, as Nutria has been confirmed on restoration sites in Delta.

Martha Volkoff received input for the draft of the New Zealand Mud Snail National Management Plan from the subcommittee and plans to incorporate that material in the final submission to the task force. The Western Regional Panel on Aquatic Nuisance Species is meeting October 23rd – 25th and there will be a virtual option to attend the meeting. Reported there have been western detections of Quagga and Zebra mussels, and efforts to prevent the reintroduction continue.

Steve Schoenig shared updates on the upcoming multi-platform conference for the California Invasive Plant Council. Tracking and monitoring Assembly bill AB2509 progress.

Tom Smith continues to work on ISHB in San Jose. Has been receiving reports of potential sites of Folsom, Roseville, and various other places.

David Haviland served as the president last year for the Pacific branch of the Entomological Society of America. Attended a conference in Hawaii through the Entomological Society of America (ESA), which had 400 scientists attend, and had more than 30 symposia. Other work has involved traveling to other countries regarding various invasive species-related issues.

Tim Crothers focused on Gold Spotted Oak Borer (GSOB) treatments in the Orange County area in multiple locations.

Koren Widdel explained that the County Agriculture commissioners are working on high-risk pest exclusion contracts with the state. Currently waiting on results from the Comprehensive Pest Prevention Analysis Report that will look at the pest prevention system in California, examine what we did in the past, and where we need to increase resources. Preliminary findings recommend having twenty-one to twenty-nine dog teams cover different pathways. California currently has fourteen teams. San Mateo is a county away from Santa Clara, and their team is staying engaged in conversation and surveying the riparian areas and plans to put traps out for the fall.

Ricky Lara attended the International Organization for Biological Control (IOBC) meeting in Costa Rica. Various topics were covered, and Ricky gave a general talk on Emerald Ash Borer and *Tuta absoluta*. Putting together a workshop in central coast that provides training to new farm growers from primarily Spanish-speaking communities. Providing support on Spotted Wing *Drosophila* to release biocontrol agents in California. The 50th anniversary coming up for the Biological Control program started back in 1974,

possibly exploring a one day fall symposium hosted at California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA).

Bea Nobua-Behrmann stated new areas have been found infested with GSOB in Orange County, LA County, and Santa Clarita Valley. As more infestations are found, there is a need for coordination for surveys, and education efforts to have a centralized. She is planning on launching GSOB identification training funded by a USDA Fire grant. CDFA will be taking over the responsibilities of surveying and mapping for ISHB. Prevalence of huge oak decline especially in GSOB-infested trees, due to a bacterial infection. Figuring out how to deal with this pest, a different species but the same genus found in the United Kingdom. This bacterial infection brings challenges in how to sample the tree without increasing the risk of spreading it around.

John Hackett focused on ensuring maintenance forces are on board for best management practices for preventing the spread of invasive species. Mediterranean Oak Borer was found in Lake County, working with the Lake County Agriculture Department to monitor the situation.

Katie Sutherland Ashley continuing work related to public engagement by responding to questions about the human health effects of pesticides being used in invasive species eradication. Assisting with efforts to update CDFA statewide Pesticide Illness Reports. Recently updated the health assessment of environmental monitoring data related to Japanese Beetle treatments for Sacramento.

Stacy Hishinuma provided bipartisan infrastructure funding for the Rosette Weevil project. Developed field guide to insects and diseases of California Oaks to expand resources.

Committee Business:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee reviewed and approved the meeting minutes of October 24, 2023, January 17, 2024, and April 17th, 2024.

Motion 1: To approve the October 24, 2023, California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

First: Steve Schoenig

Second: Ted Grosholz

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion 2: To approve the January 17, 2024, California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting minutes as amended.

First: Tom Smith

Second: Tim Crothers

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Motion 3: To approve the April 17, 2024, California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting minutes as amended.

First: Ricky Lara

Second: Shannon Lynch

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation (Time Specific):

Dr. Christine Whitcraft presented on the topic of “Evaluating the Early Detection and Rapid Response Process for aquatic weeds.” Dr Whitcraft conducted a series of interviews with experts and people familiar with the Delta, invasive species, and the early detection and rapid response (EDRR) process. She has been able to interview 13 people and 2 are pending due to scheduling conflicts.

- The first key component of the EDRR model is establishing surveillance in vulnerable areas.
- The second component is to coordinate among agencies to provide direction on reporting and data management.
- The third component is utilizing existing tools for prioritization.
- The fourth component deals with reporting structure across agencies and identified authorities.
- The fifth component is support for agency staff working on biological opinions.
- The sixth component is transferring knowledge from other EDRR efforts to develop more robust expert boards for taxonomic identification.

The *Vallisneria Australis* (Ribbonweed) in the Delta was envisioned as an example of where the EDRR process works. In 2021 the Division of Boating and Waterways (DBW) provided samples to CDFA and identified *Vallisneria Australis*. Then in August of 2021, the Department of Water Resources requested a pest rating from CDFA. In October CDFA proposed a “B” rating, and in November the DBW requested risk assessment from the Department of Fish and Wildlife's Invasive Species Program. In September 2021 *Vallisneria Australis* was determined to be an invasive species, likely to cause harm. This allowed the DBW to pursue control of this invasive species.

The next steps will involve seeking feedback from stakeholders and interviewees. Conduct further comparisons of existing EDRR plans, compare field samples and salinity of occurrence, and finalize the remaining interviews and literature review.

Committee Business Continued:

Motion 4: To approve electing Ricky Lara as the new vice-chair of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

First: Steve Schoenig

Second: Shannon Lynch

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

The Rapid Response application with instructions has been posted to our website. CISAC has received two applications to date. The first was for a Caulerpa project in San Diego Bay and the committee met and reviewed that project; funding was approved. A second proposal was received and is awaiting action by the committee.

Public Comments Continued:

Doug Johnson provided a legislative update that the Natural Resources bond will be on the ballot in November, and it includes \$20 million dollars for the Invasive Species Council of California and CISAC. The California Invasive Plant Council has sponsored AB 2509 defining invasive species and aims to provide the University of California Integrated Pest Management definition of integrated pest management.

Jenny Ketterlin awarded funding to 26 refuges in California and Nevada from the invasive species grant program. A variety of invasive species management projects are ongoing at all the refuges. She is working with the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge and Southern California Caulerpa Action Team (SCCAT) on the Caulerpa infestation in San Diego Bay and working with the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge on the Spartina Eradication Project.

Jason Schwartze is working with an ethnologist regarding a new infestation of Fig Wax Scale in the commercial fig grove. He is researching available treatments against the Fig Wax Scale and encouraging growers to check fig trees and do additional surveys in the counties to see if it has spread.

Joe Scheele focused on fruit fly issues in California. With training on identifying pests, there was a nine percent increase in interception, and laboratory work went up two hundred percent.

Karey Windbiel-Rojas continues to do invasive species education work through CDFA support and funding. Currently providing training to master gardener volunteers about invasive species education Training on species such as Spotted Lanternfly, Tree of Heaven, and Pink Hibiscus Mealybug.

Rachel Wigginton created a quick start guide for practitioners planning for the management of invasive aquatic vegetation in tidal restoration sites which will be available in early 2025.

Randall Oliver reported on invasive species lunchtime talks as part of invasive species action week that took place in June.

Julie Clark working closely with four county master gardener programs that have emerging tree pest groups. The volunteers from these programs have been highly productive in learning the science and taking the information out to the public. The same group of volunteers has elected to train as part of a one-year statewide partnership with

CDFA to map Tree of Heaven populations throughout the state. Providing training on GSOB and ISHB to various agencies and companies.

David Pegos mentioned the Japanese Beetle eradication program in the Arden Arcade area is complete; there is another Japanese Beetle infestation in the Carmichael area. Down to three counties with fruit fly quarantines from seven last year. The remaining quarantines are the Mediterranean fruit fly in Los Angeles, the Queensland fruit fly in Ventura, and the Oriental fruit fly in San Bernadino/Riverside Counties. Additionally, attended outreach events to educate the public about various invasive species and spoke with city council members, mayors, and various elected officials. Will be hosting a booth at the upcoming events for the Southern California Association of Governments, the California Contract Cities Association, and the Independent Cities Association. CDFA will be running the insect pavilion at the upcoming CA State Fair in partnership with Cal Fire. The annual Harvest Day with Sacramento master gardeners is coming up (August 3rd). Partnering with the Texas Department of Agriculture, to host a booth at the annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America (August 5th-7th).

Edward Southwick is working on Spotted Lanternfly survey and analyzing data from the border inspection stations. Work includes tracking shipments arriving from the east coast to California, and then sending survey crews to survey high-risk sites that may be possible sites of introduction. Since the Tree of Heaven is the primary host, survey locations have a few counties assisting with surveying potential high-risk sites such as the railyards.

Report on CISAC Funds:

David Pegos reported on the remaining balances to date and efforts to spend down the remaining funds. The following individuals presented updates on CISAC funds received:

Mark Martinez presented updates on the *Volutaria tubliflora* project in San Diego. *Volutaria* was found in Borrego Springs in April 2011, and control efforts have been ongoing since 2016. Through CISAC funding (\$122,487.16) the work completed for the 2023-2024 season involved treating 224.7 acres, treating 44.82 miles of roadside, and manually removing 608 plants. In Bonsall, 3.4 acres were surveyed, and 1.8 acres were treated. Other funding (\$87,091.48) for *Volutaria* includes outreach efforts, matching funds, and administrative costs.

David Kratville presented the updates on the statewide aquatic invasive survey. In 1977 a California statute mandating an ongoing statewide survey program and eradication of Hydrilla was established. CDFA was designated as the lead department in noxious weed management. Keeping California's waterway clear is a collaborative effort combining various funding sources, CISAC awarded \$200,00 for a survey boat and crew. Twenty-eight populations eradicated since 1976 in sixteen different counties, four active locations in Lake, Yuba, and Nevada counties. In Southern and Central

California, 256 water body locations were ranked using criteria of previous infestations, overall size, boat ramps, and fishing destinations.

Exotic Wood Borer Survey Expansion:

Edward Southwick presented updates on the Exotic Woodborer Survey. The survey targets the Asian Long-horned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, Redbay Ambrosia Beetle, Black Spruce Beetle, and Brown Spruce Long-horned Beetle. The survey timeline is July to October 2024, and depending on the region, April/May to June 2025. 104 traps were deployed in high-risk locations in fourteen counties, with 2 sites in each county having 1 trap for each type of wood borer and site location. The surveyed counties will include Fresno, Madera, Merced, Tuolumne, Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles, Yolo, Sutter, Placer, Sacramento, Calaveras or Amador, and San Bernardino. Through the support of CISAC funding, a significant expansion of the original survey occurred and will expand the survey over fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The CISAC funding allowed for a new type of trap, a general exotic wood borer trap, that allows for a much broader diversity of species it can target.

Emerald Ash Borer Activities:

Ricky Lara presented on proactive biocontrol and monitoring of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in California. The first detection was reported in Michigan in 2002, and it can attack all species of ash trees, leading to their death in two to five years. Millions of trees were killed on the East Coast, with damages estimated at \$10,000,000,000. The risk to California is tremendous, five native Northern American species unique to California are at risk. Ecological problems such as riparian stability, wildlife dependency, and wildfire hazards are risks that would impact the ecosystem. Symptoms of infested trees are dieback, epicormic shoots from roots, D-shaped beetle exit holes, and unusual woodpecker presence and pecking holes. Four parasitoids acting as biocontrol agents have been approved for field release. Moving forward this project will initiate permit paperwork, identify and characterize areas through ash surveys, and initiate potential surveys for known enemies of buprestid beetles in California. The next steps include coordinating EAB traps with Northern California counties, tracking the servicing of existing traps, and processing trap sample materials at CDFA.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m. The next California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.