California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
September 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes

CISAC Members:

Dr. Erik Blosser	David Haviland	Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann*
Tim Crothers*	Humberto Izquierdo	Chris Scianni*
Gina Darin	Dr. Ricky Lara	Dr. Katie Sutherland-Ashley
Tom Getts	Dr. Shannon Lynch*	Martha Volkoff
Dr. Ted Grosholz	Dr. Kevi Mace	Lisa Worthington

*Virtual

CISAC Members Absent:

Dr. Stacy Hishinuma	Lori Nezhura	

Guests:

Elizabeth Brusati	Stephanie Lucero	Andrew Rush
Lindsey Hack	Superna Mehta	Thais Spiropoulos
Doug Johnson	Shook Cherie	Koren Widdel

Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	LaChandra Marzetta	Ambika Saini
Victoria Hornbaker	David Pegos	

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. on September 17, 2026. Gina Darin welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Gina Darin began the meeting by emphasizing the CISAC goals for the year. The first goal is to organize the invasive species tours and host an effective invasive species summit. The second goal is to steward the Climate Bond – as the Prop 4 Invasive Species Grant. The third goal is to leverage interagency collaborations.

Ambika Saini conducted roll call for the meeting and announced a quorum had been met to act on committee business.

Committee Business:

Update to Committee Appointments and Vacancies

Gina Darin informed the committee seventeen out of nineteen seats are currently filled. She did note that Andrew Rush will be replacing Lori Nezhura, representing the Governor's Office of Emergency Services at CISAC. David Pegos announced that six applications were received for the two vacant seats and internal review was completed to advance the applicants to the Invasive Species of California Council (ISCC) for consideration.

Gina Darin made a request to the committee members for posting their publicly accessible location addresses for future meetings. Victoria Hornbaker provided additional clarity regarding the posting of the addresses.

The meeting minutes for the June 10th meeting were displayed for committee feedback and comments. Lisa Worthington made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Tom Getts, and the motion passed.

Motion: Approve June 10th CISAC meeting minutes.

First Motion: Lisa Worthington

Second Motion: Tom Getts

Motion carries: The motion passed unanimously.

Review Proposed Dates for 2026 - 2027 CISAC Meetings

Gina Darin asked for the draft meeting calendar dates to be displayed for committee planning. The quarterly dates reflected will coincide with the ISCC scheduled meetings. Victoria Hornbaker shared that the ISCC meeting for December 7, 2026 may be rescheduled to a later date, pending the progress of the Prop 4 Invasive Species Grant solicitation. Victoria Hornbaker asked Ambika Saini to send out doodle poll to the committee members to schedule the next meeting between late October and early November.

Review of New Fiscal Display

Victoria Hornbaker displayed the fiscal dashboard for the committee. Lisa Worthington asked to change the term “unexpended” to “encumbrance”. Victoria Hornbaker explained that “unexpended” was used due to the software program double counting the funds when sorted under “encumbrance”. Gina Darin said we will continue to work on adjusting the terms and asked that this matter be further addressed by the executive committee at their meeting. Gina Darin asked committee members to keep the rapid response funds balance in mind while deliberating over the rapid response application received. Gina Darin asked for the fiscal dashboard to show details in what amounts are allocated in the rapid response projects.

Invasive Species Summit Update

Dr. Shannon Lynch gave a demonstration on Slido – an online collaborative tool she is recommends being utilized at the summit to enhance attendee participation and collect information. One feature demonstrated was inserting questions for the audience to

answer through a variety of ways including – a Q&A format, multiple choice format, open text format and a ranking format etc. Dr. Shannon Lynch's suggestion is to set up a Slido for each breakout session for the summit and to have the discussion facilitator create a free account. Dr Shannon Lynch also said the tool will help to capture data, compile common themes and synthesize information for the after-summit report that Stephanie Lucero will be preparing.

CISAC Sponsorship(s)

The request from the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for CISAC's sponsorship of CARCD's 81st Annual Conference of Statewide Resource Conservation Districts was displayed. Gina Darin provided an overview of the proposal for $3,500 and what details would be included for sponsoring at that level. Victoria Hornbaker confirmed the request met the requirements set forth by the CISAC for approval. A few members were interested being considered as the CISAC representative if the exhibitor sponsorship level is selected. Dr. Ricky Lara commented the documented request provided was a great template format to have for the CISAC for future use.

Motion: Approve the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts $3500 Exhibitor Proposal.

Motion 1: David Haviland

Motion 2: Ted Grosholz

The motion passed with 10 yays and 1 nay.

Rapid Response Applications

David Haviland provided an overview of the rapid response application received for Rapid Response to Wingleaf Primrose-Willow in Northern California. The issues determined by the rapid response application review subcommittee were that the application did not meet rapid response requirements and that it lacked information on the logistics of how budget funds would be used. Dr. Kevi Mace also voiced her concerns about the eligibility of the project. The recommendation from the CISAC rapid response application review subcommittee was to not to approve the Wingleaf Primrose-Willow Rapid Response application as submitted.

Motion: Reject the application for funding the Wingleaf Primrose-Willow Proposal.

Motion 1: David Haviland

Motion 2: Tom Getts

The motion passed unanimously.

Report on Invasive Species Tours and Plan for the Summit

David Pegos gave a report on invasive species tours and Stephanie Lucero shared the slideshow of pictures from the legislator's tour, Eureka tour, Delta tour and Los Angeles tour. David Pegos and Stephanie Lucero have toured the California Natural Resources Agency's (CNRA) conferences rooms for a walk through and finalized the remaining logistics with the CNRA staff and Madeline Drake. David Pegos had the invasive species summit agenda displayed and reviewed the summit objectives and outlined the itinerary for both days for the committee.

For day 1 the panel discussion starts with "What is Influencing the Invasion" and will include how do climate change, e-commerce, and funding impact invasive species management efforts. Dr. Jeff Dukes from Carnegie Science is confirmed as a guest speaker. Martha Volkoff was asked to speak on the panel discussion related to e-commerce. For the panel discussion on "The State of Collaboration on Invasive Species Management", the focus will be working across boundaries to turn shared risks into coordinated action, with confirmed guest speakers: Dr. Shannon Lynch, Dr. Neil McRoberts, David Kratville, and Chris Scianni. Emily Rooney from PlantRight is proposed as a guest speaker and is pending confirmation.

The breakout concurrent discussion sessions were discussed next and will focus on the challenges and opportunities discussed in the plenary while considering possible solutions. This will include Track A: "Tools and Technology"- what are the innovations to explore and the implementation barriers to overcome. Groups will explore DNA and other molecular detection surveillance, remote sensing, AI-assisted detection, biocontrol, and other innovative tools across different taxa and landscapes. Track B will include "Communication & Information Sharing" - How can we better coordinate public and citizen-science reporting, multilingual risk communication strategies, interagency data sharing, and what tools are available to inform governance decisions and support coordinated pest management. Track C will include Early Detection & Rapid Response" - How can we better support existing strategies and protocols to respond to emerging and changing challenges. Exploring existing rapid response tools and protocols, designing statewide surveillance networks, and supporting consistent funding will be the focus of this session. Majority of the track discussions have guest speakers confirmed with a few pending confirmations from invited guests.

For day 2 the panel discussion starts off with Operationalizing the Sustainable Pest Management (SPM) Roadmap on Invasive Species Response with specifics on SPM goals, priority pesticides and the plan to replace them, and SPM invasive species grants. Karen Morison – Director of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and Dr. Jim Farrar from University of California Invasive Pest Management are invited as guest speakers for this session. The panel discussion on "Tribal Land Stewardship and Co-Management" will include details on Tribal-led monitoring and cultural resources protection. The guest speakers proposed for this discussion include Richard Green of the Yurok Tribe and Sarah Ryan from Big Valley Rancheria.

Breakout session 4 was discussed next and will focus on workshopping solutions. The workshop session for track 1 will be on “Tools and Technology” with content facilitators Dr. Ricky Lara and Chris Scianni. The workshop session for track 2 will be on “Communication and Information Sharing” led by Dr. Shannon Lynch and Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann. The workshop session for track 3 will be on “Early Detection and Rapid Response” led by Gina Darin and Tim Crothers.

Day 2 will end with attendees coming together to vote on a variety of goals that come from the breakout sessions to determine the focus for the next year.

Update on Prop 4 ISCC Invasive Species Grant (ISG) Solicitation Status

Victoria Hornbaker provided an update on Prop 4 ISG. The technical assistance agreement with UC Davis is pending execution at the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) contracts office. Victoria Hornbaker and Ambika Saini are working to upload the documents to the new CDFA grant portal with guidance and instructions for applicants. Once the technical assistance agreement is in place, there will be an official press release and webinar to announce the Prop 4 ISG solicitation. After the grant solicitation is announced, applicants will have a thirty-day window to complete and submit the grant application.

Following the grant solicitation closing date there will be an internal CDFA administrative review followed by the technical review from CISAC Prop 4 Subcommittee. ISG applications approved by the CISAC review subcommittee will be provided to the Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) for final award recommendation for the first round. If the Prop 4 – ISG funds remain after the first round, there will be the option of the second round of grant solicitation. The CISAC members interested in joining the Prop 4 review subcommittee are Dr. Kevi Mace, Dr. Ricky Lara, Dr. Ted Grosholz, Chris Scianni, Martha Volkoff, Tom Getts, and David Haviland.

Tom Getts asked about the timeframe for the Prop 4 ISG funds for the projects, and Victoria Hornbaker informed him it would be approximately thirty-six months from the execution date of the grant agreement with the fund close date of June 30, 2028. Dr. Kevi Mace noted that the CDFA processing time for the grants would reduce the total amount of the thirty-six months for the projects. David Haviland asked about the conflict-of-interest policy for the subcommittee members interested in joining the review, Victoria Hornbaker informed him they would have to recuse themselves from any associated project or team.

David Haviland expressed concerns about the thirty-day window for the Prop 4 ISG solicitation, as there will be limited time for applicants to assemble the necessary documents, teams, and resources required of the grant. Dr. Bea Nobua-Behrmann asked if there would be additional announcements made for the solicitation of the Prop 4 ISG. Victoria Hornbaker and Gina Darin clarified that the Prop 4 ISG process has been public and posted to the ISCC webpage since the announcement of the grant in March 2026.

Draft ISCC Agenda Items for Dec 7 Meeting

Gina Darin shared that the ISCC cancelled the October meeting as it was too close in timeframe to the invasive species summit. The next ISCC meeting for CISAC to prepare the agenda will be December 7, 2026. Gina Darin reviewed the three goals for CISAC which include a) hosting a successful invasive species summit and tours, b) the solicitation of the Climate Bond – Prop 4 ISG, and c) leveraging interagency collaboration such as the Weed Management Areas (WMAs). Gina Darin noted that the ISCC secretaries asked for the following questions to be considered in advancing the work of CISAC and the invasive species summit. A) where is there overlap? B) are there existing resources that can be shared? C) what are the best practices or techniques that can be used? D) and who has the authority to act?

Public Comment:

David Haviland asked about committee members being able to review the reports from the project progress reports submitted by the applicants. Victoria Hornbaker said she is working with CDFA staff to create a section on the CISAC webpage to house the annual and semi-annual reports from ISCC funded projects.

Doug Johnson asked about the report from the Invasive Species Summit and how it will be used with the strategic framework roadmap. He also asked if there would be response from the ISCC about the working group report presented for WMAs. His last comment was about removing the text saying for climate smart agriculture under the climate bond – Prop 4 ISG banner.

Gina Darin responded to Doug Johnson and informed him the results from the summit would inform the changes made to the report and update the strategic framework roadmap. Additionally, she shared that the that the ISCC secretaries would be presented the report from the summit in December.

Tom Getts asked that the WMA recommendations be added to the agenda for the next ISCC meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:02 PM. The next CISAC meeting is to be scheduled.