

CALIFORNIA INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CISAC) MEETING
Auditorium, CDFA BUILDING

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 23, 2014

Opening:

The regular meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:05 a.m. on January 15, 2014 in Sacramento, by Committee Chair Bob Atkins.

CISAC Members Present:

Bob Atkins, Victoria Brandon, Jim Cranney, Joe DiTomaso, Richard Forster, Larry Godfrey, Jay Goldsmith, Doug Johnson, Jeanne Merrill, Betsy Peterson, John Randall, Sheri Smith, Helene Wright

CISAC Members Absent:

Karen Buhr, Christiana Conser, Andrea Fox, Marcy Martin, David Pattison, Robin Wall

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Staff Present:

David Pegos, Austin Webster

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Staff Present:

Susan Ellis, Valerie Cook-Fletcher

California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) Staff Present:

Tom Smith

AGENCY UPDATES

- **Jason Leathers, State Entomologist** - Early detection this spring of Med fly in Los Angeles near the Coliseum. Four finds in historic high risk area. Sterile male fly release rate has been doubled from what it normally is at this time of year. Believes it's from a large batch of infested fruit last fall. They've raised density of surveys in area. Cuts in USDA funds resulted in different flight patterns for release.
 - Another new find - big-headed ant in Costa Mesa. Bad invasive ant species. Forms one big colony and expands. Excludes other ants. Nuisance in homes. In FL, it's the top homeowner pest. Goes after proteins and sweets, tends honeydew aphids, kills other insects. Don't know yet how widespread it is. Only found because one pest control operator was knowledgeable.
 - European grapevine moth update: no detections yet this season. Traps are out. Success story in how far these have been knocked down.
 - Asian citrus psyllid: new find in Arroyo Grande in SLO County. But HLB virus still only found at the one site in CA.
- **David Pegos** - CDFA will be coming out with a press release to recruit new CISAC members.
 - Exotic palm weevil meeting is in the works.

- Don't Pack a Pest campaign, they put in request for funding. Similar to FL's campaign for airports. Will target SFO and LAX as well as San Ysidro land crossing.
- **Valerie Cook-Fletcher, DFW** - Invasive Species Action Week, Aug 2-10. Established to promote action and awareness. Plan to have events from agencies. Requesting CISAC support.

CISAC MEMBER UPDATES

- **Bob Atkins** - Fred Crowder, Agricultural Commissioner from San Mateo County, will take over for Vince Guise who has retired.
- **Victoria Brandon** - Kristina Schierenbeck resigned from CISAC due to workload.
- **Sheri Smith** - 700 coconut rhinoceros beetles (various life stages, not all adults) found in Honolulu, HI, near the International airport, primarily on the Joint Military Base facility. An eradication program is underway by HI Dep. of Agriculture and APHIS.
- GSOB in San Diego Co. Uptick in declining oaks around Fallbrook (but GSOB not confirmed) and also in Ramona (GSOB confirmed). The infestation in Idyllwild is up to 30 trees, all are CA black oak.
- The US Forest Service now has a "Don't Move Firewood" notice on the federal recreation web site (<http://www.recreation.gov/>) for those reserving sites at any National Forest campgrounds across the nation.
- **Victoria Brandon** - Sierra Club supports AB2402. Victoria has been appointed to chair federal Sierra Club Task Force on their Food & Ag policy.
 - Victoria is working on a Lake County ballot measure for a sales tax to help Clear Lake, including invasives control.
- **Helene Wright** - Oriental fruit fly eradicated in LA.
- **Betsy Peterson** - Virus found in melon field. BMPs have been developed for cucurbit crops and trainings are being given.
- **Doug Johnson** - Cal-IPC is: working with Cal Wildlife Conservation Board on prioritizing invasive plant projects; with CDFW on the state wildlife action plan; sponsoring AB2402; organizing the 23rd annual Symposium at Chico State in October; developing an ASTM standard for listing invasive plants with other IPCs/EPPCs; drafting an herbicide BMP manual; and revising eucalyptus assessment.
- **Joe DiTomaso** - USDA has filled Lars Anderson's aquatic weeds position by hiring John Madsen. Also, Travis Dean, who has worked on buffelgrass in AZ, has been hired by UC Riverside. Joe is working on developing the new USFS handbook on invasive species.
- **Jay Goldsmith** - NPS is developing joint management plan for Redwood NP/SP and Santa Monica Mountains NRA. Meant to serve as national model. It will be adaptive (with sideboards) so that there's flexibility when new invasives are found in the future.

PRESENTATIONS:

(a) Dave Bakke, Pesticide Specialist for USFS Region 5, and Invasive Plants Program Manager for State & Private Forestry for the region.

He's responding to a list of questions from CISAC. In general, it sounds like "Projects are not happening, or not happening fast enough" is the concern. This can best be dealt with at the local project level.

Scoping is key part of the NEPA process where the public can influence the project. Input helps define alternatives, and gives you standing for later objection.

There is a "Schedule of Proposed Actions" (SOPA) online. You can contact the person listed for a project, and then you'll be on their email list for updates.

What makes a good comment? Within scope of proposed action, is specific to proposed action, and has strong supporting reasons. Don't insult.

The USFS has to go farther than NEPA law because court cases have dictated a higher standard.

Five National Forests have large landscape areas or forest-wide EAs documents for treating weeds that are either completed and approved, or they are in the planning stages (Basin, Eldorado, Modoc, Inyo, Cleveland). They are building in the process of adaptive management so can treat new plants found.

Best advice is to keep communications open at local level. Talk to forest supervisor and district rangers. To initiate a program, you need to work with the forest supervisor, they're the ones who make decisions about priorities for their forests. It's not top-down from the region.

USFS is not currently able to insulate weed funds when the funds are needed for emergency fire suppression.

(b) Bryan Jackson, CDPH Vector Borne Disease Section.

Aedes aegyptii "yellow fever" mosquito has two recent introductions in CA, found in San Mateo Co, Madera Co, Fresno Co. Uses artificial containers. Desiccation resistant. Domestic. Prefers human blood. Cryptic, ankle height. Day biter, morning, late afternoon. Mostly in SE US.

Asian tiger mosquito *Aedes albopictus* natural and artificial containers. Desiccation resistant. Broader host range. Aggressive daytime biters. Mostly SE, up to Great Lakes. Found in LA.

Can come in on bamboo, which is now being inspected and treated.

Better traps are being developed.

Diseases: *A. aegyptii* is primary vector for yellow fever and Dengue fever. Competent for WNV and others. *A. albopictus* is primary for Chikungunya and Dengue, and is competent for >30 other viruses. Yellow fever, the reservoir is human, in South America and Africa. 15% cases serious. Vaccine available. For Dengue: human reservoir. Tropical.

They employ vector control by emptying standing water, using barrier sprays and larvicides. Limited effectiveness.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

- **Approval of minutes:** Victoria Brandon moved and Sheri Smith seconded to approve the minutes for July 19, 2012 and January 15, 2014. All in favor, none opposed.
- **California Invasive Species Action week.** Doug Johnson moved and Victoria Brandon seconded to approve CISAC support for this CDFW event in August. All in favor, none opposed. Valerie Cook-Fletcher: we're putting the word out to RCDs and others to hold events.

- **Polyphagous .Shothole Borer Workgroup.** David Pegos: P. shothole borer May 27 meeting planned to educate ag industry. Looking to form a working group, maybe one that includes other hardwood pests, too. General expression of CISAC support but no action taken at this time.

PRESENTATIONS

- **Local agency perspectives on Invasive Mussel Prevention programs (Scott DeLeon, Lake County Department of Water Resources)**
Can we standardize boat inspection programs around the state to increase effectiveness? Inconsistency decreases boater commitment and understanding.
 - AB2443 has provided state funding based on a biennial \$16 fee per vessel. How will this be used?
 - Partner Mark Miller is retired and partly volunteering. Brings customer service approach, helps screeners be ambassadors. Very cost-effective, but you can't count on that – need funding.
 - They screen at resorts, evaluate risk. Give out \$10 stickers. 15,000 boats last year, about half resident, half visitors. Resort facility gets \$7 of the fee to keep them doing the work responsibly. There are 700+ private ramps, 11 public.
 - They decontaminate with hot water flush.
 - They have signage.
 - Boaters can be unhappy that they have to pay a local fee in addition to the state fees they've already paid to DMV. Need to clarify messages.
 - Timeliness is key in reporting discoveries. Need a state website for posting monitoring results.
 - Need a way to control vessel movement. Could CDFA restrict boats as a vector?
- **CDFW overview, Jennifer LaBay,** There are 27 sites in So Cal infested with quagga mussel. There is one infestation in the state of zebra mussel. She coordinates with Robin Turgeon, Cal State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways.
 - At least 85% of AB2443 fees has to go to local assistance grants, the rest is admin for DMV, DBW, DFW. RFP to be posted soon, awards expected fall 2014 for 2-year grant cycle.
 - They have emergency regs adopted while formal regs are being put in place.
 - There's been an advisory team all along, and DFW and DBW have held meetings for input.
 - They're removed language from public materials that made it sound like the state fee was the only fee people need to pay. This should help boaters not be as disgruntled about additional local fees.
- **Invasive Species Monitoring, Valerie Cook-Fletcher, CDFW - Section 671** regulates "restricted animals." Not the same as invasive species. These comprise both "welfare animals" (like native animals that are being mistreated) and "detrimental animals" (those that pose a threat to native wildlife, ag, or safety).
- Their Law Enforcement Division monitors Craigslist, social media, special interest forums, online stores. They have a secret witness program (CalTIP). It receives about 3800 calls a year, from all counties, and about 60-80 of the calls are about restricted species (there are lots of other things CDFW asks people to report). There's one CalTIP coordinator, and then 250 field wardens.

- Sec 671 list comes from Fish & Game Commission approval. It was last revised in 2007. Valerie recently found online that a SoCal Herp Museum has found in the wild in CA some species of reptiles that are on the CISAC list. This raises the idea of updating the list. It takes 1-2 years to add new species. Fastest way is if request for action comes from outside.

UPDATES

- **Austin Webster** - CISAC self-survey, we're still waiting on 4-5 people. Exec cmte will discuss and make recommendations.
- **David Pegos** - 21st Century Symposia planned include prevention/exclusion/detection/ risk assessment this year (August/Sept), intervention (Jan 2015), then education/outreach (May 2015).
 - Will agendize a PEIR report for next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: none offered

Next meeting: The next regularly scheduled CISAC meeting will take place at 10:00 AM on July 23, 2014, in Sacramento.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:50 PM

Minutes taken by Doug Johnson

Approved by Secretary Christiana Conser