

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
Outreach & Education Subcommittee
January 30th, 2026 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

Tim Crothers**	Shannon Lynch	Katie Sutherland-Ashley**
Gina Darin	Beatriz Nobua-Behrmann**	Martha Volkoff**
Ricky Lara		

*Proxy

**Virtual

Guests:

Jonathan Babineau	Victoria Hornbaker	Randall Oliver
Elizabeth Brusati	Jessica Hurlimann	MacKenzie Patton
Timothy Crothers	Doug Johnson	David Pegos
Jim Farrar	A. G. Kawamura	Ambika Saini
Nathan Fishburn	Daryl Lara	Chris Scianni
Lindsey Hack	Stephanie Lucero	Cherie Shook
Heather Healy	Melonie Morgan	

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Outreach & Education Subcommittee was called to order at 10:30 am on January 30th, 2026. Dr. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Discussion:

David Pegos from California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) reviewed information from the previous summit. He highlighted that the summit took place in the state capital and opening remarks were given by Dr. Glenda Humiston from University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (UCANR). The keynote speaker was Secretary Karen Ross. David Pegos and Doug Johnson (Cal Integrated Pest Control) outlined the strategic framework used to design the summit. David also announced this year there will be a goal to have thirty scholarships/stipends, ten for each of the regional invasive species tours. This will allow inclusion of underrepresented voices and support attendees from disadvantaged communities to help inform the summit.

He noted that at the previous summit, breakout sessions were divided into taxa and pathways. The topics for taxa were terrestrial plants and algae by Doug Johnson. Aquatic plants and algae by Gina Darin from Department of Water Resources (DWR), vertebrates by Valerie Cook from Department of Fish & Wildlife. Arthropods by Dr. John Kabashima from UCANR (Emeritus) and mollusks and other invertebrates from Dr. Ted Grosholz, UC Davis. Diseases by Michelle Dennis from CDFA and Dr. Russ Bulluck from United States Department of Agriculture.

Stephanie Lucero, the previous summits facilitator, shared background on planning the breakout sessions. The breakout sessions were designed for sharing ideas and

promoting conversations amongst attendees. For each taxa group there was one main point of contact, an expert in the relevant field that could speak to the case study and lead the discussion. Case studies were shared to start the conversation showing examples of how a topic of the case study is discussed in terms of response, concerns, and outcomes. The groups worked on the taxa and narrowed down the priority elements to discuss. She noted that breakout sessions are part of the broader scope of the prioritization process in discussing concepts and communicating obstacles faced. The information gathered from the notetakers from the first day help to inform the activities and conversations on day two of the summit.

Questions, including a) why controlling this species is important, b) what lessons are learned, and c) what's the cost in addressing this species were also used to guide conversations. There was the component of a homework assignment ending day one of the summit that helped to inform attendees of expectations for day two.

Day two focused on invasive species pathways and included the following topics; recreation by Dr. Irina Irvine from National Park Service and Eddie Hard from Department of Boating and Waterways, Pet trade by Martha Volkoff from DFW, horticulture/plant Industry by Chris Zanobini from PlantRight and Dr. Dave Fujino from California Center for Urban Horticulture, transportation by Ken Murray from Caltrans and Dr. Tom Smith from CalFire, internet, international trade and tourism by Joe Scheele from Customs and Border Protection and Elizabeth Brusati from Delta Stewardship Council. The pathways discussion tasked participants with considering questions such as what would be some of the funding implementation actions needed and how many coordination activities could be required between the necessary stakeholders.

Summit facilitators gathered the reporting from both days breakout sessions and created the dot-matrix scoring. The scoring encouraged attendees to consider the actions that need to be taken and to identify critical steps in prioritization of invasive species work in California. All the attendees got the opportunity to review information collected from all taxa and pathways breakout sessions. Afterwards, the attendees used the dots to vote on what key issues they felt were the most important on the topics of taxa and pathways.

Dr. Bea N Behrmann from University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources inquired about how the tours and summit are planned. David explained that there were no tours associated with the previous summit. The tours were last performed in 2023, and this will be the first time the summit and tours will be planned together.

Victoria Hornbaker, CDFA asked the subcommittee members to consider if the tours should be used to inform the summit, they would need to be planned prior to the summit with sufficient time to lock down speakers, create agendas etc. She posed the question, how far from the summit should the tours be planned. Shannon suggested a month's time to be the gap between the tours and summit.

Stephanie noted that there is room for fluidity in how summit breakout sessions are designed with consideration of what develops from the site visits. The other scheduling factor to be mindful of is having the summit dates and locations determined sooner rather than later.

David informed the subcommittee that Secretary Ross, Secretary Wade-Crowfoot, and Professor Glenda Humiston will all be included as speakers at the summit.

Stephanie provided further considerations in logistics for the summit and tours planning. The summit is held over two days in Sacramento, and then the tours are ideally one month in advance of the summit. She suggested we could follow the previous tours schedule of three tours split up with one week of travel between tours. Another consideration is the impact of seasonality on the tours, so tours are scheduled around optimal conditions.

The 2018 CA Invasive Species Summit Report was displayed for members to review. Some important highlights included a diverse range of stakeholders with government officials, NGOs, other state agencies etc. The main feature of the summit report was the results from the dot matrix voting exercise which informed the list of the top twenty ranked priority actions. Approximately ten of the priority actions have been accomplished from this report.

David brought up locations for the summit. There are multiple locations in the area to consider, and an important factor is the distance the California legislators would have to travel to attend. Shannon communicated to the subcommittee that August 31st is the final recess for the legislature, and it would be ideal to have the summit occur before that date. Stephanie asked the subcommittee if there were any dates to avoid in August.

Gina inquired about January 2027 as an option if there is not enough time to plan the summit and tours by August. Stephanie noted the coordination team will review possible dates in August, possibly September, evaluate possible dates in terms of speakers and locations available and look at the legislative cycle. The discussion moved to the planning of the tours. There were three tours that took place in 2023, covering a location each in Central California, Northern California and Southern California.

The tour in Southern California began at the fruit fly rearing facility in Los Alamitos, Orange County. During the drive down the Pacific Coast Highway aquatic invasive species were discussed. The tour then passed through notable locations including San Joaquin Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Mason Regional Park. At the South Coast Research & Extension Center in Irvine there were presentations on the invasive shothole borer, goldspotted oak borer and the South American palm weevil. The next location of the tour was the Bee Canyon Greenery before heading to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve and then returning to Los Alamitos.

The tour in Northern California began at the Redding Civic Auditorium covering various invasive species. Then the tour departed for Shasta College which featured its

horticulture program. Next on the tour was Lassen Canyon Nursery. The last stop was the Whiskeytown Recreation Area in French Gulch where topics of invasive weeds and the Invasive Plant Management Program were discussed.

The tour in Central California started off at the CDFA Meadowview Campus and highlighted the chemical laboratory, biological control facilities and the warehouse. Then the tour moved to the Sacramento County Agricultural Commissioner's office and covered pest detection and pest exclusion and a dog team demonstration. Then the tour departed for Carmichael where they discussed marine invasive species. Lastly, the tour went to Matsuda's nursery.

Public Comment:

Bea stressed the importance of meeting the goals expected from the secretaries of the invasive species summit.

Tim Crothers commented there are many variables to consider, especially for the August time frame compared to January.

Elizabeth Brusati expressed concern about the split focus on planning for the tours and the August summit timeframe. She would like to hear specific goals of the summit at the next subcommittee meeting. And lastly would like to recommend a Delta stop for the tour.

Martha Volkoff encouraged focusing on the purpose and goals while we are planning the next summit and tours. She also echoed support for a later summit date and including the Delta as a tour stop.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 p.m. The next scheduled CISAC Outreach & Education Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for February 13th, 2026 at 10:30 am.