

California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Subcommittee for the Outreach & Education February 13th, 2026 Meeting Minutes

CISAC Members:

Tim Crothers**	Humberto Izquierdo	Shannon Lynch
Tom Getts**	Ricky Lara	Chris Scianni**
Ted Grosholz**		

*Proxy

**Virtual non-voting

Guests:

Jonathan Babineau	Lindsey Hack	Mackinzie Patton
Elizabeth Brusati	Heather Healy	David Pegos
Timothy Crothers	Victoria Hornbaker	Ambika Saini
Curtis Ewing	Karen Jetter	Cherie Shook
Jim Farrar	Daryl Lara	Doug Smith
Tom Getts	Stephanie Lucero	
Jan Gonzales	Anne Megaro	

Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Outreach & Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 10:30 am on February 13th, 2026. Dr. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

Dr. Shannon Lynch reminded the subcommittee that the Secretaires have asked for the takeaway from the summit and tours is to have five to ten top priority species of taxa and pathways, the steps to address the threats and having a climate lens as part of the perspective. The secretaries want to see the recommendations of what is needed and how they can support the invasive species management from their level.

Discussion:

Continuing from the last subcommittee meeting Shannon resumed discussion on the summit dates. The dates for consideration are August 2026 or January 2027. Some considerations for holding the summit in August 2026 are that it is coming up soon, requiring a lot of planning in a short time frame, and the tours would still need to be planned prior to August. Some considerations for holding the summit in January 2027 are that there would be more time to plan the tours and summit and there would be a new legislative cycle.

Doug Smith noted that the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials Annual meeting (August 26-28, 2026) and request to not hold the summit during this time.

Stephanie Lucero shared, including that legislative floor sessions are planned for late August, so the summit timeframe for August 2026 would have to be prior to that. For the January 2027 date, she recommended the second or third week.

Stephanie clarified that the tours would take place before the summit. The discussions on the regional tours will help to inform the discussions planned for the summit. She stated if the summit is held in the August 2026 timeframe, the site visits should occur in Spring/Summer. If the summit is held in January 2027, the site visits should occur in the Fall.

David Pegos suggested creating two tentative plans, one for August 2026, and one for January 2027. Ted Grosholz supports the January 2027 date; it would allow for more time to plan, and he pointed out there are less staff members from legislature around August. Shannon Lynch suggested tours around October 2026 if the summit is pushed to January 2027. Stephanie suggested that June would be the latest to have the tours if the summit takes place in August 2026. Shannon requested members consider the timeframe spaced out between the tours and summit.

Discussion took place regarding weather conditions and climate preferability. Ted reminded the subcommittee that the weather in June and August is more extreme and to take that into consideration while planning outdoor activities on the tours. Stephanie said there may be flexibility in scheduling the tours, the last site visits were all in one month. The subcommittee could consider scheduling the tours for when the region is best, e.g. Northern California tour in June when the agriculture season is busy.

Daryl commented there are plenty of invasive plants in June and July for the Northern part of the state and with the climate dam removals this summer, late fall would showcase the replanting that is done. Tom reminded folks that the California Weed Science meeting for next year is scheduled for January 20, 2027.

Shannon suggested presenting the two recommendations for CISAC at the February 19th meeting. Option A would be regional tours spread apart with webinar, summit in January 2027. Option B would be regional tours in June, and the summit in August 2026.

Stephanie stated the following as the summit goals and asked for member's feedback.

1. Identify major threats to biodiversity in California from invasive species (five to ten threats in taxa and pathways).
2. Increase knowledge and understanding of legislators and others on invasive species management in California.
3. Identify next steps to address invasive species pathways in California (action items).

Taking into consideration what the Secretaries said at the Invasive Species Council of California meeting, Shannon said we should also consider how do the invasive species threats fit in terms of climate change context. Humberto remarked that due to climate change, we can observe pest movement further into the state, especially from Southern California to Northern California. Climate changes such as warmer climate and less cold winters have contributed to an increase in pests. Stephanie suggested we could add

climate change as one of the major threats in taxa and pathways or use it as an overall theme at the summit.

Jim Farrar acknowledged that protecting biodiversity is important but wants to ensure agriculture is incorporated into the top three goals. Humberto suggested that food security should be a topic discussed as well. Karen Jetter suggested tying in realistic policy options with the list and pathways to prevent losses from the introduction of an invasive species such as exclusion, eradication, containment and management.

Stephanie said the August Webinar for a January summit would be a great time to capture that information. The webinar could allow focus on what was seen at the site visits, the gaps and collaboration that were observed, which can then inform the summit. For the August summit, it would be less robust but could be incorporated. Stephanie asked if identifying gaps as analysis for inter-agency coordination as a site visit goal should be added.

Victoria Hornbaker informed the subcommittee she will be meeting with Secretaries Ross and Crowfoot next week. The direction given by the Secretaries was to plan an Fall summit. Stephanie provided a quick update to Victoria of the meetings progress. She informed her that most in the subcommittee think January 2027 for Summit is ideal in meeting the goals of the summit.

Stephanie explained having the summit in January 2027 allows more flexibility for site visits in different parts of California and allows for better display of agriculture activities. There is also the opportunity of meeting the new legislators and educating them on invasive species management. January would also allow for an online session to bring together items from site visits, identify gaps in collaboration, and actions needed. Understanding there is direction from Secretaries for a Fall summit, the site visits would need to take place no later than July. There would be less flexibility to visit locations in prime conditions. August would also place the summit towards the end of the legislative cycle, when legislators might have less time.

Stephanie stated that the goals for the site visits (tours) are intended to help inform the summit. They will help tour attendees develop a shared understanding of California's Pest Prevention System, how ways to improve the system and protect agriculture, natural resources and protect unique biodiversity from invasive species, foster cross collaboration and share information with legislative members/staff, agricultural, (non-governmental organizations) NGOs and other stakeholders.

Stephanie reviewed the criteria for the site tours. Logistics such as ensuring speed and the ability to load/unload passengers will have to be factored into planning. There are four tours planned, including the Central Valley, Southern California, and Northern California and a tour for legislative members and staff. The geographic site locations for the tours will be informative to invasive species goals. It was noted that we should try to have a dog team at every site visit, detection dogs. The plan is to make sure we engage

members of invasive species world, agriculture community, NGOs etc. Include a varied view of California topography, and all taxa of species.

At the next CISAC meeting, both options of August 2026 and January 2027 for the Summit will be shared for discussion. The goals for summit will include identifying major threats to invasive species, threats to biodiversity, agriculture and creating better understanding for legislature/federal/county boards on the pest prevention system. The hope for outcomes from the summit is to identify three to five threats and develop recommendations for those threats, and enhance collaboration across networks

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:06 p.m. The next scheduled CISAC Outreach Subcommittee meeting is not scheduled yet.