

## California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Subcommittee for the Outreach & Education May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Meeting Minutes

### CISAC Members:

Timothy Crothers**	Shannon Lynch	Katie Sutherland-Ashley
Gina Darin**	Lori Nezhura**	
Ted Grosholz**	Chris Scianni**	

\*Proxy

\*\*Virtual non-voting

### Guests:

John Beall	Karen Jetter	Emily Perkins
Elizabeth Brusati	David Juliano	Joe Scheele
Evonne Fell	Stephanie Lucero	Cherie Shook
Heather Healy	Dahmoon Maesomy	Andrew Sutherland
Virginia Jameson	MacKenzie Patton	

### Staff:

Jonathan Babineau	David Pegos	LaChandra Marzetta
Victoria Hornbaker	Ambika Saini	

### Opening:

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) Outreach & Education Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 1:36 pm on May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. Dr. Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests, and staff.

### Committee Business:

**Motion:** Approve consent agenda for April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 meeting minutes.

**First motion:** Katie Sutherland-Ashley

**Second motion:** Gina Darin

**Motion carries:** *The motion passed unanimously.*

### Discussion:

Dr. Lynch started the discussion by talking about planning the tours and priority locations. A google form spreadsheet was sent out to committee members to provide input on potential sites to include on the tours in the points of areas being discussed.

### Development of Recommendations and Logistics for Invasive Species Tours

1. Los Angeles Tour
2. Eureka area Tour
3. Delta Tour

### Los Angeles Tours (tentative)

Stephanie Lucero started the tour discussion by giving an overview of two potential routes for the Los Angeles tour.

### Tour option 1: Travel to LAX before 3:00 pm

**Stop 1:** Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services and Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos

*Purpose/taxa:* CDFA/USDA Joint Medfly PRP, Oriental and other Fruit Flies. Overview of Orange County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer of Weights and Measures.

**Stop 2:** El Dorado Nature Center / El Dorado Park

*Purpose/taxa:* public education, and community stewardship.

**Stop 3:** LAX mail / USDA-APHIS / CBP agriculture briefing

*Purpose/taxa:* Air and mail pathway stop: plant pests, animal and plant diseases, regulated commodities, dog teams, and federal inspection. CBP agriculture specialists help prevent harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases, and APHIS operates plant inspection stations near major U.S. ports of entry.

**Stop 4:** LAX mail / USDA-APHIS / CBP agriculture briefing

*Purpose/Taxa:* (Air and mail pathway stop) plant pests, animal and plant diseases, regulated commodities, dog teams, and federal inspection. CBP agriculture specialists help prevent harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases, and APHIS operates plant inspection stations near major U.S. ports of entry.

**Stop 5:** Port of Long Beach / harbor viewpoint or reserved port briefing

*Purpose/Taxa:* Private tour available. Marine invasive species, mollusks and other invertebrates, ballast water, cargo inspection, water infrastructure, and environmental justice near port communities.

**Stop 6:** Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge

*Purpose/Taxa:* Wetland, vertebrates, aquatic plants, golden mussels invasive *Spartina*-style management discussion, and interagency access constraints. *Tamarix* and *Arundo*.

After presenting the first route, there was feedback from the guests and staff. Joe Scheele from Customs Border and Protections (CBP) said LAX/airport mail facility area is not a viable option for the LA tour. There were issues with barriers to security and the large size of the tour group.

Dr. Lynch shared Rachel Burnap's suggestion of the Carson region, which has polyphagous shothole borer (PSHB) and Kuroshio shothole borer (KSHB) that could be a stop on the tour. David Pegos commented he attended the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) the previous week and got into contact with a member from the Port of Long Beach (Joel). Joel had mentioned the possibility of a boat tour, featuring ballast water issues, boat fouling, scale, movement of cargo, and other aquatic invasive species related concerns.

Chris Scianni shared his connection with Sub Sea Global Solutions, the in-water haul cleaning company, located within the Port of Long Beach. Chris and Tim Crothers went to visit the El Dorado Nature Center to scout for possible tour locations. Dr. Lynch mentioned the USDA Inspection Facility in El Segundo is near and could be considered as an option. Chris mentioned there is a main lake at the center with the invasive Red-eared sliders and a large Sycamore Tree with invasive shothole borer (ISHB).

Stephanie reviewed option 2 for the LA tour.

**Option 2 with LAX after 3pm\***

\*LAX will no longer be included for the LA tour route.

**Stop 1:** Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services and Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos

**Stop 2:** El Dorado Nature Center / El Dorado Park

**Stop 3:** Seal Beach NWR / lunch alternative

**Stop 4:** Port of Long Beach / harbor viewpoint or reserved port briefing

**Stop 5:** To be determined

**Stop 6:** To be determined

She suggested creating small strike teams to help with logistics and planning. For making recommendations for the LA tour, the strike team will include David Pegos and Dr. Shannon Lynch, Stephanie Lucero and Rachel Burnap. Chris Scianni and Tim Crothers will also scout additional spots and locations. Stephanie will follow up with Joe about the dog teams.

Tentative Timeline for tour dates: (Tuesdays - Thursdays)

- LA Tour: August – early September
- Eureka Tour: *To be determined*
- Delta Tour: *To be determined*

Top priority for tour strike teams will be to secure the tour dates, ideally tours will be taking place between the last two weeks of July through the first two weeks of September. Stephanie suggested starting July 14<sup>th</sup> as the starting range for tour planning. David shared he has new contacts for helping to coordinate with Weed Management Areas, and we will be connecting with them for the tours. A few action items for the LA tour will include coordinating with WMA, securing tour sites, El Segundo, dog teams with Joe. David will follow up with the USDA Inspection Facility and the Port of Long Beach. Chris will get in contact with the El Dorado Nature Center.

David started the Eureka tours planning discussion. He is coordinating with the local agriculture commissioner – Weylan Shaw and reaching out to the WMA contact.

Eureka area tour (tentative)

**Start:** Humboldt County Agricultural Commissioner's Office

Welcome and Orientation and Intro of Agricultural Commissioner/ Weights and Measures Overview.

**Stop 1:** Eureka High School to discuss Giant Knapweed and eradication options.

**Stop 2:** Klamath River / Yurok partner briefing

Tribal, fishery, water-quality, and restoration perspectives. The lower Klamath dam removals reopened roughly 400 miles of salmon habitat, making. Can serve as a cross-jurisdictional restoration discussion stop.

**Stop 3:** Prairie Creek Redwoods / Elk Prairie area

Forest ecosystems stop with terrestrial plants, plant disease, arthropods, vertebrates, prevention hygiene, and visitor pathways.

**Stop 4:** Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge / Shorebird Loop staging

Wetland refuge, migratory birds, aquatic plants/algae, invasive invertebrates, refuge management, and agriculture-wildlife interface.

Stephanie is working with the Yurok Tribal representatives for this tour. Dr. Ted Grosholz suggested visiting the Hog Island Oyster Farm Humboldt in Samoa. It is a good location to show critical diseases impacting shellfish, oysters and aquaculture production. Another potential stop for this tour that was discussed was the Old Growth Redwoods. The strike team to help with the Eureka tour will include David Juliano, local tribes, UCCE contacts, state parks representative, Chris Lee – CalFire. David Juliano mentioned Green Diamond Timber as potential tour site. There was mention of a Humboldt Wetland Restoration project from David and he will follow up with more information at the next meeting. Dates to be considered for this tour will tentatively include July 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### Delta Tours (tentative)

**Stop 1:** UC IPM / UC ANR, Davis

Statewide IPM overview, agriculture community engagement, pest detection, invasive arthropods, plant disease, and science-to-policy translation.

**Stop 2:** Suisun Marsh

Brackish marsh, waterfowl, invasive vertebrates, aquatic weeds, levees, mosquito/vector control, and agriculture-wetland interface.

**Stop 3:** Grizzly Island Area

**Stop 4:** Big Break Regional Shoreline Visitor Center

Delta ecology, public education, aquatic plants/algae, golden mussel, nutria, and interagency reporting.

**Stop 5:** Cosumnes River Preserve

Riparian and wetland restoration, invasive terrestrial plants, aquatic plants/algae, birds and other vertebrates, mosquito/vector disease, and community science. Home to California's largest remaining valley oak riparian forest, and the preserve includes "valley oak forests" among its major habitats. Good opportunity to talk about Mediterranean Oak Borer.

**Stop 6:** Stone Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Gina Darin is trying to contact the Solano Land Trust who operates Rush Ranch and will follow up with more information next time. There is consideration for the Grizzly Island stop to be combined with the Suisun Marsh stop. David Pegos also reminded the subcommittee we are missing some individuals for the meeting that will help to inform the tour planning at the next meeting. Those individuals include the Contra Costa Agricultural Commissioner office, Solano County Agricultural Commissioner and the Delta Protection Commission. For the Delta tour, Stephanie said Mid-August seems to be the most ideal. There was discussion on a few dates in August that did not work for the subcommittee members. July 29<sup>th</sup> or August 5<sup>th</sup> are tentative dates selected for the Delta tour. The strike team for the Delta tour will include Gina Darin, Elizabeth Brusati and Chris Scianni.

Stephanie reviewed the recommendations for the tour's participants. There will be ten students per tour, thirty in total. Participants should demonstrate financial need or limited individual or institutional support for travel for that tour. Show how they are affected by, contribute to, or work within the California invasive species management or pest prevention system. Stephanie also updated the scoring rubric based on the subcommittee feedback from the last meeting. Stephanie will work with Dr. Lynch to setup up the participants online submissions process.

#### Recommendations for California Invasive Species Summit Planning

Victoria informed the subcommittee that Secretary Ross asked for pause in Summit planning until they have finalized details internally. Stephanie asked if there are specific topics or presentation styles for the subcommittee to be aware of. There will be a June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Secretaries to confirm more information, and Victoria and Virginia will follow up with the subcommittee. Stephanie asked about incorporating the themes of climate change lens/inter-agency coordination in the discussions as guiding questions that will facilitate group discussion. Virginia asked the subcommittee to expand with more definition on agenda, broader perspective, emphasis on the climate research related issues. Virginia shared another suggestion from Secretary Crowfoot, have inclusion of traditional knowledge used to combat invasive species. Karen Jetter also recommended expanding public outreach and education to boost support for invasive species management.

Other important members of the invasive species management to engage will include land managers, agriculture growers/producers, public works – response efforts (ex. landfills), rat issue – public health, Tech assistance providers – University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR), Fruit /Vegetable industry representatives, Fire Marshalls, Community Organizations – backyard fruit tree growers of Orange County. Master Gardeners, Gleaners, Food banks, Parks and Recreation, REI (outdoor sports organizations), CA Conservation Corp and the Army Corp of Engineers.

#### **Public Comments:**

Dahmoon Maeesomy – said he is open to volunteer if help is needed for the tours planning.

#### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:06 pm. The next CISAC Invasive Species Subcommittee for the Outreach & Education meeting is scheduled for June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at 1:00 pm.