



CALIFORNIA ◀ INVASIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement of Principles

1. We are committed to creating a sustainable future for California.

Managing invasive species is essential to creating a sustainable future for California. Invasive species cause ecological, economic and cultural harm to the natural world and human society. We are committed to reducing these damages in ways that advance environmental stewardship, economic development and social equity, the three pillars of sustainability.

2. California has tools to address invasive species, but stronger efforts are needed to meet increasing pressures.

Many local, state and federal agencies provide vital services in preventing, detecting and managing invasive species, but growing domestic and international travel and transport increase California's vulnerability. California needs to build on successful existing programs and develop new efforts to increase its effectiveness at addressing the problem. Given the complex and diverse ways that invasive species reach and impact our State, effective coordination among public agencies and members of the public is essential to good stewardship.

3. Criteria for decision making must be clear and consistent.

Prevention and management of invasive species requires strategic decision-making based on a thorough assessment of the risks posed both by target species and by management tactics. Innovative solutions to complex problems require the best available scientific evidence as well as consistent, transparent criteria that are based on widely shared values and offer broad public benefits.

4. Public engagement is vital.

All Californians have a stake in dealing with invasive species, and all Californians should have a voice in our collective response to the harm they pose to our State. Public agencies must employ transparent methods of making decisions and actively encourage public involvement. When conflicts arise, we believe that mediation, public deliberation and consensus building are preferable to legal action and offer the best routes to wise choices and improved outcomes.

Adopted by CISAC 12/15/2009

