

**California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC)
January 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

CISAC Members:

Tim Crothers	Shannon Lynch	Tom Smith
Gina Darin	Lori Nezhura	Katie Sutherland-
Ted Grosholz	Steve Schoenig	Ashley Koren Widdel
Ricky Lara		

CISAC Members Absent:

Tom Getts	Beatriz Nobua-
David Haviland	Behrmann Danielle Ruiz
Stacy Hishinuma	Martha Volkoff
Brent Johnson	Helene Wright
Vicki Kramer	

Guests:

Claire Aicken	Jim Farrar	Randall Oliver
Bob Atkins	Patricia Franklin Romina	MacKenzie Patton
Jonathan Babineau	Gazis	David Pegos
Alexander Bagley	Fayek Girgis	Victor Rabinovich
Elizabeth Brusati	Kat Halsey	Zella Redus
Rachel Burnap	Brad Hooker	Chris Scianni
Jeana Cadby	Daryl Lara	Malissa Strong
Catalina Cespedes	Jason Leathers	Tyler Tkachuk
Cynthia Chavez	Dario Lombardo	Greta Varien
Corin Choppin	Robert Mackie	Tanya Veldhuizen
Marina Colet	Alex Mendenhall	Ellen Walton
Lucy Diekmann	LeeAnne Mila	Mindy Wilkinson
Andrew Domingos	Dominique Norton	David Wirta

Opening

The meeting of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. on January 17, 2024.

Shannon Lynch welcomed committee members, guests and staff.

Public Comments

Shannon Lynch asked if the CISAC had access to the funding needed to organize an additional Invasive Species Tour for state legislators and their staff members. David Pegos confirmed funds are available for the purposes of holding a tour for legislators.

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Shannon Lynch updated the committee on new infestations of invasive shot hole borer (ISHB) from San Jose to Santa Barbara, which are attacking sycamore trees. These infestations mark the first time that ISHB has been detected north of Santa Barbara. It was noted that rapid response funds could potentially be utilized to address this issue through

efforts to eradicate ISHB in the area.

Tom Getts informed the committee about the status of pine ghost canker, a disease that affects grapes and fruit trees which has now started to infect pine trees in Orange County. Tim Crothers noted that pine ghost canker has been found in Orange County, Los Angeles County and San Bernardino County. There will be a presentation on pine ghost canker at a seminar being held on March 21st at Grijalva Park.

Ted Grosholz updated the committee on efforts related to the eradication of nutria. The range of the nutria's presence has expanded to include Grizzly Island. 15 thousand nutria have been captured in Chesapeake Bay. A key inhibitor to the eradication of nutria is ensuring the personnel conducting eradication efforts have access to currently inaccessible private lands in the Delta which the nutria are inhabiting.

Corin Choppin, CSUS, updated the committee on the status of the draft Invasive Species Tour reports.

Steve Schoenig discussed a recommendation from the California Invasive Plant Council to amend Section 7700 of, and to add Sections 34 and 34.1 to, California's Food and Agricultural Code. These changes would amend the California Agricultural Code to define Integrated Pest Management and Invasive Species, using the definitions provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. The new definitions would emphasize that chemical control is part of Integrated Pest Management.

Gina Darin emphasized the importance of beginning the process of conducting the Aquatic Invasive Species Surveys.

Koren Widdel discussed the \$22,000,000 in state funding for fruit fly quarantines.

Ricky Lara updated the committee on the status of his ongoing invasive species projects. One grant would fund the continuation of work on biocontrol measures for marmorated stink bug. The second grant was for sustainable pest management efforts for diamondback moths, including research around mating disruption. There will be a forum hosted by the USDA Forest Service on biocontrol held in March which Ricky will be attending. More yellow star thistle agents have been successfully reared; research is being conducted around whether releases can take place later in 2024.

Ricky is also coordinating the trapping for emerald ash borer (EAB) and research looking for natural enemies of EAB. During CISAC's Southern California Invasive Species Tour, Ricky was able to connect with personnel from UC Riverside that found parasitoids recovered from a trap in Oregon that attack goldspotted oak borer and which can also attack EAB. Parasitoid traps will be arriving later in January; Ricky will coordinate with CDFA around the placement of parasitoid traps to optimize the use of resources.

Dave Pegos noted that the CISAC has access to \$90,000 in additional funding through the United States Forest Service with a matching \$90,000 from the CDFA to set up additional traps on the border at the I-5 corridor. A joint EAB action plan is being developed between

agencies at the federal, state and local levels as well as non-governmental organizations to make sure Oregon's current infestation does not spread to California.

David Pegos provided a review of the status of CISAC's funding and the Committee's funded projects.

Committee Business

The California Invasive Species Advisory Committee reviewed the meeting minutes for the October 24, 2023 California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting. The Committee will vote on the approval of the meeting minutes at the next meeting of the CISAC.

The CISAC will vote to elect a Vice-Chair at the next meeting of the Committee.

Presentations

Green Crab National Management Plan Presentation

Ted Grosholz delivered a presentation on the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force's European Green Crab Management Plan. European green crab causes \$20,000,000 in fisheries losses every year and threatens shellfish fisheries. The presence of European green crab is a bigger issue in the Pacific Northwest but is still an important issue in California. The crabs are eating and preying on lots of other species in Northern California and Central California. It could be beneficial to implement the same restrictions levied on mitten crabs for European green crabs to try to stop their spread.

Questions asked about the presentation by committee members and the answers given by the presenter in response are outlined below:

Question: Do European green crabs prefer colder water?

Answer: No, and we are not sure why they have not spread to southern California yet.

Question: Why has there been such a sudden increase in the population of the crabs when they had a much smaller growth rate in the past?

Answer: We are not sure; the increase could be due to climate change but it could also be that they reached a critical mass that made breeding easier.

Question: Can you eat European green crabs?

Answer: No, they are too small. Nova Scotia tried to form a fishery but it was a failure.

Question: What is the plan to control or eradicate the crabs?

Answer: Right now trapping efforts are being conducted with the hope that we can capture enough of them to get their population below the level of impact.

Question: Is there an agency that has a lead role in reacting to the spread of the crabs?

Answer: No, there is a gap in response capacity. Unlike invasive plants, there is not a set of specified groups that have the responsibility to respond.

Question: Is there an acceptable level of invasive species in our fruits and vegetables?

Answer: No, if we cannot provide food without invasive species in them then we will not be able to continue to be a leader in food production.

Laurel Wilt Disease Presentation

Romina Gazis, Plant Diagnostic Clinic Director, University of Florida, gave a presentation to the committee on Laurel Wilt Disease, its causes, its effects, and the strategies that have been used in attempts to manage its spread.

Questions asked about the presentation by committee members and the answers given by the presenter in response are outlined below:

Question: In Myanmar, there seems to be no indication that Laurel Wilt Disease is an issue. Are there any dynamics active in the Myanmar situation that could be studied to gain insights around the development of potential control strategies?

Answer: It's actually a misconception that Myanmar doesn't have any issues with Laurel Wilt Disease. Romina is part of the Farmers to Farmers program and was able to meet growers from Myanmar last year. Romina asked the growers to submit photos of diseased avocados and many of the farmers submitted images of tomatoes that clearly had symptoms of Laurel Wilt Disease. However, scientists in Taiwan have not observed wilt infecting avocado orchards; if the wilt expands into native forests, outside beetles could then enter the avocado orchards and displace the regular ambrosia beetles who inhabit the orchards.

Question: Why aren't industry wide responses being developed by producers?

Answer: The issue with Laurel Wilt Disease is currently perceived as a problem unique to Florida. The avocado Florida industry only takes up around 6,000 acres. Romina noted that she believes the current lack of investment is a product of shortsighted assessments of the risk Laurel Wilt Disease can pose.

Question: Do you have any specific suggestions related to the California exclusion effort?

Answer: It's important to have an understanding of the distribution of susceptible hosts and how close they are to avocado orchards.

Question: Have you found an efficient way to engage with residents about the health of their backyard trees and the importance of not moving firewood?

Answer: Providing educational materials to homeowners, farm growers, and food trucking systems is vital in engaging with communities and stakeholders in trying to address these issues.

Invasive Species Tour Presentations

Randall Oliver played the first sequence of a video recapping the purpose and highlights of the CISAC's Invasive Species Tours for the committee's review.

Bob Mackie, Senior Environmental Research Specialist, Orange County, gave a presentation on the behind the scenes work being done to target invasive species in Orange County, with a focus on water quality and industrial pollutants.

The committee received updates on the currently ongoing quarantine sites in California. The quarantine of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties is the largest quarantine in California history.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m. The next scheduled California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 17, 2024 at 10:00 am.