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July 20, 2009

California forms invasive species rapid-response committee

The Invasive Species Council of California has appointed an advisory committee to recommend ways to mitigate non-native species' effects on resources throughout the state.

"The 24 founding members of the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee have a challenging task ahead of them," said Secretary A.G. Kawamura of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, chairman of the council. "They will lay the groundwork that will enable this council to enhance our collective ability to protect California's environment, food systems, human health and economy from invasive and destructive pests, plants and diseases."

The ISCC, formed earlier this year, is chaired by Secretary Kawamura and vice-chaired by Mike Chrisman, Secretary for the California Natural Resources Agency. Also serving on the council are Secretary Linda Adams of California's Environmental Protection Agency; Secretary Dale Bonner from the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency; Secretary Kim Belshe from the California Health and Human Services Agency; and Matt Bettenhausen, Acting Secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency.

The CISAC is tasked with making recommendations to the CISAC, including drafting an invasive species rapid response plan. The committee will take input from local government, tribal governments and federal agencies, as well as environmental organizations, academic and science institutions, affected industry sectors and impacted landowners.

Members of the California Invasive Species Council Advisory Committee:

Linda Arcularius, Supervisor, Inyo Board of Supervisors

Ted Batkin, President, California Citrus Research Board

Victoria Brandon, Member, Sierra Club

Mike Chapel, Wildlife Biologist, U.S. Forest Service

Gabriela Chavarria, National Science Director, Natural Resources Defense Council

Christiana Conser, Project Manager, Cal-HIP & PlantRight Sustainable Conservation

Ricardo De Leon, Microbiology Unit Manager – Quagga, Metropolitan Water District

Joseph M. DiTomaso, Weed Specialist, University of California Davis Cooperative Extension

Robert Dolezal, Executive Director, California Association of Nurseries and Garden Centers

Dennis Faria, Aquaculture, Imperial Catfish

Andrea Fox, Governmental Affairs Division, California Farm Bureau Federation

Larry Godfrey, Vice Chair, Department of Entomology, U.C. Davis

Robert Hoffman, Assistant Regional Administrator for Habitat, National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region

Doug Johnson, Executive Director, California Invasive Plant Council

Mary Maddux-Gonzales, Sonoma County Public Health Officer

Karen McDowell, Environemental Planner, San Francisco Estuary Partnership

Leigh Melander, Founder, Imaginal Institute

David Pattison, Member, California Association of Pest Control Advisors

John Randall, Assoc. Science Director, Nature Conservancy

Kristina Schierenbeck, Research Leader, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service

Zea Sonnabend, Policy Specialist, California Certified Organic Farmers

Rick Tomlinson, Technical Committee, California Strawberry Commission

Greg Van Wassenhove, County Agricultural Commissioner, Santa Clara County

Keith Douglass Warner, Lecturer, Santa Clara University

For more information on the Invasive Species Council of California, visit www.iscc.ca.gov.