

Oversight and Regulation of Invasive Species and Weeds in California

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The Invasive Species Council of California (ISCC) is a voluntary group made of the agency Secretaries of six California agencies. They came together because of a common interest in keeping invasive species, including aquatic weeds and pests, out of California. The six agencies are as follows: California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Natural Resources Agency, California Environmental Protection Agency, California Health and Human Services Agency, California Business, Transportation, and Housing Agency, and California Emergency Management Agency. The ISCC is supported by the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee (CISAC) and associated working groups. The CISAC is made of 24 non-state specialists in invasive species and advises the ISCC. The CISAC includes weed specialists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the University of California. Several national environmental groups with interest in weeds and pests are also represented. The first work product of the CISAC will be a list of the greatest invasive weed, insect, vertebrate and disease pests threatening California's environment, agriculture, forest, and water resources. This will be followed with invasive weed and pest management plans, including terrestrial and aquatic weeds. The working groups are informal support to the CISAC on weeds and pests. The working groups are looking for volunteers. CWSS members are encouraged to volunteer