

MEMBER'S ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE

March 6-8, 2023 Virtual Meeting

MEMBER'S NAME

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ORGANIZATION

California Department of Food and Agriculture

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ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

To serve the citizens of California by promoting and protecting a safe, healthy food supply, and enhancing local and global agricultural trade, through efficient management, innovation and sound science, with a commitment to environmental stewardship.

PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023

The priorities and activities for 2023 include helping to protect our agriculture, natural resources, and unique biodiversity from invasive species through education and outreach. Additionally, working with diverse groups of stakeholders including but not limited to under-represented communities, minorities, tribes, farmers, ranchers, nursery industry, federal, state and county agricultural officials, natural resource officials, and non-governmental organizations to help strengthen our pest prevention system and focus on shared priorities like exclusion activities.

On a daily basis, we deal with invasive species that have been detected in California. Developing policies and procedures that safeguard California's agricultural bounty and natural environment from invasive species. Communicating with impacted municipalities, residents, commercial operations, and community based non-governmental organizations about the effect of invasive species and how they can be part of the solution. Creation of proactive action plans for invasive species that have yet to arrive in California or proactively planning for invasive species on the horizon due to climate change positions us to better respond once and if an insect population is detected.

Longer term priorities include holding a California Invasive Species Summit similar to one I produced in 2018, that brings together diverse stakeholders to develop shared priorities which can then be communicated with decision makers.

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PRIORITIES / ACTIVITIES FOR FY2023 *(continued)*

Additionally, we target specific pathways for invasive species including but not limited to human aided dispersal of invasive species and firewood being a pathway to artificially move invasive species including insects and diseases. We partner with USDA and several states on our Don't Pack a Pest outreach effort aimed at the traveling public both internationally and domestic. The human movement of invasive species has been well documented. It is our long-term goal to mitigate this pathway by educating international and domestic travelers not to bring back fruits, vegetables, and meat products among other items, that may harbor invasive species unbeknownst to them. We also partner with USFS on our Buy It Where You Burn It Don't Move Firewood outreach effort which targets home residential firewood use for heating and cooking, outdoor enthusiast, campers, and hunters to urge them to procure their firewood locally, within 50 mile or less to help mitigate the artificial spread of wood boring insect and diseases.

Finally, partnering with many states on a wide range of issues including Spotted Lanternfly, fruit flies, invasive shot hole borers, and sharing effective outreach and education strategies all aimed at protecting our agriculture, natural resources, and unique biodiversity.