

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee

Thursday January 15, 2026

10:00 AM

2380 Bisso Lane, Concord
11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D, El Cerrito
<https://zoom.us/j/97982014544>
Call in: (669) 900-6833
Meeting ID: 97982014544

Members Present: Susanna Thompson (Chair), Gabriel Chan (Vice Chair), Carlos Agurto (Secretary), Susan Heckly, Jutta Burger, Michele Mancuso, Michelle Cordis, Thomas Fenster, Andrew Sutherland

Members Absent: Kiara Pereira, Environmental Organization Representative Seat is currently vacant

Staff Present: Matt Slattengren, Wil Shaub, Wade Finlinson

1. Convene and Introductions

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.

2. Public comment on items not on this agenda.

None

3. CONSIDER approval of the November 20, 2025 Integrated Pest Management Advisory Committee meeting minutes.

A motion was made and seconded (MM/SH) to approve the November 20, 2025 minutes as presented.

Ayes: Fenster, Chan, Agurto, Cordis, Mancuso, Burger, Heckly, Thompson

Noes: None

Abstain: Sutherland

Absent: Pereira

Public speakers: None

4. RECEIVE a presentation on *Ailanthus altissima* (tree-of-heaven) and ADVISE staff, as appropriate.

Bill Neill presented the attached slides. Committee members and staff discussed the presentation and shared other resources available in the attachments to these minutes. No formal action was taken.

Public speakers: None

5. APPROVE 2026 IPMAC meeting schedule and coordinate subcommittee membership and meeting dates.

The full Committee will meet on the following dates:

- *Thursday, February 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, November 19, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, January 21, 2027 at 10:00 AM*

A motion was made and seconded (AS/JB) to approve the IPMAC meeting as presented.

Ayes: Fenster, Chan, Sutherland, Agurto, Cordis, Mancuso, Burger, Heckly, Thompson

Noes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Pereira

The Decision-Making Subcommittee will be comprised of Carlos, Susanna, Andrew, Michelle Cordis, and Gabe and will meet on the following dates:

- *Thursday, April 23, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, June 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM*
- *Thursday, July 16, 2026 at 10:00 AM*

The Nature-based Solutions Subcommittee will be comprised of Tommy, Susanna, Jutta, Michele Mancuso, and Lindsay and will meet on the following date:

- *Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 10:00 AM*

Public Speakers: None

6. REVIEW Brown Act revisions and DISCUSS updated training requirements for members of advisory bodies.

The IPM Coordinator detailed the changes to the Brown Act and training requirements. No formal action was taken. The IPM Coordinator will follow up with each member regarding the when they are due for training renewal.

7. ELECT a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary

Susanna Thompson was nominated as Chair, Gabe Chan was nominated as Vice-Chair, and Carlos Agurto was nominated as Secretary. All three accepted the nomination. A motion was made and seconded (AS/SH) to approve the IPMAC meeting as presented.

Ayes: Fenster, Chan, Sutherland, Agurto, Cordis, Mancuso, Burger, Heckly, Thompson

Noes: None,

Abstain: None

Absent: Pereira

8. RECEIVE updates and announcements from Committee members and staff.

Updates included efforts of the Ag. Department and Public Works to provide feedback on the draft tree preservation ordinance; new pest cards in the Ag. Office, Arundo in the Alhambra Creek watershed, Arundo in Marsh Creek, public comment period now open for DPR's draft aquatic risk memo for on-pet flea treatments, Tree Plan Advisory Working Group is seeking volunteers, and the new pest note for Russian thistle.

9. RECOMMEND future agenda item.

The February meeting will include a follow up to the September discussion on potential refinements to the IPM Program. Other suggestions included Calflora weed mapping, outreach of evidence-based resources to the community for pest issues, Pestec's rodent monitoring innovations, glue trap bans implemented in Southern California municipalities.

Attachments:

Slides from the Tree of Heaven presentation

Miles DaPrato/Cal-IPC Tree of Heaven handout

Resource links to information shared during January 15th meeting

Tree Plan Advisory Working Group Flyer

The meeting adjourned at 12:01 PM.