

March 18, 2008

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Concerns with the Proposed Aerial Spraying by the California Department of Food and Agriculture for the Light Brown Apple Moth in Marin County

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: Your Board is requested to approve the issuance of a letter to the Governor seeking his assistance with consideration of alternatives to aerial spraying, as well as to amend the County's Legislative Plan to guide future efforts on this issue, including support of proposed legislation. Adopt the attached letter requesting the Governor's assistance, and authorize the proposed amendment to the County's Legislative Plan.

Discussion: The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plans to conduct aerial spraying of a pheromone pesticide for eradication of the light brown apple moth in Marin County this Summer. Many question the proposed strategy of aerial spraying and its potential impact on public health and the environment.

Because of these concerns, it is recommended that your Board issue a letter to the Governor requesting that he work with the CDFA to implement alternatives while the potential impact of aerial spraying on public health and the environment is thoroughly studied. Such alternatives could include pheromone twist ties, biological control strategies (stingerless wasps), pheromone male moth attractant treatment, and use of foliar ground treatments.

Several bills are currently pending in the Legislature on this issue. However, if not designated as urgency matters, these bills would not take effect until 2009 – well after the proposed spraying will have occurred. In addition to approving a letter to the Governor, it is also recommended that your Board authorize the following addition to the Legislative Policy Guidelines section of the County's 2008 Legislative Plan to allow staff to address the issue at the state and federal levels as appropriate:

- ***Alternatives to Aerial Spraying to Address the Light Brown Apple Moth.*** While recognizing the potential harm to agriculture of the light brown apple moth, support efforts to implement alternatives to aerial spraying for the pest while the potential impact on public health and the environment is adequately studied. Work with the state and federal government as appropriate to improve community notice, outreach and alternative approaches to proposed aerial use of pesticides.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hymel,
County Administrator