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THE CITY OF
NOVATO
CALIFORNIA

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STAFF REPORT

MEETING
DATE: May 13, 2008
TO: City Council
FROM: Daniel E. Keen, City Manager

SUBJECT: **ERADICATION OF LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH**

REQUEST

Consider adopting a resolution opposing the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Aerial Spray Program to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth.

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt resolution.

DISCUSSION

The discovery of the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in Marin County and other parts of California recently led to a decision by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) to begin a LBAM aerial spraying program. This spraying program has not been tested for toxic health effects and various community leaders including the Governor and Senator Carole Migden have now proposed a moratorium on the proposed aerial spraying program until an independent study of potential health hazards has been completed.

In order to protect the health and welfare of the residents of Novato, this resolution opposes the current CDFA spraying program and supports a moratorium until the results of an independent study of potential health effects has been completed. The City of San Rafael recently passed a similar resolution.

FISCAL IMPACT

No direct fiscal impact from this resolution.

NOVATO CITY COUNCIL AGENDA STAFF REPORT DATE _____ FILE No. _____
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1.

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NOVATO

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
NOVATO OPPOSING THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AERIAL SPRAY PROGRAM TO
ERADICATE THE LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH

WHEREAS, the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) is a pest subject to Federal and State quarantine and eradication orders; and

WHEREAS, there is a confirmed presence of LBAMs in Marin County; and

WHEREAS, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plans to begin a LBAM aerial spraying program in Marin County and surrounding areas in spring of 2008; and

WHEREAS, modern Integrated Pest Management (IPM) relies on the least-toxic, environmentally sensitive control methods; and

WHEREAS, aerial and other blanket pesticide applications have been shown in the past to upset natural ecosystem balance in unpredictable ways; and

WHEREAS, the proposed materials to be used in the LBAM spraying program have not been tested for toxic health effects when used in areas of concentrated population.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Novato hereby opposes the CDFA aerial spraying program to eradicate LBAM and supports a moratorium on all proposed aerial spray programs until complete, independent study of the potential health effects of all substances, both active and inert, have been completed and requests that CDFA protect the health and welfare of the residents and natural environment of Marin County by immediately shifting its LBAM control methods to least-toxic Integrated Pest Management methods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Novato directs staff to send a letter from the Mayor to the Governor supporting the current proposed bills regarding pesticide application and public notice.

* * * * *

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the City Council of the City of Novato, Marin County, California, at a meeting thereof, held on the ____ day of _____, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: Councilmembers

NOES: Councilmembers

ABSTAIN: Councilmembers

ABSENT: Councilmembers

City Clerk of the City of Novato