

1 [Resolution regarding Aerial Spraying of Pesticides]

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3 **Resolution opposing aerial spraying over the City and County of San Francisco of**
4 **pesticides designed to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth.**

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

8 **WHEREAS**, there is a confirmed presence of Light Brown Apple Moths in San
9 Francisco County; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plans to begin
11 an LBAM aerial spraying program in San Francisco County and surrounding areas in August
12 of 2008; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the CDFA has expanded the area of the City and County of San Francisco
14 to be sprayed to include Treasure Island by an addendum dated March 24th 2008 a copy of
15 which is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by this reference; and

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

18 **WHEREAS**, the City and County of San Francisco is committed to a pest management
19 policy that favors the use of organic or natural methods and a thorough and public process to
20 consider the careful and limited use of chemicals of the least toxic nature; and

21 **WHEREAS**, least-toxic control options are available for LBAM, including physical and
22 cultural practices such as clean-up of plant debris where moth larvae over winter; use of
23 natural predators, parasites, and insect diseases; introduction of sterile male moths; and use
24 of pheromone sticky traps are available to control the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM); and

25

1 **WHEREAS**, aerial and other blanket pesticide applications have repeatedly been
2 shown in the past to upset natural ecosystem balance in unpredictable and often catastrophic
3 ways; and

4 **WHEREAS**, aerial and other blanket pesticide applications have repeatedly been
5 shown in the past to cause unintended, unpredictable, and often serious human health
6 effects; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the State has claimed an emergency exemption under the California
8 Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in order to begin the LBAM aerial spraying program
9 without conducting environmental review based on an emergency exemption; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the State has confirmed that it will begin preparation of an Environmental
11 Impact Report after the aerial spraying program has begun; and

12 **WHEREAS**, blanket spraying of chemicals is expensive and inefficient; and

13 **WHEREAS**, biologists have testified that aerial pesticide spraying is extremely unlikely
14 to eradicate LBAM [see testimony of James Carey, testimony of Daniel Harder]; and

15 **WHEREAS**, biologists have testified that the range over which LBAM has been
16 detected in California indicates that LBAM has been established in the state for some time;
17 and

18 **WHEREAS**, CDFA has stated that no physical crop damage has been attributed to
19 LBAM; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the risk of economic damage alone does not justify the health and
21 environmental risks of aerial pesticide applications; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the State has relied almost entirely on its own scientists to address public
23 concerns about the LBAM spray program and has not employed independent outside experts
24 to evaluate and support the program or and address issues in a direct and impartial manner;
25 and

1 **WHEREAS**, the CDFA LBAM spraying program has used pesticides that an
2 independent toxicologist’s review has stated have not been tested for long-term human
3 toxicity; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the CDFA LBAM spraying program is relying on pesticides that contain
5 ingredients that are highly toxic to aquatic life; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the CDFA LBAM program sprays pesticides in microscopic plastic
7 capsules that pose unknown inhalation risks; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA) maintains that the
9 pheromone pesticide poses only “minimal risk to human health,” but acknowledges that it is
10 considered a “slight to moderate dermal irritant” and does present some very low toxicity”
11 [see *Treatment Program for Light Brown Apple Moth in Santa Cruz and Northern Monterey*
12 *Counties, California* (September 2007) pages 10-121]; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the USDA states that its risk assessment assumes that the rate of
14 exposure will be insignificant, with no dietary exposure from food and just a minimal amount
15 of incidental exposure from drinking water or swimming [see *Treatment Program for Light*
16 *Brown Apple Moth in Santa Cruz and Northern Monterey Counties, California* (September
17 2007) pages 10-121]; and

18 **WHEREAS**, aerial spraying disproportionately affects vulnerable populations such as
19 those who work and play outdoors, those with the recognized disability multiple chemical
20 sensitivity, and those in the homeless population who have no option for protection from the
21 spray or receipt of written notification of spray dates; and

22 **WHEREAS**, LBAM aerial spraying in the Santa Cruz and Monterey areas resulted in
23 the spraying of numerous residents and pets; and

24 **WHEREAS**, hundreds of reports of health effects were reported following the LBAM
25 aerial spraying in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties; and

1 **WHEREAS**, other environmental impacts were reported following the LBAM aerial
2 spraying in the Monterey and Santa Cruz areas; now, therefore, be it

3 **RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San Francisco
4 opposes the CDFA aerial spray program to eradicate LBAM; and be it

5 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
6 Francisco requests that CDFA protect the health and welfare of the residents and natural
7 environment of Alameda County by immediately shifting its LBAM control methods to least-
8 toxic Integrated Pest Management methods such as those listed above; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
10 Francisco requests that CDFA shift its focus to educating the USDA regarding the lack of crop
11 damage done by LBAM, the need to use least-toxic control methods that do not expose
12 populated areas to aerial spraying, and the need to appropriately downgrade the pest
13 classification of LBAM to reflect the lack of risk it poses; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
15 Francisco requests that the State conduct a long-term study of the health and environmental
16 effects resulting from the aerial spraying project that has been conducted to date in Monterey
17 and Santa Cruz counties, taking into account reports collected by citizens in the absence of
18 an easily accessible method of reporting to the State; and be it

19 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the City and County of San
20 Francisco supports the introduction and passage of state legislation requiring explicit consent
21 of affected residents before any aerial spraying program can be implemented.

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