

## **Citizens for Sustainable Action**

▪ Fort Ord Environmental Justice Network (FOEJN) ▪ Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (HOPE) ▪ Pesticide Watch Education Fund ▪ Stop Overhead Spraying ▪  
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### **Safer, More Effective Alternatives to Aerial Spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth**

#### **Background:**

Last month the California Department of Food and Agriculture proposed a series of aerial pesticide applications to control the spread of the invasive light brown apple moth. The agency was able to fast-track aerial applications of the pesticide after the Environmental Protection Agency granted an emergency exemption. Despite recommendations from the agency's Technical Working Group (TWG) against the aerial pesticide applications calling them the least effective method, CDFA proceeded with spraying in late September. CDFA should take the right steps now under the leadership of Governor Schwarzenegger to promote the least-toxic or Integrated Pesticide Management (IPM) options delineated below.

#### **Solutions:**

While the moth may be a problem, CDFA's control proposals may do more harm than good. Alternatives to aerial spraying methods are widely available, proven to be safer and proven more effective at controlling the spread of the moth:

- (1) Sticky traps have been dispersed through out the infested areas and have been proven effective.** These traps not only attract the moths, they kill them as well. The aerial spraying only "confuses" the moths and attempts to disrupt mating behaviors. In addition to being more effective, the Sticky Traps are also less expensive, thus using few taxpayer dollars.
- (2) Localized or target spraying has also been proven more effective—this follows the principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM), or going to the source.** Checkmate OLR-F, the pesticide already sprayed, was created and intended to be used as a ground spray, not an aerial spray.
- (3) According to entomologists and nursery owners investigating the moth in Santa Cruz County, natural predators of the LBAM are already emerging and proving to be effective alternatives to aerial spraying.**
- (4) Releasing sterile moths is yet another effective method which can be used to disrupt mating and thus reduce the numbers in future generations.** CDFA is currently doing this with the Medfly near Dixon, CA.
- (5) Farmers, entomologist and scientists alike know that spraying for insects during the fall is not effective.** Spraying or pesticide management methods are carried out during the spring months to insure success.

With the community united behind this wide range of solutions, and the science supporting them, the California Department of Food and Agriculture should withhold further spraying and invest in these solutions.

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