



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

DATE: November 29, 2007

AGENDA OF: December 11, 2007

DEPARTMENT: City Council

SUBJECT: Light Brown Apple Moth Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force

RECOMMENDATION: That the City Council establish a blue ribbon City of Santa Cruz Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force comprised of City Residents to establish a process for community concerns, recommend City responses, and collaborate with community organizations, county, state and federal agencies to make recommendations to the City Council regarding the State's program to eradicate the LBAM.

BACKGROUND:

In September the City of Santa Cruz was informed that the State will commence an aerial spraying program within the City of Santa Cruz where they were going to spray a chemical known as Checkmate-LBAM to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth which threatens California's agriculture. The first round of spraying has since been completed in November, and the State is scheduled to do aerial spraying over our community again in February 2008. Our city recently joined the County of Santa Cruz in a lawsuit to prevent the aerial spraying from occurring in Santa Cruz County and we were defeated.

The State of California recently created a Light Brown Apple Moth Environmental Advisory Task Force to communicate environmental concerns and research needs to the Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture. Several members of our community have repeatedly been voicing its concerns regarding the spraying before and after the aerial spraying occurred, and to date they do not have a formal process that involves the community regarding their concerns.

The creation of a blue ribbon City of Santa Cruz LBAM Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force comprised of City Residents will help establish such a process for community concerns and involve them in recommending City responses to the Council. In addition, the Task Force would collaborate with community organizations, county, state and federal agencies to develop recommendations to the City Council regarding the State's program to eradicate the LBAM.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Submitted by:
Tony Madrigal
Councilmember

Attachment: draft description of Light Brown Apple Moth Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force

City of Santa Cruz Light Brown Apple Moth Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force

Mission Statement

The mission of the blue ribbon City of Santa Cruz Light Brown Apple Moth Community & Environmental Advisory Task Force is to communicate environmental and community concerns, and make recommendations to the City Council as they relate to the State of California's program to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth. The Council has the authority to determine which of these recommendations are appropriate for City implementation and which are to be forwarded to the county, state, or federal agencies, such as the California Department of Food and Agriculture's Environmental Advisory Task Force for inclusion in their process.

Task Force Goals include:

- a) Develop a process for community concerns and recommend City responses to those concerns;**
- b) collaborate with community organizations, county, state and federal agencies to make recommendations to the City Council regarding the State's program to eradicate the LBAM;**
- c) Focus on the community and environmental consequences of the State's Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Program;**
- d) Develop recommendations as to how to best mitigate or avoid any negative community and environmental effects;**
- e) Provide information and recommendations that can be forwarded to the County, State, and/or Federal agencies;**
- f) Provide public outreach and education to the community regarding the State LBAM Program.**