

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BELMONT OPPOSING
THE PROPOSED SPRAY PROGRAM BY THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD AND AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE TO ERADICATE THE LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH**

WHEREAS, the California State Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) has announced plans to utilize an aerial spray program in San Mateo County as part of a strategy to eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in infested regions of California's Bay Area and Central Coast; and

WHEREAS, the LBAM is a pest subject to Federal and State quarantine and eradication orders; and

WHEREAS, according to the CDFA, the LBAM has the potential to be one of the most destructive pests the United States has experienced and could adversely impact more than 2,000 plants including native tree species, horticultural crops and food crops resulting in possible long term environmental and agricultural consequences; and

WHEREAS, there is a confirmed presence of LBAM in portions of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the State is initiating preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and has also claimed an emergency exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in order to begin the aerial spraying program prior to full completion of the EIR and associated environmental review; and

WHEREAS, following application of the aerial spray in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties in September and November of 2007, over 640 persons reported respiratory, skin, digestive and other health issues directly related to the spray; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports of other environmental impacts including deaths of birds were reported following the aerial spraying in those counties; and

WHEREAS, significant public debate and concern has developed over the potential benefits and impacts of the aerial spray program including information presented to the Belmont City Council which identifies that contrary to the CDFA representations, there is scientific evidence that:

- the LBAM has been present in California for up to three decades and has shown no history of crop damage in California;
- a control program would be an effective alternative to the proposed eradication program and has proved to be effective in New Zealand by allowing beneficial insects and natural predators to re-establish and with localized on-ground treatments;
- aerial spraying of chemicals is an expensive and inefficient technique for eradication;
- modern Integrated Pest Management relies on the least toxic environmentally sensitive control method and such methods are available to control the LBAM;

- the pheromone pesticides proposed for use have not been tested for long term human toxicity; and
- blanket aerial pesticide applications have repeatedly been shown in the past to cause unintended, unpredictable, and often serious human health effects; and

WHEREAS, two Superior Court judges, in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties have recently ruled that there was no emergency warranting the CDFA spraying without an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), no proven past crop damage and no impending crop damage if no spraying occurs before an EIR can be completed in 2009; and

WHEREAS, the protection of the public health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Belmont is a highest priority for the Belmont City Council.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Belmont opposes the CDFA spray program to eradicate LBAM and requests a shift to control LBAM, using the least-toxic methods of Integrated Pest Management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council calls upon the CDFA and the State of California to recognize and support the principal that the protection of the health, safety and welfare of California's residents must be the top priority in any consideration of a program to control the LBAM.

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I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Belmont at a regular meeting thereof held on July 8, 2008 by the following vote:

AYES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

NOES, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSTAIN, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

ABSENT, COUNCILMEMBERS: _____

CLERK of the City of Belmont

APPROVED:

MAYOR of the City of Belmont