

## MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Environmental Analyst

DATE: March 24, 2010

SUBJECT: REPORT ON STATUS OF THE LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH  
ERADICATION PROGRAM OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD &  
AGRICULTURE

### RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file this memo regarding the status of the California Department of Agriculture's Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Program.

### BACKGROUND:

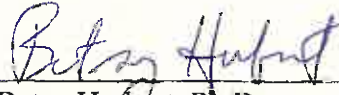
At the March 4, 2010 Board meeting, your Board directed staff to research the potential impacts on District water resources from the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) plan to use aerial spraying to eradicate the light brown apple moth from areas of the state, including Santa Cruz County. At that meeting, a member of the public had expressed concerns about the impacts of aerial spraying on District water resources.

On March 22, 2010, CDFA issued a press release (Attachment 1) announcing certification of the programmatic EIR for the program. In the same press release, the agency declared that aerial spraying would not be used in the program, and that the goal of the program had shifted from eradication to suppression and control.

Thus, concerns about the potential impacts of the previously proposed aerial spraying on the District's water resources are no longer at issue.

As more information becomes available about the CDFA program to control and suppress the pest through methods other than aerial spraying, staff will review this information and report back to the board.

It is recommended that the Board of Directors review and file this memo regarding the status of the California Department of Agriculture's Light Brown Apple Moth Eradication Program.

  
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Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.  
Environmental Analyst

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Attachment 1

# News Release

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



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Arnold Schwarzenegger,  
Governor  
A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

## CERTIFICATION COMPLETE FOR LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT



SACRAMENTO, March 23, 2010 — The final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) project has been certified and a notice of determination filed with the State Office of Planning and Research. The notice and other EIR documents may be viewed by visiting <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/envimpactrpt.html>

When certifying the EIR, CDFA issued a clarification that aerial treatment with moth pheromones is not a management tool in the program. Additionally, CDFA concurs with the USDA's recent announcement that the program has shifted from eradication to suppression and control.

The EIR determined that it was unlikely that the approaches in the LBAM program would cause human harm or environmental damage, and found that greater potential for human and environmental harm would come from widespread pesticide use by private parties and organizations in the absence of an LBAM program.

The approaches evaluated include the use of moth pheromone, organically-approved materials, and sterile moths. The only two treatment methods being considered currently are the placement of pheromone twist ties on trees and plants, and the release of sterile moths.

The LBAM program will now move forward to evaluate treatment options.



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