



Item #: 4.A.

CITY COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

MEETING OF MAY 22, 2008

FROM: City Manager's Department
DATE: May 7, 2008
SUBJECT: Light Brown Apple Moth Community Hearing

Recommended Action: Open the public hearing, receive community comments, and give staff direction.

BACKGROUND

The Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) has created quite a disturbance in the Monterey Bay Area. Growers of organic produce and other agricultural industry practitioners are very concerned about the impact of this pest on produce production. The State of California Department of Food and Agriculture with the support of the United States Department of Agriculture has taken the lead on eradicating the LBAM. A microencapsulated pheromone formulated under the registered and trademarked brand of Checkmate is used by the State through an aerial dispersion process as the primary tool of their LBAM eradication program. Checkmate has active and non-active ingredients, all of which are being questioned for long and short-term health effects by a broad community of concerned residents.

Last fall the State has completed the first phase of the aerial dispersion process. Since then the Santa Cruz County Superior Court has approved a ban on spraying until certain unaddressed environmental concerns have been resolved. The Capitola City Council has directed staff to place this matter as a public hearing on an agenda prior to June 2008.

DISCUSSION

The science of the aerial spraying of Checkmate, is beyond the competence of staff to evaluate. In an effort to provide some information to Council, attached to this report are studies and reports from the California Department of Food and Agriculture website: a Light Brown Apple Moth fact sheet; a Technical Working Group study dated March 2008; a Consensus Statement on Human Health Aspects of the Aerial Application of Microencapsulated Pheromones to Combat the Light Brown Apple Moth, dated October 31, 2007; and, a discussion of trapping moths as an alternate form or pest control as distributed by the USDA with a cover letter dated May 2, 2008.

In addition, attached is an email communication from Max Ventura dated April 25, 2008 on the LBAM chemical program. The email referred to a couple of websites that discuss concerns regarding the aerial dispersion of Checkmate. Included as attachments are: The Safety to Humans of Bacillus thuringiensis Insecticidal Sprays: A Reassessment; a May 6, 2008 report on LBAM Eradication Program: Potential Effects on Pollinators and Implications for California Agriculture; and, a report on Integrated Pest Management Practices for the Light Brown Apple Moth in New Zealand: Implications for California.

Attachment #4 is a memo from the Community Development Department attaching recommendations from the Capitola Commission on the Environment dated May 6, 2008.

Access to the Internet will reveal many more reports and opinions on the LBAM matter, including pesticide products that will be applied directly to utility poles and other methods of eradication.

FISCAL IMPACT

None.

ATTACHMENTS

1. CDFA reports: Light Brown Apple Moth Fact Sheet; Report from the Technical Work Group dated March 2008; Consensus Statement on Human Health Aspects of the Aerial Application of Microencapsulated Pheromones to Combat the Light Brown Apple Moth; USDA cover letter and report dated May 2, 2008 on Response to H.O.P.E.'s proposal to eliminate LBAM through trapping.
2. Max Ventura Email, dated April 25, 2008; report on The Safety to Humans of Bacillus thuringiensis Insecticidal Sprays: A Reassessment; Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) Eradication Program: Potential effects on Pollinators and Implications for California Agriculture; Integrated Pest Management Practices for the Light Brown Apple Moth in New Zealand: Implications for California.
3. Letter dated May 1, 2008, from Terre Thomas regarding Proposed Spraying of Capitola for the Light Brown Apple Moth.
4. Community Development Department Memo and attached Commission on the Environment communication dated May 6, 2008.

Report Prepared By: Rich Hill, City Manager

**Reviewed and Forwarded
By City Manager:**

