



For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 15, 2008

**Media Contacts: Paul Schramski, 916.216.1082
Nan Wishner, 510.524.5185**

Alameda County Mayors' Conference Votes to Oppose Light Brown Apple Moth Aerial Spray

*Mayors join 24 cities and counties and more than 70 health, environmental,
and other organizations who oppose the program*

San Leandro – The Alameda County Conference of Mayors, an organization of the mayors of Alameda's 14 incorporated cities, last night passed a resolution opposing the light brown apple moth (LBAM) aerial spray program scheduled to begin in the Bay Area in August, 2008.

The resolution cites the health risks of the spray and lack of testing of the pesticides and the lack of damage done by LBAM despite scientific evidence indicating that LBAM has been in the state for decades. It also calls on the state to apply the precautionary principle to decisions not only about the LBAM program but to all applications of pesticides to populated areas.

In passing the resolution, the Mayors' organization joins 24 other cities and counties who have voted to oppose the spray: Monterey, Albany, Berkeley, Oakland, Fairfax, Santa Cruz (City and County), San Anselmo, Pacific Grove, Mill Valley, Emeryville, Corte Madera, Sausalito, Richmond, Seaside, San Rafael, San Francisco, Alameda, Tiburon, Larkspur, Piedmont, Del Rey Oaks, Pacifica, Sonoma.

Other agencies and organizations that have recently joined the list of more than 70 groups opposing the spray include the California Nurses Association, the Oakland Zoo, along with the East Bay Regional Parks District and East Bay Municipal Utilities District.

"I am very pleased that the Mayors have joined the rising tide of opposition to this ill-advised program which poses a significant public health risk to our cities residents," said Albany Mayor Robert Lieber, an RN who actively opposes the spray.

The resolution passed 8-3 with 2 abstentions and 1 mayor absent. Mayors voting in favor were from Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Hayward, Livermore, Oakland, and Pleasanton. Mayors voting no were from Dublin, San Leandro, and Union City. Representatives from Fremont and Newark abstained, and Piedmont was absent from the meeting.

The Mayors' vote follows on the heels of two recent legal decisions that both dealt setbacks to the state's aerial spray program. Judges in Santa Cruz and Monterey have ruled that aerial spraying could not proceed in those two counties until the state completes an Environmental Impact Report.

###

Pesticide Watch is a statewide public health and environmental group that works side-by-side with communities to clean up pesticide pollution and prevent pesticide exposure.