Napa and Sonoma Counties Stakeholders Consensus Document
On the Light Brown Apple Moth
April 14, 2009

A coalition of environmental and agricultural interests in Napa and Sonoma counties have met numerous times and have reached wide-ranging consensus regarding the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM). State and federal elected officials who represent these counties have also contributed to the formation of this document.

The undersigned agree to the following principles and recommendations to achieve what we believe is the most appropriate approach to preventing LBAM from becoming permanently established in Napa and Sonoma counties, and to address the imposition of state and federal quarantines in affected areas of our counties.

Principles:

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) have classified LBAM as a pest of significant environmental and economic importance. When LBAM is found in an area, state and federal quarantines are placed on agricultural producers, including restrictions on the movement of host plants, fruits and vegetables by residents and businesses located within the quarantine areas.

LBAM quarantine has already caused environmental and economic impacts in our counties. Our immediate goal is to support actions that will detect, manage and, if possible, eradicate LBAM and allow state and federal quarantines to be lifted. A collaborative effort between the counties of Napa and Sonoma, CDFA, USDA, and local stakeholders is necessary to effectively respond to LBAM and the quarantine.

We believe it is in the interest of all stakeholders that CDFA and our counties adopt management tools and practices that are safe to the public and have minimal agricultural and environmental impact.

We also believe that a transparent community dialogue in combination with public outreach and education are imperative to implementing a safe and effective response to the local economic and environmental impacts of the LBAM quarantine.

Recommended Actions:

1. We support the recent commitment by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an in-depth examination of the biological, economic, and regulatory consequences that may occur if LBAM was deregulated. We request that this examination process be expedited. We also urge NAS to include a site visit to Napa and Sonoma Counties as part of their fact finding examination process.

2. We request that CDFA expedite and complete the environmental review process on the methods to be used to control and eradicate LBAM.

3. We request that the treatment methods reviewed and supported in this Napa and Sonoma Stakeholders Consensus Document (below) be expedited in the management of LBAM.

4. We support CDFA's Exhibit "L" of the Compliance Agreement for the movement of grapes as a robust integrated pest management strategy that allows growers to move their grapes with less stringent

requirements. The group recommends approval from CDFA and USDA to implement these practices as soon as possible.

5. We support local, state, and federal outreach and educational efforts to communities (including homeowners and landscapers) to guide them in appropriately handling green waste and garden produce in a manner that prevents the spread of LBAM.

6. We support local, state, and federal efforts to enhance programs to detect exotic pests as early as possible. The detection and eradication of an exotic insect before an infestation and imposition of quarantines saves money and lessens disruption to farmers and communities.

7. We request that the Chairs of the Boards of Supervisors of Napa and Sonoma counties immediately forward letters of support for the Napa and Sonoma Counties Stakeholder's Consensus Document to CDFA and USDA.

Recommendations to CDFA on their LBAM Program Plan of Action:

The following are the consensus positions of the Napa and Sonoma LBAM Stakeholders Group in response to the five CDFA options under its LBAM program review dated July 21, 2008:

1. Sterile Insect Technology (SIT) – SIT involves the release of sterile moths to disrupt the mating pattern of LBAM, with the goal of eradication.

   We support this pro-active method and strongly urge CDFA and USDA to move forward in the two counties as soon as possible.

2. Mating Disruption Pheromone – Twist ties or cards with pheromones attract the male LBAM, confuses the moth, thereby preventing them from mating with females. It does not kill the moth.

   We support ground treatments using pheromone twist ties or cards for urban infestations and for small and isolated areas with ample advance notification as required by law. We support CDFA's current policy regarding aerial spraying, which states, "Aerial applications for LBAM pheromone mating disruption are not being applied in California."

   CDFA also stated in that policy, "Aerial applications of pheromone mating disruption techniques will only be utilized in forested or inaccessible areas, which the department has not identified at this time." The Stakeholder Group is unable to reach consensus on the use of aerial spraying in forested or inaccessible areas for the control of LBAM, but all parties agree that it is not a preferred option.

3. Male Moth attractant treatment – This method uses small amounts of pheromone and pesticide (permethrin) in a thick mixture, which can be applied to poles and trees for use in urban and non-urban areas. Currently, this method does not use an organically approved insecticide.

   We would agree to support this method only if organic alternative(s) were found effective against the LBAM adult stage (the organically approved pesticides *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* [Btk] and Spinosad are only effective for larval stages). Organic insecticide alternatives are currently being investigated.

   As is the case with other pesticide use in general, this option remains an opt-in for private landowners with their consent.

4. Biological Control with Parasitic Wasps – Parasitic wasps involve the release of an egg parasitoid, which is a native wasp (*Trichogramma spp.).* The wasp will parasitize the egg masses, and this technique may be used in all infested areas.

   We support this method and recommend the wasp breeding program be expedited.

5. Foliar Ground Treatments for LBAM Larval Life Stages – Use of the biologically based and organically approved pesticides *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (Btk) and/or Spinosad to control the larval stage. This method would be by ground application in heavily infested areas where economic damage to crops, landscape plants, and native plants is determined to be occurring.

   We support this method.