

**Beth Pollard**

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**Subject:** Aerial pesticide spraying in East Bay

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**From:** Richard Cunningham**Sent:** Tuesday, December 18, 2007 2:44 PM**Subject:** RE: Aerial pesticide spraying in East Bay

Yesterday afternoon, Dec. 17th, a meeting was held in Berkeley to brief city and county staff on the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) situation in the Bay Area and, by example, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties. In attendance at the meeting were Berkeley Dept. of Env. Health professionals, Lisa Caronna from the Berkeley City Manager's office, a park and rec manager from Richmond, a staff member from Contra Costa Env. Health, a liaison from the Oakland City Manager's, and myself. From the State was the LBAM team, which included managers, scientists, an environmental M.D., and public information staff.

The presentation and discussion lasted several hours and outlined what follows below. Bear in mind that the State is prepared to visit affected communities for any/all community meetings or council meetings, etc. for extended discussions, Q&A's, etc. (Beth has the contact information for arranging the presentation(s).) Therefore, what you read below is summary info only as I am not a subject matter expert.

- 1) The material being sprayed is a mating pheromone, designed to confuse the male moths. It is not malathion or a compound designed to kill the moths. The pheromone is specific to the LBAM and several closely related pests. It does not interfere with butterfly mating.
- 2) The spraying will not begin any sooner than mid-March because of the seasonal cycle of the moth and because of logistics such as weather.
- 3) The spraying schedule will be widely published in the media.
- 4) Food grown on organic farms will not be decertified as organic because they have been sprayed, since it is classified as a pheromone.
- 5) The spraying program is being constructed to "eradicate" rather than "control" the moth because the moth has about 2000 host plants and trees and is very destructive.
- 6) The authority for the spraying originates with state and federal legislation. The emergency authority extends over the entire state. There are no local opt-out provisions.
- 7) Berkeley and Albany (as well as other portions of western Alameda County) both have current LBAM infestations.
- 8) The material is classified as a Level 3 pesticide by the US EPA because its intended use is to reduce insect populations, which defines a pesticide. The inert ingredients list has been made public and is available on the CDFA website (see below).
- 9) The use of pheromone-impregnated twist-ties, placed manually on trees, etc., must be done on 15 foot intervals across the entire area and at varying elevations in trees. The estimate for Monterey County was 9.2 million ties.
- 10) The CDFA website contains a significant amount of information, history, etc. about the moth and the spray program: [http://www.cdca.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdca.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)

Rich Cunningham

1/16/2008