

1
2 **RESOLUTION NO. 09-11**

3
4 **A Resolution of the Albany City Council Supporting AB 622 (Swanson) The Clean
5 Air for Children, Seniors, and Working Families Act**

6 **WHEREAS**, aerial pesticide spraying is an outdated, inefficient practice that
7 poses unacceptable exposure risks; and

8 **WHEREAS**, multiple scientific and other sources including the U.S. Office of
9 Technology Assessment estimate that about 40 percent of an aerial pesticide application
10 leaves the “target area” and that less than 1 percent actually reaches the “target pest”; and
11 whereas

12 **WHEREAS**, airborne pesticide exposure is responsible for acute poisonings and
13 for chronic illnesses including asthma, cancer, neurological disorders, birth defects,
14 miscarriages, and other reproductive effects; and

15 **WHEREAS**, “sensitive” populations – children, the elderly, pregnant women,
16 and those with compromised immune systems and chronic illness – are more vulnerable
17 to the adverse health effects of pesticide exposure; and

18 **WHEREAS**, aerial pesticide spraying creates mass exposure to all members of
19 the population and sites within a spray area and the drift zone; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Working Group’s 2004 “10 Americans” study
21 found 287 industrial chemicals in umbilical cord blood, including numerous pesticides,
22 for example DDT, which was banned more than 30 years ago; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency emphasizes that children
24 are at a greater risk from pesticide exposure for many reasons, including that
25 “[c]hildren’s internal organs are still developing and maturing and their enzymatic,
26 metabolic, and immune systems may provide less natural protection than those of an
27 adult,” toxic exposure during critical periods in children’s development can permanently
28 alter the way their bodies function, and when exposed to aerial spray, children receive a
29 larger dose: pound for pound, they breathe more pesticide-contaminated air than an adult;
and

1
2 **WHEREAS**, the elderly and those already ill are especially susceptible to adverse
3 effects from pesticide exposure because of the extra vulnerability of their respiratory
4 systems, their lower immune function, and their inability to break down and eliminate
5 toxic substances from their bodies; and

6 **WHEREAS**, farm workers and their families who live adjacent to agricultural
7 fields that are regularly sprayed are at very high risk for the cumulative effects of
8 pesticide exposure; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) annual
10 reports of numbers of people poisoned by aerial pesticide spray exposure do not account
11 for the long-term effects of pesticide exposure, such as cancer and birth defects; and

12 **WHEREAS**, DPR acknowledged in a 2007 Consensus Statement on the LBAM
13 spray that "DPR's surveillance system, like others, under detects pesticide illnesses
14 for various reasons, including that pesticide illnesses may mimic other illnesses and that
15 physicians and patients may not ascribe symptoms to pesticide exposure"; and

16 **WHEREAS**, scientists at the Pesticide Action Network estimate that the real
17 number of Californians whose health is affected by aerial pesticide spraying is anywhere
18 from 10 to 100 times greater than DPR reports, which means that tens of thousands of
19 people are likely affected annually; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of Albany and the greater Bay Area were
21 among the those targeted for blanket aerial pesticide spray for the Light Brown Apple
22 Moth (LBAM) in 2008; and

23 **WHEREAS**, the City of Albany and greater Bay Area contain numerous sites
24 where sensitive populations congregate, including schools, hospitals, day care centers,
25 senior citizen
26 centers, and residential care homes; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the residents of Albany and of the greater Bay Area oppose food
28 production practices that put the residents of any area at risk of aerial pesticide exposure;
29 and

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29

WHEREAS, AB 622, the Clean Air for Children, Seniors, and Working Families Act, would protect the most vulnerable populations by establishing a more than 3-mile aerial spray safety zone around schools, hospitals, day care centers, senior citizen centers, residential care homes, and farm labor camps so that people in those areas can live, work, and go to school without fear of pesticide exposure;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED THAT THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL: Supports and endorses AB 622, the Clean Air for Children, Seniors, and Working Families Act and urges the California Assembly and Senate to pass AB 622 and urges the Governor to sign AB 622 into law. Will notify the bill's author, any relevant Committees of the state Assembly and Senate, and the Governor of the city's support of the bill.

MARGE ATKINSON
MAYOR