

#33 May 5, 2009

COUNTY OF SONOMA AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY REPORT	Clerk of the Board Use Only	
	Meeting Date / /	Held Until / /
	Agenda Item No: _____	Agenda Item No: _____

Department: Agricultural Commissioner		() 4/5 Vote Required
Contact: Cathy V. Neville	Phone: 565-2371	Board Date: 5/5/09
		Deadline for Board Action:

AGENDA SHORT TITLE: Light Brown Apple Moth status update

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION:

- 1) Accept presentation of current status of Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) report
- 2) Support Sonoma County, and Napa and Sonoma Counties Stakeholders Consensus Document on LBAM
- 3) Authorize the Chair to sign a letter urging the State to expedite development of the environmental review process on the methods to be used to control and eradicate LBAM

CURRENT FISCAL YEAR FINANCIAL IMPACT			
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>		<u>ADD'L FUNDS REQUIRING BOARD</u>	
Estimated Cost	\$	Contingencies (Fund Name:)	\$
Amount Budgeted	\$	Unanticipated Revenue (Source:)	\$
Other Avail Approp. (Explain below)	\$	Other Transfer(s) (Source:)	\$
Additional Requested:	\$	Add'l Funds Requested:	\$
Explanation (if required):			

Prior Board Action(s): Accepted staff report on August 21, 2007, and July 8, 2008, and on December 12, 2008. Chair of the Board signed a letter which was sent to Secretary of Agriculture Kawamura requesting expedited action on the environmental review process.

Alternatives - Results of Non-Approval: Sonoma County would not request expedited action from the State regarding accelerating the development of environmental review process associated with methods to be used to control and eradicate LBAM, and Sonoma County would not be on record supporting the Consensus document.

Background:

On February 6, 2007, the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) was found for the first time in the continental United States in Berkeley, California. Subsequent trappings in the area by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) revealed an LBAM infestation. LBAM has over 2,000 hosts, including native plants and over 250 crops. It is native to Australia, and found in New Zealand, Great Britain, New Caledonia, and Hawaii, and is known to cause economic and environmental damage.

CDFA established an LBAM quarantine on April 20, 2007, and a Federal Order was issued on May 2, 2007, both restricting the movement of plant material from infested counties and/or areas of from those counties.

USDA, CDFA, and counties throughout California have responded by placing LBAM traps. As of April 13, 2009, the following counties have quarantines against LBAM: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Monterey, Napa, San Benito, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Mateo, Solano, and Sonoma.

Since February 2008, Sonoma County has had over 30 positive LBAM finds in many locations. As a result, Sonoma County has LBAM quarantines in the following areas: Cotati/Rohnert Park, Healdsburg, Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Sonoma/Carneros area. This represents approximately 440 winegrape growers (15,274 acres), 16 apple growers (~96 acres), 64 nurseries, and 35 vegetable growers (~200 acres). The quarantines cover about 165 square miles. The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's office has placed over 630 LBAM traps throughout most of the urban and rural areas of the county and CDFA/USDA has placed about 2,000 traps within the quarantined areas to isolate any potential infestations.

There has been a significant amount of interest regarding LBAM in Sonoma County due to the numerous finds over the past several months, and because of prior actions CDFA and USDA had taken in response to LBAM in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties.

In response to the LBAM finds in Sonoma County, the Chair of the Board of Supervisors sent a letter to Secretary of Agriculture Kawamura on December 12, 2008 urging that efforts at the state be expedited to complete the environmental review process for methods that can be used to control and eradicate LBAM. The State has still not finalized this effort. Completion of this process is imperative to allow the state and federal government to effectively address methods to contain and control LBAM. If left unchecked, LBAM will continue to spread in the environment and cost agriculture businesses financially. These costs to the agricultural industry are estimated to be approximately a million dollars per year due to the quarantine restrictions. The 2007 Crop Report listed the value of Sonoma County's winegrapes, apples, vegetables, nursery stock, and miscellaneous crops at approximately \$458 million.

Attachments: Napa and Sonoma Counties Stakeholders Consensus Document on the Light Brown Apple Moth

On File With Clerk:

CLERK OF THE BOARD USE ONLY

Board Action (If other than "Requested")

Vote:

	MOTION	AYE	NO
BROWN		✓	
KERNS		✓	
ZANE		✓	
CARRILLO		✓	
KELLEY		✓	

Background: (Continued)

In response to the delays at the State level, Assemblywoman Noreen Evans convened a series of LBAM meetings in February, 2009 to proactively address public, industry, and environmental concerns. A coalition of environmental and agricultural interests in Napa and Sonoma counties met in an effort to reach a wide-ranging consensus regarding the best approach to managing LBAM in Sonoma and Napa counties to apply community pressure on the state to respond to the LBAM issue more effectively. A Napa and Sonoma Counties Consensus Document (Attachment) was developed through this process, which included contributions from State and federal elected officials who represent Napa and Sonoma counties. The following organizations and agencies were represented at these meetings:

- Occidental Arts and Ecology Center,
- California Certified Organic Farmers,
- Sonoma County Winegrape Commission,
- Napa County Sierra Club,
- Napa Valley Grape Growers,
- Sonoma County Conservation Action,
- Community Alliance with Family Farmers,
- California Land Stewardship Institute,
- Napa Valley Vintners,
- Sonoma County Farm Bureau,
- Napa County Farm Bureau,
- Office of U.S. Rep. Lynn Woolsey,
- Office of U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson,
- Office of Senator Mark Leno,
- Office of Senator Pat Wiggins,
- Office of Assemblymember Jared Huffman,
- Office of Assemblymember Wes Chesbro,
- Office of Assemblymember Noreen Evans,
- Napa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office,
- Marin County Agriculture Commissioner's Office,
- Sonoma County Administrator's Office,
- Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Additionally, a sub-committee of this group was tasked with drafting the LBAM Consensus Document for the broader group to review and comment on. Representatives of this smaller group included: Occidental Arts and Ecology Center, Sonoma County Winegrape Commission, Sonoma County Farm Bureau, Sonoma County Administrator's Office, and the Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

The Napa and Sonoma Counties Consensus Document has been finalized and has begun being publicized. The stakeholders of this document are defined as those non-governmental entities who have participated in the Sonoma/Napa LBAM consensus building process. Seven stakeholders had endorsed the document out of sixteen. The remaining stakeholders are expected to endorse the document within the next few weeks, except for one individual. The Redwood Chapter of the Sierra Club is not taking an official position.

The Napa and Sonoma Counties Consensus Document includes principles, proposed actions, and recommendations to CDFA on their LBAM Program Plan of Action.

Background (Continued):

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is recommending that the Board of Supervisors support the consensus document. Although there was not agreement on all the items, the process of creating this document reflects a collaborative effort by a diverse group to proactively address public, industry, and environmental concerns and recommendations on LBAM. In addition, the Agricultural Commissioner is requesting that the Board Chair submit another letter to the Secretary of Agriculture again putting pressure on the state to finalize the environmental review process associated with treatments available to control and eradicate LBAM.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office has met with several city mayors and city managers located within quarantine areas to provide education and outreach regarding LBAM. To date, our office has met with the cities of Sebastopol, Healdsburg, and Rohnert Park. Our office is scheduled to meet with the cities of Sonoma, Petaluma, and Santa Rosa in early May, and will also be meeting with other city officials in the coming weeks.

Sonoma and Napa counties were chosen by USDA to serve as research counties on Sterile Insect Technology (SIT). USDA/CDFG is planning to do large scale releases of sterile LBAM moths beginning in 2011 in hopes of eradicating this pest. There are research plots being set up with winegrape growers in the Carneros area to determine the best methods to release the moth, dispersal rates, survivability, etc. SIT has been used successfully to eradicate the Mediterranean fruit fly, the Mexican fruit fly, and the pink bollworm.

The Sonoma County Agricultural Commissioner's Office will be providing outreach and information to growers and industry regarding quarantine requirements at the following scheduled meetings and locations:

Schell-Vista Fire Department: 22950 Broadway, Sonoma

Wednesday, May 6: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Friday, May 15: 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Finley Community Center, Person Auditorium: 2060 West College Ave, Santa Rosa

Thursday, May 7: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tuesday, May 12: 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

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