

Date: April 10, 2008

To: Public Distribution

Re: AFSCME Local 2428 Resolution Opposing the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Pesticide Program to Attempt to Eradicate the Light Brown Apple Moth

WHEREAS, this union of park workers is pledged to conserve the land, the air, the water, and the life that resides there for the present sustenance of the people and use by future generations; and

WHEREAS, the Union/Management Ecology Committee is working in a cooperative manner to implement the District's goal of reducing the use of chemicals on District property; and

WHEREAS, each of the methods planned by the USDA and CDFA's pesticide program to attempt to eradicate the light brown apple moth, whether by aerial spraying, ground spraying, twist ties, permethrins on trees and utility poles, chemical traps, or other related methods have known and unknown negative health and environmental impacts associated with them; and

WHEREAS, science has shown that chemicals in the environment pose significant health risks to the public and the ecosystem; and

WHEREAS, scientists have reported that the light brown apple moth has not caused any substantial crop damage and is more successfully controlled without the use of chemicals, by encouraging natural predators and healthy soils to prevent the spread of damaging infestations; and

WHEREAS, Local 2428 is concerned about the health and safety of park workers and park users, especially the most vulnerable populations of young, old, or the infirm who may be exposed while working or visiting in District parklands to unnecessary and untested levels of known carcinogenic and mutagenic chemicals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Local 2428 strongly opposes this eradication plan and demands that the USDA downgrade the pest classification of the light brown apple moth to reflect the lack of risk it poses; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Local 2428 will work with communities across the state, the nation, and the globe to seek alternatives to chemical pest management by creating healthy habitat, including, but not limited to, the use of bio-intensive gardening to attract natural predators and soil microbes, and the addition of organic compost to add nitrogen and minerals to the soil in order to support the plants' own immunity against unwanted "pests."