

April 22, 2008

Marin REALTORS® Oppose Aerial Spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth

The Board of Directors of the Marin Association of REALTORS® (MAR) today voted unanimously to oppose the scheduled aerial spraying to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

The 1,700 member organization is believed to be the first REALTOR® association in the region to oppose the spraying.

Noting that the aerial spraying “would be harmful to the quality of life in Marin County”, the resolution approved by the board called on state authorities to instead “conduct an aggressive proactive ground-based eradication program to address the light brown apple moth problem.”

The action came after more than a dozen REALTORS® spoke to the board this morning to urge that the organization come out against the spraying. In recent weeks, the association received more than 100 e-mails and phone calls from REALTORS® and the public on the issue.

MAR President Levi Swift noted that, “It has been several years since we have seen this kind of support from our members to oppose a potentially hazardous public policy.

“The quality of life in Marin is important to everyone. As REALTORS®, we have a special responsibility to help protect and defend the quality of life that residents have come to enjoy and expect. We are pleased to add our voice to the growing chorus of opposition to the spraying campaign, and ask state officials to implement a ground-based approach instead.”

Swift said the association will coordinate its opposition efforts with public officials and other groups and coalitions working to prevent the spraying from taking place.

In a separate resolution, the 16-member board voted unanimously to ask the California Association of REALTORS® to also oppose the spraying.

Swift noted that “by coincidence, the real estate community came out against the spraying on Earth Day. I think it would be a wonderful lasting gift to Mother Nature and everyone who lives or wants to live in Marin if we could ensure that the potentially dangerous spraying is stopped before it even begins.”