

RESOLUTION No. 3861

**A Resolution of the San Anselmo Town Council Supporting AB 622 (Swanson)
The Clean Air for Children, Seniors, and Working Families Act**

Whereas aerial pesticide spraying is an outdated, inefficient practice that poses unacceptable exposure risks; and

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

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

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

Whereas aerial pesticide spraying creates mass exposure to all members of the population and sites within a spray area and the drift zone; and

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

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

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

Whereas farm workers and their families who live adjacent to agricultural fields that are regularly sprayed are at very high risk for the cumulative effects of pesticide exposure; and

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

Whereas DPR acknowledged in a 2007 Consensus Statement on the LBAM spray that "DPR's surveillance system, like others, under detects pesticide illnesses for various reasons, including

that pesticide illnesses may mimic other illnesses and that physicians and patients may not ascribe symptoms to pesticide exposure”; and

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

Whereas the residents of the Town of San Anselmo and the greater Bay Area were among the those targeted for blanket aerial pesticide spray for the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in 2008; and

Whereas the Town of San Anselmo and greater Bay Area contain numerous sites where sensitive populations congregate, including schools, hospitals, day care centers, senior citizen centers, and residential care homes; and

Whereas the residents of San Anselmo and of the greater Bay Area oppose food production practices that put the residents of any area at risk of aerial pesticide exposure; and

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 San Anselmo Town 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 Town’s support of the bill.

AYES:	Freeman, Greene, House, Thornton
NOES:	(NONE)
ABSENT:	Breen
ABSTAIN:	(NONE)

J. House Vice Mayor
Mayor

ATTEST:

Debra Stutsman, Deputy
Barbara Chambers, Town Clerk