



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Disappointment is written on the face of Bonnie Keet, a Soquel resident and mother of two, after hearing a judge had denied the county's effort to stop aerial spraying for the light brown apple moth.

Spraying will proceed

Santa Cruz judge denies county attempt to halt state's plans

Light Brown Apple Moth

By **TOM RAGAN**

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

SANTA CRUZ — A trio of state-owned planes will begin spraying a pesticide next week in Santa Cruz County to halt the spread of the light brown apple moth, an invasive pest the state says is capable of causing millions of dollars in crop damage if it is not stopped soon.

A judge on Thursday denied the county's request to temporarily halt the Department of Food and Agriculture's spraying program, saying county attorneys failed to prove the pesticide would harm the public or the envi-

ronment.

Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Paul P. Burdick ruled the county "wasn't able to sustain its burden of proof," said Jason Heath, a county attorney who spoke on behalf of the judge after the ruling was issued from inside the judge's chambers and away from the public.

The judge never emerged to elaborate on his decision, something attorneys present said is common after decisions on a temporary restraining order.

"The spraying will not be delayed," Heath

11-2-07

Light brown apple moth spraying

WHERE: Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Live Oak, Soquel, Aptos, Las Lomas, Aromas, Prunedale, Royal Oaks and Salinas.

WHEN: 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Nov. 4-9.

WHY: Control breeding of light brown apple moth.

COST: \$2.7 million.

INFORMATION: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/lbam_ea_sc.pdf

SOURCE: California Department of Agriculture

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