

15-08

Group alleges hundreds sick after moth spraying

Light Brown Apple Moth

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✓ **SANTA CRUZ** — The number of people who suffered burning eyes, scratchy throats and other ailments after the state sprayed Santa Cruz and Monterey counties for the light-brown apple moth might be much higher than previously believed, though state agriculture officials reiterated Friday the pesticide was unlikely the cause of any illness.

About 50 area residents concerned with the aerial pesticide

applications last fall turned out for a news conference at Santa Cruz City Hall on Friday to listen to the findings documented in two reports compiled by a group of concerned citizens called California Alliance to Stop the Spray. The reports are related to health effects from the pheromone spray known as CheckMate LBAM-F.

The reports, about 200 pages each, state there were 643 complaints of physical harm from