

Alarm raised in Santa Cruz

Light Brown Apple Moth

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RESIDENTS' SUIT SEEKS TO STOP
SPRAYING FOR VORACIOUS MOTH;
OFFICIALS GUARANTEE SAFETY

By Kim Vo

Mercury News

A public health hazard is going to rain down on Santa Cruz. Or a government conspiracy. Or maybe — now here's a radical thought — The Man has found a prudent way to protect California's multi-billion-dollar agricultural industry.

Such are the theories and fears zinging across the central coast over the state's plans to control a tiny but voracious pest known as the light brown apple moth.

Agriculture officials want to spray synthetic pheromones over the region, a move they say will befuddle male moths and disrupt the mating cycle.

"We believe it's the most environmentally friendly eradication in the history of the department," said Steve Lyle, public affairs director for the California Department of Food and Agriculture. "It doesn't hurt anything, not even the moth."



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

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STATE DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

"Anytime they say, 'Trust us,' alarm bells go off."

— JIM R. BAUMGARTNER, FELTON RESIDENT WHO
IS MOVING TO SANTA CRUZ IN EARLY NOVEMBER