

Spraying Effect On SLV Water Undetermined

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Reactions of Brookdale and Boulder Creek residents to the news their properties will be sprayed with malathion beginning Monday ranged from outright support to sheer skepticism and worry.

"It's all right with me because I think we've got to stop the Medfly," said Brookdale resident Richard Brey Thursday afternoon. "We grow more than a little bit of fruit here in California. If there's one Medfly found up here, there's bound to be more."

While Brey doesn't plan to leave the nine square mile area that will be sprayed, others, like Kathy Sieler of Boulder Creek, said they will get out of town.

"First of all, I don't see how they can effectively hit the ground by spraying over 200-foot redwood trees . . . I don't think it's going to work. I think Medflies are something we are going to have to live with," Sieler said.

"I'll make sure I'm not in (the San Lorenzo) Valley when it happens," she added. "For me, it is a health hazard. The water I drink comes right from a creek and I'm afraid it will get in the water."

This fear also was being expressed at the offices of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District in Boulder Creek Thursday afternoon as Manager Ed Steffani and state water officials attempted to ascertain the effect malathion could have on surface water sources.

Steffani announced that once the spraying begins, the district only will use water from wells until tests show that malathion isn't affecting the district's surface water sources.

The water district manager also expressed concern about residents who are not district customers and who take water directly from creeks, streams or the San Lorenzo River.

He has called a special meeting of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District Board for Saturday at 10 a.m. at the district office to report on information he's compiled today on the amounts of malathion in water which would make the water unsafe to drink.

"Right now, I would just ask that those with individ-

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ual stream diversions not use water from streams for a few days after the spraying," Steffani told The Sentinel today.

Dr. George Wolfe, county health officer, also was checking today on the potential health hazards from malathion and said that the county Saturday will send information to residents of the area to be sprayed outlining potential health risks.

Wolfe this morning was unable to say what those potential health risks could be because he still was in the process of compiling the information.

Wolfe explained that after the spraying in the Santa Clara Valley, the large water reservoirs there were

checked and it was found there was almost no effect from the malathion. The large reservoirs diluted the insecticide, he explained.

"But in the San Lorenzo Valley, the situation is much different in that we're dealing with small water systems, some of which are open to the air," Wolfe added.

Marianne Reagan of Huckleberry Island in Brookdale said she isn't pleased with the decision to spray and vowed to stay indoors during the spraying.

"I've heard it won't be able to sift down through the redwood trees, but I think that's a joke. It will get into our water supply and on to our vegetable gardens, so I'm not too happy about it," she stated.

But Dave Longmere, Brookdale resident postmaster, was unconcerned about potential health risks. Referring to insecticide, he said, "We eat it every day, we breath it every day. How are you going to get away from it?"

Several residents believe it would have been wiser to initiate a ground spraying program.

"The spraying is something that has to be done, but I oppose the aerial spraying," said Wayne Frick of Brookdale. "The aerial spraying is so darn expensive. I would be happier just spraying my own area."

Water Pollution