

Moth spray plans halted

State says urban
areas will be spared
pheromone spraying

Light Brown Apple Moth

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✓ SANTA CRUZ — In a victory for thousands of Northern California residents, state officials announced Thursday they will no longer aeri-ally spray urban areas with chemicals to fight the invasive light brown apple moth. 6-20-08

Instead, planes will spray pheromone CheckMate LBAM-F over agricultural or undeveloped areas only, according to state Department of Food and Agriculture Director A.G. Kawamura.

The decision follows months of protests and lawsuits from residents of Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, and around California, after airplanes sprayed parts of the two counties with the chemicals last year.

"We want to move away from the tools of the past," Kawamura said. "Our focus right now is: Let's all work together to eradicate this pest."

The Monterey Bay counties originally were slated to be sprayed again with CheckMate LBAM-F this summer, along with other San Francisco Bay Area counties. The chemical