

# Moth

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up a base at the Hilton Hotel in Scotts Valley on Tuesday.

Santa Cruz County Health Officer Poki Namkung was on hand to witness the event and see how the treatment was supposed to unfold, but inclement weather once again got in the way, pleasing those opposed to the spraying happy.

"I'm trying to call an emergency meeting between the council and the county to see what our action is going to be from here on out," said Tony Madrigal, a Santa Cruz city councilman who's gone on record opposing the state's tactics and has been handing out surgical masks to Santa Cruz residents these past few days.

On the other side is Santa Cruz resident David Moir, who feels the situation has been blown way out of proportion.

"Only in Santa Cruz are you going to get this sort of protest," said Moir, a photographer.

"Free the moths," he said sarcastically.

An estimated 8,500 moths have been caught in "sticky traps" in Santa Cruz County since the spring, the highest number in the state. The state plans to spray 2.9

## State public outreach and response programs

■ A Web site with information about the moth, which can be found at [www.cdffa.ca.gov/LBAM](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/LBAM).

■ An e-mail and phone hot line to log health complaints to be monitored daily [LBAM@cdffa.ca.gov](mailto:LBAM@cdffa.ca.gov), [800] 491-1899 ext. 0. The hot line will log health complaints, which will be compiled and analyzed by a medical toxicologist. Complaints could be forwarded to the local county agricultural commissioner for investigation or the county public health officer.

■ Fact sheets addressing health and science issues are being developed for distribution and posting on the Web site.

■ Community meetings have been set and mailers sent to all homes in the affected communities.

■ Aerial treatment maps will be posted on the Web site showing the previous night's spray path. The maps will present a schematic showing each 100-foot wide path the planes make. Each pass will receive a single spray of treatment; nozzles are turned on and off using a computerized system guided by GPS technology.

■ E-mail updates to subscribers announcing intended areas of treatment, weather permitting. The morning after the treatment, follow-up e-mails will be sent to subscribers with results of the applications. E-mails will include a link to a map showing the progress of the treatment. Those interested in receiving e-mail updates may sign up at: [http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam\\_main.html](http://www.cdffa.ca.gov/phpps/PDEP/lbam/lbam_main.html)

SOURCE: California Department of Agriculture

ounces of a synthetic pheromone per acre over 41.5 miles of the county between Aptos and Scotts Valley, said Steve Lyle, a spokesman with the state. In all, 623 gallons of the pheromone mixed with 6,720 gallons of water will be dropped over Santa Cruz County.

The pheromone is designed to replicate the scent of a female moth and disrupt the mating process. The long-term health effects of the pesticide are unknown.

A similar pesticide, OLR-F, was sprayed in Monterey County in September, and nearly 200

residents there have complained of respiratory problems, including asthma attacks and bouts of coughing and wheezing.

A U.S. District Court judge and a pair of judges from Santa Cruz and Monterey Superior Courts, however, have ruled that the pesticide does not pose a risk to public health.

The state claims the moths, which feed on more than 250 plants, could inflict as much as \$640 million in crop damage if not stopped soon. Saying the moth's presence constitutes an emergency, the state filed for and won an exemption from having to perform report testing the pesticide's impact on people and the environment.

The city of Santa Cruz and the county Board of Supervisors have since filed lawsuits against the state, contending an environmental impact report should have been conducted in accordance with state law.

Many residents say they don't believe the moth poses a great risk, noting that very little crop damage has been reported since the moth fluttered into the county in the course of several months.

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