

Notices of quarantine going out in Felton

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FELTON — County officials may not agree with a state-imposed quarantine of gypsy moth host-materials in Felton, nevertheless they're asking residents to cooperate.

Door-to-door notices are expected to be passed out Monday to those within the new 175-acre quarantine zone. The quarantine will become effective Tuesday.

While there will not be any roadblocks set up, the quarantine will make it illegal for persons to take gypsy moth-host materials out of the area without getting an agricultural inspection first. Host materials include stored firewood, lumber, building materials, plants, trees, recreational vehicles, boats and trailers.

Persons moving such materials are asked to call 425-2885 for an agricultural inspection first. Those caught "willfully violating" the quarantine will be subject to fines of up to \$75.

Fifth (San Lorenzo-Scotts Valley) District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara continues

to maintain the quarantine is unnecessary and the state is penalizing Felton for opposing — and winning in court — spraying of the insecticide carbaryl. Yet, he is encouraging residents to cooperate.

While Cucchiara doesn't see the quarantine as "significantly impacting" residents, he added, "I still think the state can be doing better things with its time and money."

The quarantine is not aimed at visitors passing through Felton, or those residents who frequently use their recreational vehicles, trailers and boats. It is aimed at stopping those who have not used such prime gypsy moth-host materials for a long period of time from taking them out of the area and possibly spreading the infestation.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture established the quarantine because it is not satisfied with the gypsy moth eradication program it is presently conducting. Saturday, a 250-acre area around Felton was aerially sprayed with the non-chemical bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* for the third time.

The state feels the insecticide carbaryl is needed too in order to insure eradication. In a landmark ruling last month, however, the state was prohibited from using carbaryl in Felton due to health risks.

The 175-acre quarantine area is identical to the area around downtown Felton originally targeted for carbaryl spraying. The quarantine area runs from Highway 9 and Laurel Drive, west to Hillside Drive, north to Blair and Love streets, north to the west end of Farmer Street, east to Cooper Street, east to the San Lorenzo River, southeast to Graham Hill Road, southeast to Covered Bridge Road and south to Sylvan Way and River Road.