

Spray

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been trapped, the largest number in the state.

The state contends the pesticides are safe, which EPA tests and independent chemists contacted by the Sentinel say is true provided that concentrations are low and exposure is minimum.

Many residents, however, feel that the moth does not pose a significant threat, and that the state has been exaggerating the moth's destructive powers at the expense of the health of the people.

"As soon as this stuff is sprayed, it will be in the air for 30 days," said Scott Eerkes. "It's going to be like invisible snow. It's going to be dropping all around us. Just because it's being dropped in the middle of the night doesn't mean it's not going to affect us."

The state sprayed the Monterey Peninsula in the second week of

Light brown apple moth spraying

WHERE: Scotts Valley, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Live Oak, Soquel, Aptos, Las Lomas, Aromas, Prunedale and Salinas.

WHEN: 8 p.m. to 5 a.m. Nov. 4-9.

WHY: Control breeding of light brown apple moth.

COST: \$2.7 million.

INFORMATION: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/ea/downloads/lbam_ea_sc.pdf

SOURCE: California Department of Agriculture

September and met similar opposition there. More than 100 people claimed the aerial spraying of a similar pesticide, CheckMate OLR-F, gave them respiratory problems and made it difficult for them to breathe.

But a Monterey County Superior Court judge on Oct. 18 lifted an Oct. 10 temporary restrain-

ing order on the aerial spraying, saying a Carmel group, Helping Our Peninsula's Environment, or HOPE, failed to prove the pesticide made people sick.

Complicating the matter was the fact that the manufacturer of the pair of pesticides, Suterra LLC, based in Bend, Ore., fought to keep the ingredients of both its pesticides secret, claiming them to be a trade secret.

Eventually, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ordered the state to release the ingredients of LBAM-F.

Whether Santa Cruz County will suffer the same fate as Monterey County remains to be seen. But city leaders think they have a good case.

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the city of Monterey never passed resolutions, Reilly said.

"They never took a stance," she said.

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