

# Moth

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lethal agent and is not species specific.”

While Bt is approved for use by organic farmers, it is deadly to most moth and butterfly caterpillars that ingest it, said Arthur Shapiro, professor of evolution and ecology at UC Davis.

The San Francisco Bay Area has one of the largest populations of endangered and threatened moths and butterflies in the country, if not the world, Shapiro said. As a result, state leaders would have to be very careful about where they

dropped the pesticide.

Santa Cruz Councilman Tony Madrigal accused state leaders of employing scare tactics to push their spraying agenda.

“They’re proposing a choice to the people between bad and worse,” Madrigal said.

To stop the moth in time, state leaders said, an environmental review of the decision to spray would not be possible.

City and county leaders disagreed and sued the state. The case is scheduled to be heard April 24 in Santa Cruz Superior Court.

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