

# MOTH

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director, said he wasn't going to look back.

"The question we're looking at is how can you treat in the most safe and environmentally sound manner," Jarvis said.

According to the environmental report, doing nothing is not an option. A coordinated effort is needed to ensure the Australian moth doesn't damage California's natural landscape and multibillion-dollar agricultural industry and that the problem isn't exported to other states.

The EIR dismisses options, such as mass trapping of females, designed to control rather than eradicate the moth. Instead, the focus is on biological attacks on the moth's ability to mate and reproduce. Aerial spraying would only be done in the most remote areas.

The evaluation found no significant impacts that can't be mitigated.

David Dilworth, whose Monterey-based organization, Helping Our Peninsula's Environment, backed one of two lawsuits that resulted in judges ordering a halt to aerial spraying in Santa Cruz and in Monterey County in 2008, said his group will be analyzing the review to make sure it meets legal standards.

He also said he wasn't surprised state and federal officials backed away from aerial spraying.

"I believe CDFA and (the U.S. Department of Agriculture) realize that if they continued to spray our cities, they would have a revolt that would change the way our pesticide

## IF YOU GO

### LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH HEARING

**WHAT:** Public comment session

**WHEN:** 5:30-7:30 p.m. Aug. 31

**WHERE:** Civic Plaza Community Room, 275 Main St., fourth floor, Watsonville

**DETAILS:** [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov)

laws are set up," Dilworth said.

But Dilworth said his organization would continue to try to change California law so that "the public never again is sprayed with pesticides without their consent."

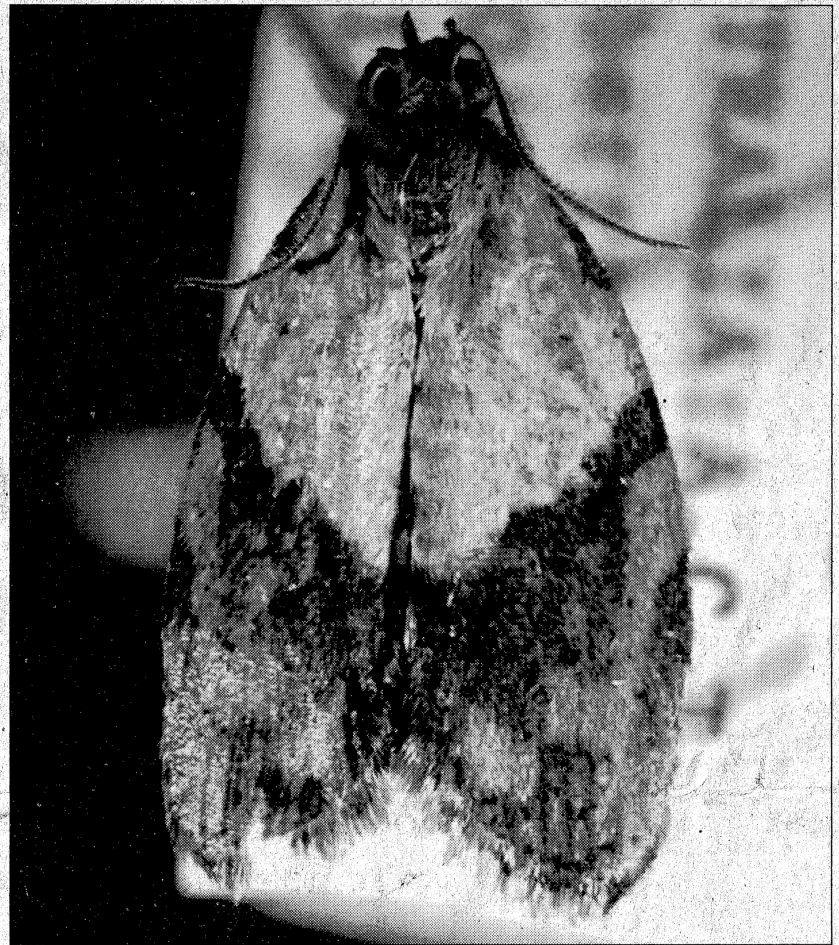
Since the first find in a Berkeley backyard in 2006, more than 110,000 light brown apple moths have been trapped in the state, 75 percent in Santa Cruz and San Francisco counties. Most recently, the pest has been discovered in Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo counties and in the San Joaquin Valley.

Close to 3,500 square miles have been quarantined, requiring inspection of vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants to confirm they are pest-free before shipment outside the area.

In June, state agriculture officials reported damage to blackberries in a field near Watsonville, the first actual crop damage reported in California.

But it's the quarantine, which can shut down production for more than a week, that's hurt agriculture the most so far.

John Eiskamp, a raspberry grower and president of the Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau, thinks the environmental study could spark new controversies as people evalu-



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### State officials hope to eradicate the light brown apple moth by 2015.

ate potential risks of the program options. He worries about whether the options will be effective and the lack of progress so far.

"My concern is it's taken them so long and they'll implement it on the outside fringes and work their way back here," Eiskamp said. "It will probably take three years. In the meantime, it's probably going to continue to increase and become

more and more of a challenge to eradicate."

The state agency has scheduled seven comment sessions throughout the state, including one in Watsonville. Comments also may be submitted in writing.

The comment period will remain open for 60 days.

To view the report, visit [www.cdfa.ca.gov](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov).