

# Communities consider moth-spraying positions

✓ Light brown apple moth

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The state plans to spray a pheromone over almost the entire county this summer in an attempt to eradicate the light brown apple moth.

**SCOTTS VALLEY**

But some communities have been slower to condemn the action than the city and county of Santa Cruz, which ended up suing the state in an attempt to stop the spraying until an environmental review is done. That lawsuit will be heard April 24. Instead, community leaders in the San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley and Watsonville are reaching out to residents and pondering what position — if any — to take on the state's enlarged spray zone.

Last fall, only Santa Cruz, a portion of Scotts Valley and parts of Mid-County were sprayed.

In Watsonville, for example, Councilman Edward Din said he supports the state's effort to get rid of the pest and will encourage constituents to do the same.

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**'We need to base our decisions on facts and not fear, and understand the economic impacts that this [moth] could have on the community, on the region.'**

WATSONVILLE CITY  
COUNCILMAN EDWARD DIN

and understand the economic impacts that this [moth] could have on the community, on the region," said Din, who met with state Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura on Monday.

Already, Din said, local crops have been turned away from other countries who don't want the light brown apple moth moving in. Din said he believes the region is safe.

In Scotts Valley, Mayor Randy Johnson was more skeptical.

While Johnson has not taken a stance on the issue, he questioned if the spraying really will eradicate the moth, or if other alternatives could control the population at reasonably low levels.

"If a pest is bad enough, sometimes spray is required," Johnson said.

But if the state's right to spray is abused, "when it comes time to use it, it's like crying wolf," he said.

Johnson said he expects the Scotts Valley Council to take up the issue at its May 1 meeting.

In the San Lorenzo Valley, Valley Women's Club President Michele Mosher said she expected the group to come out against the spraying.

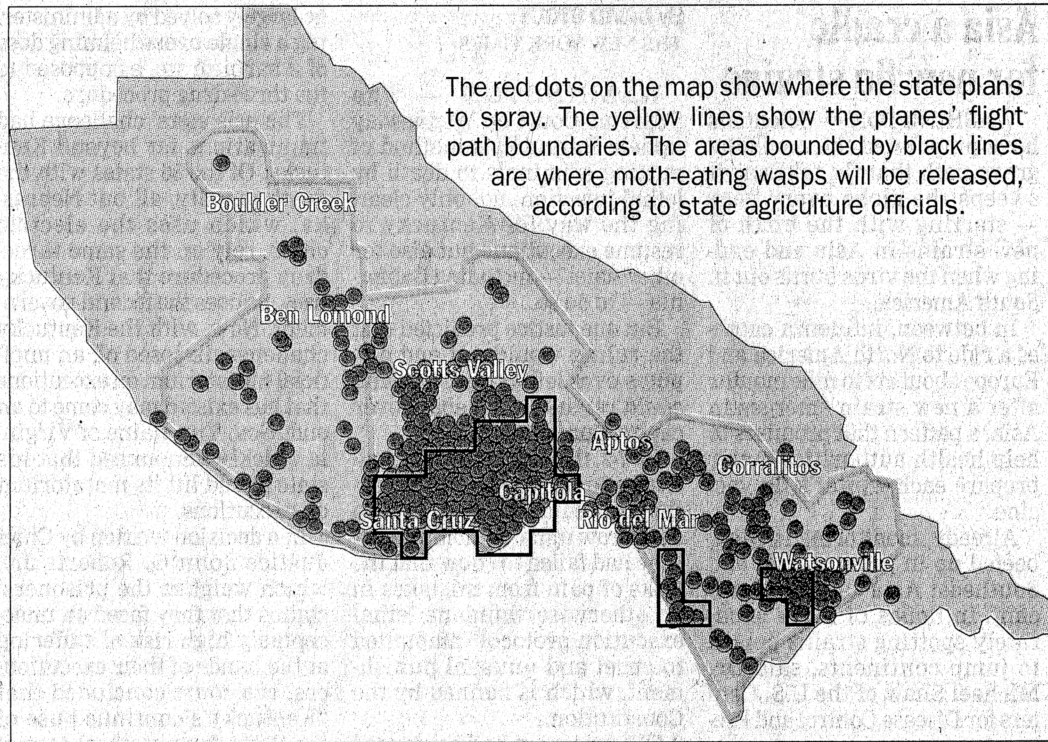
Members will consider their stance at the May 13 meeting, she said.

Meanwhile, in Sacramento on Wednesday, two bills regarding the moth written by Assemblyman John Laird, D-Santa Cruz, were passed by the agriculture committee in front of a standing-room-only audience.

One bill calls on the state to address unresolved health, scientific and efficacy issues surrounding the spray.

The other bill would require the state to build a list of invasive animals, plants and insects that likely could enter the state and require an eradication program, and assess the appropriate methods for doing that.

Many county residents were in an uproar last year after the



The red dots on the map show where the state plans to spray. The yellow lines show the planes' flight path boundaries. The areas bounded by black lines are where moth-eating wasps will be released, according to state agriculture officials.

Sentinel graphic

state announced it would spray the synthetic pheromone, Check-Mate LBAM-F, over urban areas to fight the light brown apple moth, an invasive pest from Australia. If left unchecked, state officials claimed, the moth

could wreak havoc on California agriculture.

To stop it in time, they said, an environmental review of the decision to spray would not be possible. Planes took to the sky in November.

The moth was first found in Santa Cruz in April 2007. On April 4 of this year, 12,224 moths had been trapped.

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