

LBAM Fight 'Not Over'

✓ Light Brown Apple Moth
by R.T. Sideman

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MCP
urban areas.

The battle against the light brown apple moth intensified last week as state and local officials met to determine the best course of action against the pest, while a Santa Cruz environmental group pushed a new strategy in its fight against aerial spraying.

The group, People Against Chemical Trespass (PACT), held a town hall meeting on Jan. 12 to rally support for the "City of Santa Cruz Local Control, Pesticide and Chemical Trespass Ordinance." If passed, the law would ban the bulk application of pesticides within Santa Cruz city limits.

"It's not over," proclaimed Dick Andre of PACT, urging the passage of the new ordinance.

While the state Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) said last year that it would no longer seek to spray pheromone-based pesticides over urban areas, PACT believes there is still a real threat from clouds of pesticides that can drift over from non-

At the Veterans' Memorial Hall forum, group members explained that aerially applied pesticides can drift more than three miles from the spray zone, according to the CDFA. State Agriculture Secretary A. G. Kawamura has said that areas that are not accessible by roads remain targets for spraying.

Santa Cruz City leaders said the ordinance would be largely symbolic because state law in this case trumps local law.

But the group contends that it could still achieve the desired effect. Dozens of other cities and counties have passed similar "rights-based ordinances" challenging higher-level laws. Even when they have lost legal challenges, the cities and counties have ended up successful in preventing the action from occurring, PACT said.

The PACT ordinance would not limit the personal use of household pesticides on private property. The idea of a ban has been advanced to the council before, but at the time the council decided did not put the proposal on the agenda. ■