

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH

New LBAM report takes urban aerial spraying off the table

Draft EIR sets 2015 for eradication of moth

Light Brown
By DONNA JONES

djones@santacruzsentinel.com

Apple moth - 8-1-09

✓ Sterile male moths, predatory wasps and ground-based pheromone and insecticide applications could be deployed in an effort to rid California of the light brown apple moth by 2015.

The options for an eradication program are detailed in a draft environmental study released Friday by the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

What's missing from the document, which runs more than 1,500 pages, is any plan to repeat the aerial spraying over urban areas, which sparked lawsuits and judicial orders in Santa Cruz and Monterey counties to halt the controversial treatment until an environmental review was complete.

"Too bad, we ended up having to take the spray to get to this point," said Supervisor Neal Coonerty, who believes along with some scientific experts that the state has overblown the threat posed by the moth.

"They better find a realistic goal because it's not realistic that they can eradicate (the moth) and it leads them to control measures that are dangerous and not acceptable to the general population."

Michael Jarvis, CDFG deputy

SEE **MOTH** ON **A13**

LIGHT BROWN APPLE MOTH

The draft environmental impact report explores four options for fighting pests with the goal of eradication by 2015.

- Release of sterile males to restrict successful mating.
- Mating-disruption pheromone attracts males and prevents them from mating. The pheromone would be applied in ground treatments in urban areas and by aerial spraying in heavily infested remote areas.
- Deployment of native wasps, which act as a parasite on moth eggs.
- Targeting larvae with a biologically based pesticide, *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*. Ground treatment only.