

nesday, March 27, 1985

Gypsy Moth

~~Journal~~

Quarantine called 'harassment tactic' To stop gypsy moth 'infestation'

By KEITH MURAOKA
Sentinel Staff Writer

FELTON — It's not official yet, but the planned quarantine of 175 acres here by the state is expected to go into effect within a week to stop the spread of the gypsy moth "infestation."

Such a quarantine has already been called a "harassment tactic" by Fifth (San Lorenzo-Scotts Valley) District Supervisor Joe Cucchiara and some Felton residents, who feel the state is reacting to the county's legal victories rather than a necessary eradication measure.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is in the process of getting the proposed quarantine approved by the state Office of Administrative Law. CDFA Public Information Officer Gera Curry told The Sentinel this morning that final approval is expected early next week.

The quarantine would make it illegal to take gypsy moth-host materials out of the 175-acre downtown Felton area without getting them inspected first.

Host materials the state is looking at includes firewood; recreational vehicles, trailers and boats that have been stored outdoors for a long period of time within the infested zone. Curry said such items are prime targets for gypsy moths to lay their eggs.

The quarantine will be voluntary in the sense that residents will be asked to call a toll-free number to request an agricultural inspection. However, those found "willfully violating" the quarantine could be

fined.

The quarantine will not employ road-blocks and is not aimed at visitors passing through Felton, Curry said. The quarantine also is not aimed at lumber that is sold or burned within Felton, or those residents who frequently use their campers and boats.

Cucchiara has already called the planned quarantine a "harassment tactic." He added, "There is absolutely no need for a quarantine. It is a reactionary response by the state to their losing to us in court."

A state appellate court last week upheld a Santa Cruz County Superior Court decision that prevented the state from spraying the insecticide carbaryl in Felton. Instead, the non-chemical bacterium *Bacillus thuringiensis* is being aerially sprayed by the state.

Curry denied the charges, saying the quarantine is being sought "simply as a safeguard to prevent the gypsy moth from spreading to other areas." She added that the quarantine is needed "because we are not confident B.t. alone will do the job."

The state proposed a two-prong eradication plan utilizing carbaryl and B.t. after declaring a gypsy moth infestation in Felton. Six moths, whose caterpillars have the potential for widespread defoliation of forested areas, were trapped in Felton last summer.

The court's anti-carbaryl ruling marked the first time the state was prevented from using the insecticide since it began using it in 1978 against the gypsy moth.