

State backs off plans to spray

An official of the state Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) said today a notice that it would proceed with selective spraying of carbaryl in Felton was a mistake.

The state originally planned to spray the pesticide carbaryl from the ground and the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis*

(B.t.) by helicopter to combat a gypsy moth infestation in Felton. The county sued the state to prevent the use of carbaryl, arguing it posed a health threat, and that B.t. would eradicate the pest more safely.

A judge ruled last month that the state could not use carbaryl this year, although if B.t. is used this year and does not kill off the gypsy moth, carbaryl could possibly be used next year.

County Counsel Dwight Herr reported yesterday that even after the judge's ruling, he received word from the state attorney general's office that the DFA planned to go ahead with ground-spraying of carbaryl, on property where the owners give consent for the spraying.

Herr discussed that proposal with the Board of Supervisors in a closed session, and later reported that on 3-1 vote, the board told him to take whatever action necessary to prevent the spraying of carbaryl under any circumstances. Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. cast the "no" vote, and Supervisor Robley Levy abstained.

Herr reported that after receiving that direction, he called the DFA, which then said it does not plan to spray carbaryl.

DFA spokesman John Connell said this morning the state has no plans to use carbaryl, and that the message received by the county was an "error in communications" between the attorney general's office and the county.