

County attorney Jason Heath gives his reaction outside a Santa Cruz County courtroom Thursday after Judge Paul Burdick decided to dismiss a county case and allow pheromone spraying to occur in the county.

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# Judge clears state to spray moth-fighting pheromones in county

*Light Brown Apple moth* *pp 11 207*

## First application scheduled to begin Sunday

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SANTA CRUZ — A Santa Cruz County Superior Court judge on Thursday cleared the state to spray a moth-fighting pheromone in the county.

The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors petitioned Judge Paul Burdick for a temporary restraining order to allow further study of the pheromone and its

effect on human health and the environment. The judge, who rendered his verdict out of view of the public, denied the restraining order.

The aerial application to combat the light brown apple moth is scheduled to start Sunday night, from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., weather permitting.

Ironically, on the first night, the state is not treating Santa

Cruz with pheromones. California Department of Food and Agriculture will focus on Prunedale and Salinas, according to CDFA spokesman Steve Lyle.

Over five days, however, spraying is planned in the North Salinas/Boronda, Prunedale/Royal Oaks and greater Santa

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