

## State appeals spraying ban; quarantine set for Felton

A court decision banning use of the pesticide carbaryl (Sevin) in a gypsy moth eradication program in Santa Cruz has been appealed by the state Department of Food and Agriculture.

In the meantime, the state has announced a quarantine for the Felton area — banning the movement of firewood, motor homes and recreational vehicles from a 175-acre region now infested by the gypsy moth.

Deputy Attorney General Charles Getz, the DFA's counsel, said March 19 the state has asked the 6th District Court of Appeal in San Jose to overturn the ruling issued the previous week by Judge Ralph M. Drummond of Monterey County who was sitting in Santa Cruz County Superior Court.

Meanwhile, the DFA began spraying Bt, a non-chemical biological product, in the Felton area on Saturday morning.

The Department of Food and Agriculture Monday worked out the quarantine idea and will submit it for approval to the state Office of Administrative Law, a process that could take several days.

The DFA's quarantine proposal came after the Santa Cruz County government won a court suit barring the use of carbaryl in the eradication project, on the grounds that there was reasonable doubt about its safety. The Santa Cruz County Superior Court ruled on March 8 that the work should be done with B.t. (*bacillus thuringiensis*), a biological insecticide.

The DFA had proposed to spray B.t. from the air in the region around Felton, but wanted to supplement it with ground spraying of carbaryl, which it argued had a demonstrated record of effectiveness and safety.

An appeals court in San Jose Friday refused to intervene in the case without a trial, which cannot be held until the moth's 1985 life cycle has been completed.

"Carbaryl kills on contact," Curry said. "With B.t., the moth has to eat it."

She said that when the quarantine has been approved, the state will distribute notices door-to-door in the region.

A telephone number is being established for residents to report movements of wood, motor homes, boats, recreational vehicles, and other common carriers of gypsy moth eggs so they can be inspected.

The DFA decided on the eradication campaign after six moths were trapped in the Felton area last year.

"We'd think this would be a fairly small number of moths for a quarantine, but we're not going to stand in their way," said Santa Cruz County Counsel Jonathan Wittwer.

Aside from the Felton region, the only other gypsy moth infestation in the state is in Fremont, in southern Alameda County. The DFA is using carbaryl to combat it, and no quarantine is planned.

The gypsy moth is endemic in some Atlantic coast states. It is believed to enter California mostly on garden furniture of people moving to the state from the Eastern Seaboard and the Midwest.

Infestations of the moth declined after the state set up an inspection program of new arrivals' furniture a few years ago.