

Monterey to send state letter opposing moth eradication

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The city of Monterey will send a letter to state officials opposing their efforts to eradicate the light brown apple moth from California.

The City Council unanimously approved the action at its meeting late Tuesday after hearing from six members of the public who said they oppose the state Department of Food and Agriculture's program to eradicate the moth.

The letter is in response to a 1,500-page draft environmental impact report evaluating proposed plans for dealing with the light brown apple moth. The report, released July 31, evaluates seven methods for eradicating the moth, as well as for doing nothing at all.

Spraying pheromones designed to disrupt the moths' mating instincts is not among the methods.

The Department of Food and Agriculture sprayed the pheromone over much of the Peninsula in 2007, generating complaints of illness. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger halted the spraying.

An independent review of the eradication program by the National Academy of Science's National Research Council found the reasons given by the state department were "not based on sound science."

Councilman Jeff Haferman suggested Tuesday that the letter to state officials, written by city staff, be revised to note that the council's opposition is in part because of findings of the independent review. The other council members agreed.

- The Moth Plan
- Sep 15:
- [Panel: Feds' moth data short on science](#)
- Aug 26:
- [Moths established, experts say](#)
- Aug 1:

- [Apple moth plan up in the air](#)