

**SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
BOARD AGENDA LETTER**

5



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Agenda Number:
Prepared on:
Department Name: BoS
Department No.: 011
Agenda Date: 9/12/06
Placement: Departmental
Estimate Time: 1 hour
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Susan Rose
Second District Supervisor

STAFF CONTACT: Rachel Couch
x2195

SUBJECT: CA Dept. of Food and Agriculture Oriental Fruit Fly Eradication Program

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Receive a report from staff and testimony from the public regarding the Oriental Fruit Fly eradication program being carried out by the California Department of Food and Agriculture in parts of the 2nd District.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with: Goal No. 2 - A Safe and Healthy Community in Which to Live, Work, and Visit; Goal No. 4 - A Community that is Economically Vital and Sustainable; and Goal No. 7 - A Community that Fosters the Safety and Well-Being of Families and Children.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

On July 27th, the CA Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) discovered the presence of three Oriental Fruit Flies (OFF) in the Hope Ranch area of the 2nd District and within two days began an eradication treatment program called "male annihilation". The treatment consists of applying a gel form of the pesticide Naled (Dibrom) to street trees and utility poles every two weeks for around two months in an eight-square mile area that surrounds the location where the OFF were discovered. The purpose of the treatment program is to eliminate the flies before they can infest agricultural crops.

Since little time was allowed for public notification and since Naled is a Class I insecticide with the potential for health effects, some residents in the treatment area have raised concerns about the protocols the State followed and the decision to apply this particular pesticide in the manner chosen instead of using a less toxic alternative.

Discussion:

Since the positive identification of three Oriental Fruit Flies in Hope Ranch on July 27th, Santa Barbara County has taken steps to inform the public about the eradication treatment protocol being conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The treatment consists of application of a pesticide mixture to street trees in the public right of way and utility poles to attract and eliminate male fruit flies. Treatment is occurring once every two weeks for a minimum of two months in the prescribed area. The state has full jurisdiction over the treatment project. CDFA was required only to post a legal notice in local newspapers, and is not mandated to notify individual residents of the affected area.

Upon receiving notification from CDFA of the project on July 28th, the County Agricultural Commissioner's Office prepared and immediately sent out a media release to local television, print and radio stations to inform the public. News articles appeared on two evening news casts on July 28th and short article appeared in the Santa Barbara News-Press on July 29th, the day the treatment program was initiated, and several articles have followed. The Agricultural Commissioner immediately created a webpage with links from the County home page with information on the project at www.countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/. Follow up media releases were sent by the Agricultural Commissioner in advance of treatments on August 15th and August 29th. Two releases were sent out by 2nd District Office on Aug. 24th and 31st to inform the public of the County's actions.

After receiving communications from concerned constituents during the week following the first treatment, a meeting was arranged by 2nd District County Supervisor Rose, whose district encompasses the affected area. The August 8th meeting included CDFA officials, County and City of Santa Barbara staff, representatives of elected officials, and concerned community members. The discussion covered details of the CDFA project, agency roles and responsibilities, as well as issues raised regarding notification, areas affected, environmental issues, and potential for implementation of alternative methods. Subsequently, a scroll message was placed on the County's television station SBCTV Channel 20 and a letter with frequently asked questions and answers was sent directly to all 6,600 residents of the affected area on August 24th. (See Attachment A) The issue was also discussed in public session at the August 1st and 15th Board of Supervisors hearings at the request of Supervisor Rose. The County continues to provide information to the residents of the affected area during the treatment period.

The County Agricultural Commissioner and Supervisor Rose have communicated to CFDA the community's concerns regarding the need for improved notification and coordination with local impacted communities. (See Attachment B) On behalf of constituents, Supervisor Rose has asked the State if the program could be halted or if an alternative treatment could be effectively substituted before the end of the treatment program, and still accomplish the goal of eradication. CDFA senior staff responded that the program could not be halted or changed due to reasons related to weather and the nature of the fruit fly lifecycle.

Important California crops which could be infested by the OFF include: citrus, avocados, grapes, stone fruits and certain vegetables. Crop damage occurs when an adult female fly lays eggs in fruits and vegetables, with the resulting larvae making the produce unfit for consumption. Male annihilation projects have been used several times in California to eradicate infestations of this and similar fruit flies. All of these eradication projects have been successful, according to CDFA. Oriental fruit fly eradication programs are currently underway in La Mesa in San Diego County, as well as Huntington Beach and Walnut in Los Angeles County. The same technique was recently use successfully in the Fresno area to treat a related fruit fly species.

Given the potential dangers posed to agriculture in the region by the insect, eradication is essential but also must be balanced with human and environmental health and safety protections. The County Agricultural Commissioner has encouraged the CDFA to review fruit fly eradication procedures and to develop and implement least toxic methods that will accomplish the goal of eradication for this invasive species of fruit fly or any pest identified within our area. The County continues to inform its residents of CDFA's actions and will continue to facilitate direct communication with the state regarding the local community's concerns.

Residents have expressed concern regarding the potential danger posed by repeated use of a Class I toxin Naled/Dibrom in residential areas and the toxicity and risk of the breakdown product Dichlorvos. They have also cited studies by federal agencies on alternatives and human health risk assessments, and are requesting study and use of alternative methods and materials. There appears to be conflicting interpretations of the available scientific information.

The public has also requested information on actions to take if they experience symptoms or illness that they believe is related to pesticide exposure. Our Public Health Director has stated that individuals should contact their own doctors who are best able to assess any physical symptoms in the context of their medical history to make a determination of cause. The notice to physicians prepared by the County Director of Public Health alerts physicians in the Santa Barbara area to the eradication project, directs them to information regarding potential symptoms of pesticide exposure, and reiterates their obligation by law to report any knowledge or suspicion of pesticide related illness to the County Public Health Department who in turn reports to the California Department of Pesticide Regulation. (See Attachment C)

Additional information about the treatment project can be viewed on the County website above or by contacting CDFA (800) 491-1899 or via website at www.cdfa.ca.gov . Information regarding the use of the pesticide Naled can be obtained at the California Environmental Protection Agency website at www.cdpr.ca.gov .

County staff will provide an overview of the issues to the Board of Supervisors and will be available to answer questions on the County's role in the program. CDFA has been invited to attend the meeting to provide information and answer questions about the treatment program.

Mandates and Service Levels: none – information only

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: none

Special Instructions: none

Concurrence:

Attachments:

- A: FAQ letter to residents in treatment area
- B: Letter to CDFA from County Agricultural Commissioner
- C: Notice to Physicians from County Public Health Officer

Provider Notification:
Pesticide Reporting/Fruit Fly Eradication program information
August 28, 2006

The following information may be of benefit when addressing community health concerns regarding the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Oriental fruit flies treatment and eradication program currently underway in Santa Barbara County.

The CDFA eradication process relies on a powerful attractant (pheromone) and the pesticide dibrom (Naled). Bait stations are applied as a spot of a gel-like binder about 8-12 feet high on utility poles and tree trunks, to minimize exposure. For more information regarding this substance, and the recognition and management of pesticide poisoning, including:

- Physician pesticide training material
- Regulations/Pesticide Illness Report forms
- California Pesticide Illness Surveillance Program
- Approved testing laboratories

visit California Department of Pesticide Regulations information for physician's site:
www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/physician

We would like to remind all medical providers that: "Any physician and surgeon who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a patient is suffering from pesticide poisoning or any disease or condition shall promptly report that fact to the local county health officer (CHO) by telephone within 24 hours". *California Health and Safety Code (H&S Code), Section 105200.*

If a patient presents with a pesticide-related illness
contact our Environment Health Services-pesticide report line #346-8460
or fax a report to #346-8485

Thank you for your reporting efforts and partnership in our Public's Health.
www.sbcphd.org

August 31, 2006

John Connell, Director
Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services
Department of Food and Agriculture
1220 N St
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear John:

As we have discussed previously, the Oriental Fruit Fly eradication program now underway in Santa Barbara County has resulted in concerns from some residents of the area. I would request that we work together to review procedures for eradication programs to see if these concerns can be addressed should future programs be necessary.

Notification is one concern. Both governmental officials and residents have requested changes to current procedures. While I understand the need for a rapid response, providing information as early in a project as possible can limit confusion, misinformation and fear.

The second concern is the use of Dibrom (Naled). As we have discussed, I understand the need to use Dibrom now. I support the California Legislature providing additional funds to CDFG for research to develop and implement the least intrusive methods using the least toxic materials possible that accomplish eradication.

Again, to be clear, I support the efforts of CDFG to eradicate Oriental Fruit Fly in Santa Barbara County. I look forward to working with you so that should future eradication projects be necessary, the concerns of the residents can be addressed to the extent possible.

Sincerely,

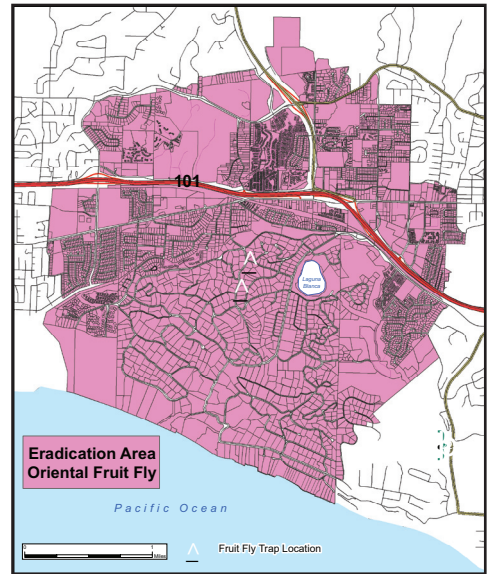


William D. Gillette
Agricultural Commissioner.



Agricultural Commissioner's Office
Weights & Measures ■ County of Santa Barbara

263 Camino del Remedio ■ Santa Barbara, California 93110
Phone (805) 681-5600 ■ Fax (805) 681-5603
www.co.santa-barbara.ca.us/agcomm/



August 24, 2006

Dear Resident:

As a result of the discovery of several Oriental Fruit Flies in the Hope Ranch area of the County, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) began an eradication effort within an eight (8) square miles of the site to ensure that the pest does not spread to a variety of fruits and vegetables. The list of frequently asked questions below is intended to provide general information on the eradication effort, now underway by the State of California, and to serve as a guide to additional informational resources available.

Q. What is the Oriental Fruit Fly and why is there concern about its presence?

The fly is a pest found in South-East Asia and Hawaii. It attacks over 230 different fruits and vegetables including but not limited to grapes, avocados and citrus.

Q. What happens when it is found in an area?

When Oriental Fruit Fly is found in California, the State reviews and considers a number of factors and makes a decision about what type of program to begin. In this instance, because three flies were found in a small area, an eradication effort was set forth.

Q. What agency is conducting the eradication effort?

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) found the flies in traps they previously placed. They are the agency now conducting the eradication effort.

Q. What is the product being utilized in the eradication effort? How is it applied?

The CDFA is utilizing Naled in combination with a pheromone fly attractant and a gel-like substance which is applied to a pole or tree. About 1.5 teaspoons of the material is applied to street trees, utility poles, and street light standards in public areas in the eradication zone. No application occurs on private or school property.

Q. Is the product safe? Who determines this?

According to the Environmental Impact Report conducted by CDFA, no significant human health effects were found to be associated with the use of Naled in this type of treatment program. The EIR can be accessed at <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>. For more information on pesticide use and regulations access the Department of Pesticide Regulation website at <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

Q. When and where will the treatments take place?

Two treatments have occurred; a minimum of three more are scheduled to occur on 8/29/06, 9/12/06 and 9/26/06. For an updated schedule and a map of the eradication effort area please visit our website at <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>

Q. What if the treatment doesn't work and the flies spread?

This treatment program has been 100% effective in California. If additional flies are found this would lead to continued treatments on a schedule to be determined and/or a possible quarantine on affected agricultural products.

Q. What happens if the treatment works?

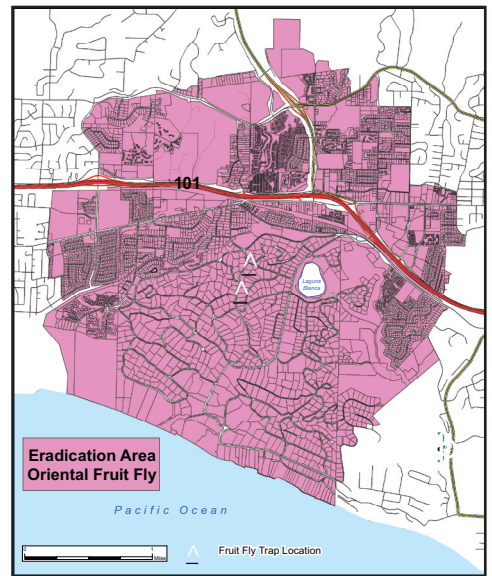
If the program is successful, as it has been in past State efforts, the pest will be eradicated and treatments will end.

Q. Where do I call for more information on the particular material uses?

Call the CDFA at (800) 491-1899 or access their website at www.cdfa.ca.gov

Q. How do I stay informed about this effort?

The County Agricultural Commissioner's Office is distributing updates to newspapers and television and radio stations on a weekly basis. Information is also available at our website at <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>



24 de agosto del 2006

Residente:

Como resultado del descubrimiento de varias Moscas del Mediterráneo en la área de Hope Ranch en el Condado, el Departamento de Alimento y Agricultura del Estado de California (CDFA) comenzó un esfuerzo de erradicación, dentro de una área de ocho (8) millas, para asegurar que la mosca no pasa a una variedad de frutas y vegetales. Una lista de preguntas de mas frecuencia se detallan abajo son proporcionadas para dar información general del esfuerzo de la erradicación que se esta usando ahora por el Estado de California y servir como guía de los recursos informativos adicionales disponibles.

P. ¿Cuál es la Mosca del Mediterráneo y que es la preocupación de su presencia?

Es una mosca que proviene de Asia suroriental y Hawaii. Ataca mas de 230 diversas frutas y vegetales incluyendo pero no limitado a las uvas, aguacates y frutas cítricas.

P. ¿Qué sucede cuando se encuentra en una área?

Cuando la Mosca del Mediterráneo se encuentra en California, el Estado revisa y considera varios factores y hace una decisión sobre que tipo de programa usaran. En este instante, porque tres moscas fueron encontradas en una área pequeña, un esfuerzo de erradicación fue empezado.

P. ¿Qué agencia está conduciendo el esfuerzo de erradicación?

El Departamento de Alimento y Agricultura de California (CDFA) encontró las moscas en trampas que habían sido puestas antes. Es la agencia que está conduciendo el esfuerzo de la erradicación.

P. ¿Cuál es la sustancia que esta utilizado en el esfuerzo de la erradicación? ¿Cómo se aplica?

El CDFA se requiere usar el insecticida Naled conjunto con un atrayente para moscas pheromone y una sustancia parecida a goma que se pone a los árboles y postes. Cerca de 1.5 cucharadita del material se ponen a los árboles de la calle, los postes para uso general, y los postes de la luz de la calle en áreas públicas dentro del área de tratamiento, No se pone en propiedades privada ni en las escuelas.

P. ¿Esta el producto seguro? ¿Quién determina eso?

De acuerdo del Reporte del Impacto en el Medio Ambiente (EIR) conducido por CDFA, no se encontraron efectos significantes para la salud humana asociado con el uso de Naled en este tipo de programa de tratamiento. El Reporte del Impacto en el Medio Ambiente se encontrara en la página de la Internet <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp> . Para mayor información sobre el uso de los insecticidas y las regulaciones del Departamento de las Regulaciones de Pesticidas en la página de la Internet <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>.

P. ¿Cuándo y en donde se llevaran acabo los tratamientos?

Dos tratamientos han ocurrido; un mínimo de tres más son programados para llevar acabo el 29 de Agosto de 2006, el 12 de Septiembre de 2006 y el 26 de Septiembre de 2006. Para un horario actualizado, vaya a la página de la Internet: <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/CDFASchedule.pdf>.

P. ¿Qué sucede si el tratamiento no trabaja y se aumenta el área donde están las moscas?

Este programa del tratamiento ha sido 100% eficaz en California. Si se encuentran moscas adicionales se conducirían tratamientos continuos en un horario determinada y/o posiblemente una cuarentena de los productos agrícolas afectados.

P. ¿Qué sucede si los tratamientos trabajan?

Si el programa es acertado, como ha sido en los otros esfuerzos en el Estado, se erradica la Mosca Mediterráneo y los tratamientos terminarán.

P. ¿Dónde puedo llamar para mayor información sobre el uso de las materiales particulares?

Llame al CDFA (800) 491-1899 o puede ir al sitio de la Internet www.calepa.ca.gov

P. ¿Cómo permanezco informado sobre este esfuerzo?

La Oficina del Comisionado del Agricultura del Condado está distribuyendo actualizaciones a los periódicos y estaciones de la televisión y del radio cada semana. La información está también disponible en su sitio de la Internet <http://countyofsb.org/agcomm/fruitfly/default.asp>