



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO Department of Agriculture/Measurement Standards

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AGRICULTURAL PEST FOUND IN CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

Light Brown Apple Moth continues to spread to new locations

San Luis Obispo, CA – Insect Trappers from the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures have detected the Light Brown Apple Moth in multiple areas in the city of San Luis Obispo.

The moths represent additional detections of this agricultural pest in San Luis Obispo County. Additional insect traps will be placed throughout the city to quickly delineate the extent of the infestation. A plant quarantine, restricting the movement of certain plants, fruits, vegetables and green waste will be established to prevent the further spread of this pest.

The establishment of the quarantine is a regulatory action taken in conjunction with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the United States Department of Agriculture and the San Luis Obispo County Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures. Quarantines specific to the Light Brown Apple Moth have previously been established for Cambria, Cayucos, Morro Bay, Los Osos, Shell Beach and most of Arroyo Grande.

“My staff continues to work closely with agricultural producers and CDFA staff to minimize the impact to local agriculture and residents as much as possible,” said Martin Settevendemie, County Agricultural Commissioner/Sealer. “We urge the public countywide to purchase plants from local nurseries to help prevent the spread of this pest and to allow my staff to place insect traps in landscapes when requested,” continued Settevendemie.

The caterpillar stage of this insect, native to Australia, can destroy, stunt or deform young seedlings, spoil the appearance of ornamental plants and injure citrus, grapes and many other fruit crops. Currently multiple California counties are under quarantine for the presence of this pest. California is the only known infested area in the continental United States for Light Brown Apple Moth.

For more information visit the CDFA website at <https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/lbam/>

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ABOUT THE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE/WEIGHTS & MEASURES

The County Department of Agriculture/Weights & Measures serves the community by protecting agricultural resources, the environment, the health and safety of its citizens and by establishing equity in the market place. The variety of agricultural and weights and measures programs implemented by the department contribute to a safe, healthy, livable, prosperous and well governed community. Visit www.slocounty.ca.gov/agcomm for more information.