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## Calif sued over new apple moth control plan

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SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — A coalition of California environmental activists and elected officials is suing the state's agriculture department over its new plan to keep the light brown apple moth from spreading.

Oakland attorney Stephan Volker says the lawsuit he filed Monday claims an environmental study prepared by the California Department of Food and Agriculture on controlling the Australian pest is flawed.

Volker claims the study leaves the door open for the state to resume aerial spraying as an eradication method.

The plan, which became final last month, focuses on using ground-based insecticides and sterile moths to disrupt breeding. But it also concluded that aerial spraying would not be harmful.

A spokesman for the department stands by the environmental review.

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Information from: Santa Cruz Sentinel, <http://www.santacruzsentinel.com>