



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Karen Ross, Secretary

May 12, 2011

Mrs. Jane Kelly
Stop the Spray, East Bay

Dear Mrs. Kelly:

I am writing in response to the comment you made on May 10, 2011, at the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting concerning the discovery of light brown apple moth, in Costa Mesa, California, in 1997. That detection was made by an agricultural inspector with the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's office while inspecting cut protea flowers imported from Hawaii to a flower shop in Costa Mesa.

A single larva was collected, and the flower shipment was either treated, destroyed, or returned to Hawaii, as is the normal protocol for the interception of a quarantine pest. Similar interceptions have been made during agricultural inspections at sea ports as well. This detection was not evidence of a light brown apple moth infestation in Orange County.

Imported agricultural produce, including nursery stock and cut flowers, are regularly inspected on arrival at destination by county agricultural commissioner's staff as part of the state's pest exclusion program in order to prevent the introduction of harmful pests.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best regards,

Robert Leavitt
Director

