

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ORIENTAL FRUIT FLIES FOUND IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY, ERADICATION PROGRAM TO COMMENCE**

San Jose, CALIF. - Two Oriental Fruit Flies have been trapped in Santa Clara County. The first fly was found on Thursday, August 2, in Cupertino and the second fly was found on Monday, August 6, in west San Jose. The identification of the insects was confirmed by California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). According to State protocol, the trapping of the two flies resulted in an emergency proclamation by the California Secretary of Agriculture authorizing immediate implementation of an eradication program.

The planned eradication program is scheduled to commence on Thursday, August 9, 2007, and will involve the technique of "male annihilation" using ground-based, spot applications of insecticide and pheromone lure. This gelatinous mixture is applied as small, dollar-sized spots on inanimate objects such as street trees and utility poles. Because of the lure, the male fruit flies are attracted to these spots and die from feeding on the mixture. The treatments are applied at heights that are typically inaccessible to the public.

CDFA workers will treat an area of approximately 18 square miles as part of this eradication effort. The treatment area is roughly bounded by Stevens Creek Boulevard on the north, San Tomas Expressway on the east, Allendale Avenue on the south, and Regnart Road on the west.

Oriental Fruit Fly is an exotic insect pest found throughout much of southern Asia. Currently, the distribution of this pest in the United States is restricted to the Hawaiian Islands. Oriental Fruit Fly is a pest of over 230 kinds of fruits and vegetables including citrus, stone fruits, pome fruits, avocado and tomato.

Infestations of Oriental Fruit Fly likely result from the introduction of contraband fruit. In the past few weeks, this invasive pest has also been found in the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino and San Mateo.