



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**  
**Department of**  
**Agricultural Commissioner/**  
**Weights and Measures**



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**:: News Bulletin ::**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**ERADICATION EFFORTS AGAINST ASIAN GYPSY MOTH  
IN WILLOWBROOK TO BEGIN**

ARCADIA, CA – To protect native and local plant and animal species, the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) will begin a program on March 10 to eradicate the Asian Gypsy Moth (AGM) in Willowbrook. AGM is a threat to residential and commercial landscapes, nurseries, and forests and woodlands, as the caterpillar stage of the pest feeds on over 500 species of plants. Females of the species can fly up to 25 miles. Egg masses and pupae attached to nursery stock, vehicles, camping equipment, and outdoor household articles are readily moved and can facilitate rapid spread of this pest. AGM is a threat to native animal species because it destroys landscaping and plants on which they rely.

One male specimen was trapped in Willowbrook on July 19, 2007. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates that the density of traps in the area would catch only one percent of the moths and, as AGM specimens were trapped in 2005, 2006, and 2007 in Orange County and on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, it is likely that a population of AGM exists in the Los Angeles County area. Asian Gypsy Moth has one generation per year and moths that were flying last July would have mated and laid eggs. Caterpillars will hatch from those eggs in the spring to feed and, without intervention, will grow into adult moths to repeat the cycle.

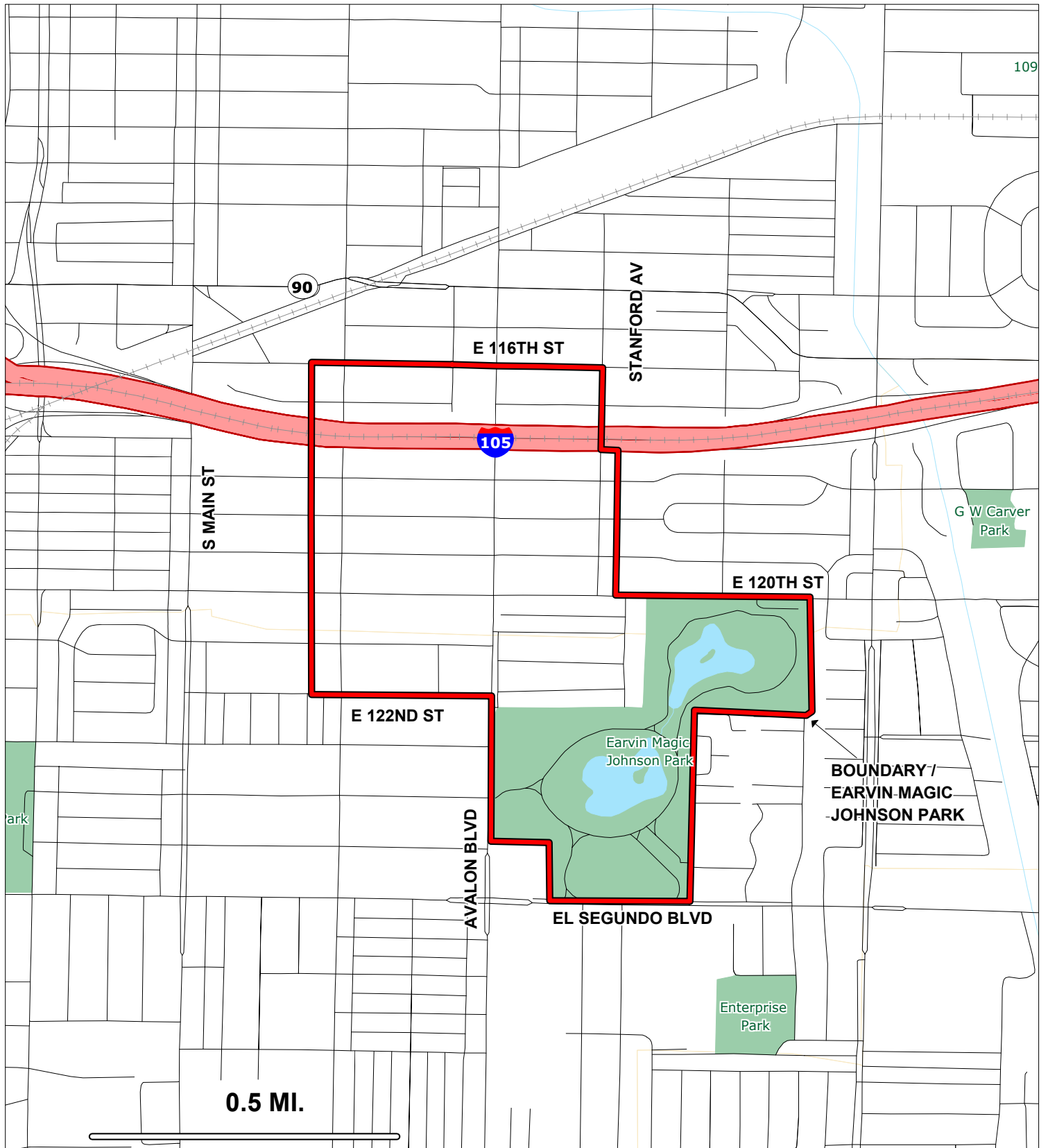
CDFA will treat properties within 400 meters of the find site with ground applications of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) every 10-14 days for three applications, followed by placement and monitoring of increased density trapping to ensure that the treatment has been effective. Bt is a naturally occurring bacterium fatal to moth larvae (caterpillars) when ingested. It does not harm adult insects or other animals, and residents can eat any home-grown produce to which the material has been applied. The treatment applications are made by spraying host trees and shrubs (not lawns or ground cover) from the ground. Treatments will be monitored by inspectors of the Los Angeles County Department of Agricultural Commissioner/Weights and Measures. Pheromone baited traps that attract adult male specimens will be placed at a density of 25 traps per square mile for a five mile radius around the find site.

Approximately 800 properties are within the treatment area. All residents are being notified door-to-door in writing by CDFA personnel and are being invited to an Open House meeting on Thursday, March 6, 2008, from 6 to 8pm at the A.C. Bilbrew Library, 150 E. El Segundo Boulevard, Willowbrook.

**VISUALS:** CDFA and contractor crews will be preparing on the morning of Monday, March 10 in Earvin Magic Johnson County Recreation Area and then proceeding to nearby residential streets.

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ASIAN GYPSY MOTH  
LOS ANGELES  
2007 / 2008



— TREATMENT BOUNDARY