



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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News Release

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AG COMMISSIONER TO HOLD MEETINGS ON INVASIVE BEETLE

The County of Santa Cruz and UC Cooperative Extension will host two community meetings to provide information about monitoring and mitigating the invasive shothole borer and protecting trees throughout Santa Cruz County.

Community members may attend either of the following meetings:

Felton

Tuesday, September 15, 10 a.m.-noon
Felton Branch Library, Community Room
6121 Gushee St., Felton

Santa Cruz

Friday, September 18, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
London Nelson Community Center, Room 4
301 Center St., Santa Cruz

The meetings will provide an opportunity to learn about the invasive shothole borer and measures that can help limit its effects on local trees.

The invasive shothole borer infestation was first detected along Zayante Creek near Felton in 2024 and was later identified as *Euwallacea interjectus*, a species native to Southeast Asia that had not previously been documented along the West Coast. The beetle can cause tree dieback in urban, wildland and agricultural areas. Locawllly, it has primarily affected box elders, while California sycamore, coast live oak, willow and black cottonwood trees have also been attacked.

Signs of infestation may include small, round entry holes, wet staining, gumming, boring dust or sugary buildup on trees. Suspected damage may be reported to the Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture at (831) 763-8080. Additional information is available at ISHB.org.

