

News Local News

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Invasive beetle detected in Felton area

Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the University of California Cooperative Extension, is monitoring a confirmed infestation of the non-native invasive shothole borer beetle (ISHB) near Zayante Creek, south of Graham Hill Road.

California Department of Food and Agriculture confirmed the infestation after a local resident reported damage to trees while hiking. These small beetles can severely damage or kill various host trees, with recent sightings also reported in the Coyote Creek area of San Jose.

To assess the situation, officials are conducting surveys in the affected area. Although eradication is challenging, residents can assist by inspecting their trees for signs of infestation, such as perfectly round holes, wet staining, gumming and frass.

For assistance, property owners are encouraged to call the Santa Cruz County Department of Agriculture at 831-763-8080. Additional resources are available at [ISHB.org](https://www.sccag.org/ishb).