

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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August 20, 2007

**Cure Worse than Disease: Monterey Pesticide Spraying
Requires CEQA & Coastal Act Compliance**

Hello:

This letter results from our necessarily rapid research on the pesticide, synthetic pheromone called "CheckMate," that you propose to spray all over our Monterey Peninsula from airplanes or helicopters on September 5, 6 and 7th. HOPE has been inundated with concerned citizen inquiries.

HOPE respectfully insists that CDF&A prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and USDoA prepare an Environmental Impact Study (EIS). Claiming an Emergency exemption does not apply here. CEQA Emergency exemptions (GC 21060.3 and Western Municipal Water District, 187 Cal Ap 3d 1104) are clearly events – not a condition as we have here. Because of the potentially significant harm to humans & animals FONSI & CEQA Exemptions are inadequate.

Some HOPE supporters do not want any contact with pesticides and their children or their own bodies or animals they care about. They do not want to unnecessarily come in contact with any toxic materials - however mildly toxic the chemicals may appear to be.

Some HOPE members intend to evacuate the area. Others cannot leave due to family or job obligations and will have to endure the fumigation. Others are concerned for their outdoor pets including dogs, cats, horses and fish. Others yet are concerned about the wildlife, especially imperiled wildlife.

The reading material mailed out misled us to believe the spray would be a single chemical (a pheromone is a single molecule) and have zero toxicity. Both parts are wrong. The man-made chemical "pheromone" product is called CheckMate (with several suffixes e.g. LBAM-F, and OLR-F). Its EPA registration # is 56336-25.

- CheckMate consists of at least 2 chemicals and is considered "slightly toxic" by experts.
- Why didn't you notify the public about this?

Further, HOPE is more than a little aware of EPA pesticide registration testing that is hugely inadequate to genuinely reveal all the harmful effects of pesticides on humans and imperiled wildlife.

Founded in 1998, and known for helping with hundreds of environmental and democracy successes, ***H.O.P.E.*** is a non-profit, tax deductible, public interest group protecting our Monterey Peninsula's natural land, air, and water ecosystems and public participation in government, using science, law, education, news alerts and advocacy.

*** THE PESTICIDE SPRAY IS NOT NON-TOXIC**

That is perhaps why you advise us to bring in our clothes from the clothesline and stay indoors. And perhaps that is why the official I spoke with wasn't happy to answer my simple questions.

HOPE understands this spray is NOT moderately or highly toxic, but there is a lot of missing research, and incomplete testing including cancer effects in humans which are not known. Further, the so-called "inert" ingredients are also not disclosed; and some product information does not match up.

In any case, in HOPE's view this is exactly what CEQA's disclosure provisions were intended for - to carefully evaluate what the harm is from an activity and put it in language the public can easily understand - before a decision is made.

- HOPE insists on 1) CEQA environmental review including an EIR for this proposed project; and 2) because you intend to apply it in the Coastal Zone it must also receive Coastal Commission review and approval.
- Just so you don't take this letter lightly, you should know that HOPE is more than a little familiar with agencies illegal disregard for pesticide's harm to our environment.
- HOPE was one of the successful plaintiffs in federal court on the recent case where the EPA refused to analyze the impacts of pesticides on ESA protected (endangered and threatened) species.

We do not take your threat to our community lightly.

With all due respect,
David Dilworth, Executive Director

cc: Coastal Commission
Attorney General's Office
Assemblyman Laird, Peninsula Cities
Monterey Herald; Salinas Californian; Santa Cruz Sentinel; SJ Mercury News; SF Chronicle

Here's an overview of the chemical from the world's most comprehensive pesticide database (Thanks to Pesticide Action Network) --

Acute Toxic rating = 3; "Slightly Toxic"; "Caution";

Eyes: Corneal involvement or irritation clearing in 7 days or less

Skin: Moderate irritation at 72 hours (moderate erythema)

http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Detail_Product.jsp?REG_NR=05633600025&DIST_NR=056336

http://www.pesticideinfo.org/Docs/ref_products.html#EPAWarning

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