

*Bringing you HOPE -*  
**Helping Our Peninsula's Environment**

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Media Release Jan 16, 2007  
Information: call David Dilworth 624-6500

**HOPE Sues Monterey County  
to Protect Imperiled Monterey Pine Forest  
and other vital natural habitats  
to be ruined by September Ranch Project**

HOPE filed suit today to stop the September Ranch subdivision near Carmel Valley's mouth which was approved by the County of Monterey 4 weeks ago. The project would destroy many acres of precious and rare Monterey pine habitat and the protection it gives to the lovely and endangered Rein Orchid, would worsen Carmel Valley traffic by more than 1,000 cars a day and add yet another stoplight to a rural area. It would hasten water rationing and further dewater our Carmel River by at least another 54 acre feet of water every year - including drought years - killing protected steelhead and Mark Twain's celebrated red-legged frogs.

HOPE attorney Alexander Henson said "Despite all this time and all those studies the Board of Supervisors still refuses to require the developer to disclose the truth about the water supply and traffic impacts from this project." David Dilworth, HOPE's Executive Director said "The County Supervisors thumb their noses at what the law requires and the best available science. Even though we are in an officially declared water supply emergency, they approve this project that will make our rationing worse and kill even more of the steelhead Mark Twain's celebrated red-legged frog - both protected by Endangered Species laws."

The September Ranch 891 acre subdivision (more than a square mile and larger than the city of Carmel) allows 95 single family lots (73 market-rate homes (meaning "mansions"), seven workforce housing units and 15 inclusionary units), on. It would put long paved roads on very steep slopes increasing landslides and fragmenting the rare native Monterey pine habitat.

A bit of irony is that the developer, James Morgan of Florida, who lost the original court case and then later the Appeals Court ruling, claims to teach other developers how to make "environmentally sensitive" projects.

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HOPE leaders were primary plaintiffs in the original and successful September Ranch lawsuits and Appeal. For more info please see --

[www.1hope.org/current.htm](http://www.1hope.org/current.htm)

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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.

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