

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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Media Release

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Oct 19 - Today the Judge lifted the restraining order allowing CDFA to resume aerial spraying of untested, unwanted pesticides on our Monterey Peninsula.

HOPE Exec. Dir. David Dilworth responded -- "It is hard to fault the Judge since he was just following the law. The outrage is the law to halt the spraying until our CEQA lawsuit is won - sets an impossibly high burden for the public. It requires the public to prove with certainty that the pesticides caused the illnesses and symptoms of the 117 people; not probability or possibility, certainty.

"When CDFA keeps the pesticide ingredients secret and won't give us the pesticide to test, and US-EPA refuses to test the pesticide at all and doesn't even know what's in it - its impossible for anyone to prove anything let alone prove it with certainty.

"The real issue here is that every Californian has a Constitutional Right to Safety. "There is no similar Constitutional Right for government to spray pesticides on people - for any reason.

"Our Constitutional Right to Safety should have stopped the spraying after more than 117 peninsula residents, 1 in every thousand, reported unusual symptoms right after the spraying. Several went to the emergency room and at least one was hospitalized.

HOPE Trustee Terrence Zito said "We need a **strict law that requires Informed Consent** before a community is sprayed with pesticides, particularly completely untested pesticides. "In this case we were not informed and we did not give consent.

"The community could not have been informed because there has been no testing of the pesticide and the community rose up against being aeriually sprayed. The City Councils of Monterey, Pacific Grove and Seaside all unanimously opposed the spraying.

HOPE Trustee Vienna Merritt-Moore said "It is an outrage when a false emergency over cosmetic damage to fruit is more important than children's health.

Dilworth added "HOPE will now focus on the CEQA suit to stop the spraying until an EIR is prepared and plans to have it heard before the end of the year. That law, CEQA, gives us a much more even playing field.

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Forest Ecology

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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