

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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**HOPE Sues California Dept of Food and Agriculture
to Halt Aerial Spraying of Pesticide on Peninsula Cities**

HOPE is suing California Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) because they violated California's Environmental Quality Act. CDFA refused to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR); and CDFA plans to aerially re-spray our Monterey Peninsula with Checkmate pesticides¹ on Oct 9th.

HOPE Chairman Terrence Zito asked "How can there be an emergency if the moth is widespread, yet in a lifetime it flies no farther from its birthplace than you can throw a rock, admittedly is not spreading; has been here for years, maybe decades, yet just like in Hawaii (where it has lived for a hundred years), has done no serious damage?"

HOPE trustee Vienna Merritt-Moore added "HOPE believes it is highly relevant that neither CDFA or USDA² has ever conducted a successful eradication program using pheromones, nor have they tested the pesticides for harm to biota³."

Bait and Switch Environmental Analysis

CDFA doubled the size of the area to be sprayed from 33.4 to 60 square miles after they did their so-called environmental analysis. Worse, their description of what they planned to do was so vague as to be meaningless.

False Alarm - False Emergency

UC Davis insect scientists say the LBA Moth has been here for "a very long time prior" to finding it this year.⁴ HOPE believes the moth has been here years, perhaps decades just as it has lived in Hawaii for 100 years and yet is not considered as "significant pest" by Hawaii's Agriculture Dept.

No Damage from Moth

There is no documented damage from LBAM in California. Zero. Even though millions of dollars in crops have been sold from the areas for which it is now found and for which it should have

¹ US-EPA makes it clear that even though the chemical pheromones are not intended to kill, both are classified and intended for use as pesticides. **These pheromones are essentially involuntary birth control pills.**

² United States Dept of Agriculture

³ And - neither USDA or CDFA has ever conducted a successful eradication of a lepidopterous insect that feeds on so many species.

⁴ UC Davis entomologist James R. Carey said Carey said the LBA moths were "probably here a very long time prior to its discovery and it's probably far more widespread than currently delineated."

<http://news.ucanr.org/storyshow.cfm?story=990&printver=yes>

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.

caused harm.

Dangerous Pesticide

CDFA knew and ignored that the pesticide could be deadly to aquatic invertebrates⁵ (e.g. abalone, crabs, and krill) in tiny amounts; in parts per billion. The problem is the agency reversed their responsibility and put it on the public. They put the burden on us to sue them to stop them from spraying us with unsafe, untested, and unwanted chemicals.

“We’re not the ones who should have to test chemicals for safety – federal law makes the agencies who use them responsible for that. Yet the chemicals have not been tested for harm to humans, to wildlife, nor has its efficacy on LBA moths been tested.” said Zito

HOPE Executive Director David Dilworth pointed out "**Forcing any species into extinction quickly with a tiny amount of a chemical makes it inherently a highly powerful chemical.** That powerful biological impact of extinguishing a species, is precisely and only what the LBA moth chemical pheromone Checkmate is intended, designed and applied to do."

Dilworth added "**Birth control drugs are not obviously or immediately toxic to those who take them, but they are deadlier than toxic to future generations.** Imagine for a moment that your whole town is given birth control drugs in the drinking water. Suddenly your whole town sterile, so that no one can have any children. No one is killed outright, most symptoms are mild, but it exterminates your species locally. – That’s what Checkmate does. It kills future generations.”

He added "Because **there is no such thing as a chemical that only affects a single species** ("species specific chemical"), to claim that such a powerful chemical could have no serious impacts on any another species is scientifically unsupportable. It is logically absurd."

Zito said “CDFAs’ John Connell spreads fear by wildly claiming the LBA moth would cause major damage to our native Monterey pine forest ‘and redwoods.’ Yet the LBA Moth has been in New Zealand for more than 100 years and is not a major pest to that county's largest export, the hundreds of thousands of acres of Monterey pine tree farms there.”

Effective Alternatives exist.

1. Instead of Spraying people in cities with "Slightly Toxic" chemicals, the state can hang Sticky Pheromone "Johnson traps" as they do in other areas.

Most LBA moths never fly more than 2- to 30 yards (meters) from where they are born making it easy and safer to put sticky traps (or blacklight traps) around the few sites the moths are found.

2. Male Moths can be irradiated to make them sterile, then released - just like they do for the Medfly.

For more written references please see – www.1hope.org/pest

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⁵ USDA’s Environmental Assessment, July 2007, page 8