

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment
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**Governor Schwarzenegger Gives Up - Court Decision Halting Aerial
Spraying of Untested Pesticides Over Monterey is Final**

California's Governor and Agriculture Secretary surrendered Wednesday and asked the Court to dismiss their Appeal of the Court decision against them halting the aerial spraying of untested, secret pesticides on our Monterey Peninsula cities. This makes final Judge Robert O'Farrell's May 12 ruling in favor of Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (HOPE) that California's Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura, violated the law by aerially spraying our Monterey Peninsula cities, children and wildlife without providing any Environmental Impact analysis. The state has also dropped its appeal of a similar suit filed after HOPE's and won by Santa Cruz County and City.

Helping Our Peninsula's Environment's Executive Director David Dilworth said "This is finally a solid victory which stopped aerial pesticide spraying, however we were hoping the Appellate Court would decide this so that we and other communities wouldn't have to go through this mess again. Nevertheless, I think the Governor got the message not to take our Monterey Peninsula community lightly."

HOPE attorney Alexander Henson said "It would have been nice to get a decision from the Court of Appeal on whether pest eradication can get an emergency exemption under CEQA. But this case will be remembered as a precedent requiring government to do the required studies before they spray an unsuspecting populace with untested chemicals."

HOPE Trustee Terrence Zito said "Since last August HOPE has been saying that spraying people with secret, untested, unwanted pesticides is immoral and illegal. Secretary Kawamura has now been forced to accept the two court decisions confirming that he and CDFA acted illegally. HOPE believes that at least 14 other laws were broken in the unnecessary pursuit of eradicating this trivial moth."

HOPE Trustee Vienna Merritt-Moore added "We should be able to breathe safely for a while now, but we will be closely watching the draft Environmental Impact Report which is expected this Fall. Because we have learned not to trust CDFA, Secretary Kawamura's verbal announcement that they will abandon aerial spraying is suspect. We still have to be vigilant. Congratulations to all those who helped make this happen."

For continually updated info - www.1hope.org/checkmate
For more info on CEQA - www.1hope.org/ceqa.htm

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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.