

Bringing you HOPE - Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

Box 1495, Carmel, CA 93921
831/ 624-6500

Info7 at 1hope.org
www.1hope.org

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For more info: David Dilworth 831-624-6500

Court Halts Aerial Spraying of Untested Pesticides Over Monterey HOPE Wins Another One

Judge Robert O'Farrell ruled today that California's Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura, violated the law when they aerially sprayed untested, secret pesticides on our cities and children and wildlife on a lawsuit brought by Helping Our Peninsula's Environment. He ordered the spraying stopped until CDFA completes an Environmental Impact Report.

HOPE attorney Alexander Henson said "I'm glad that this case will set a precedent requiring government to do the required studies before they spray an unsuspecting populace with untested chemicals."

Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (HOPE) Trustee Terrence Zito said "Since last August HOPE has been saying that spraying people with secret, untested, unwanted pesticides is immoral and illegal. The courts have now twice confirmed that CDFA acted illegally."

HOPE Trustee Vienna Merritt-Moore added "CDFA told the Judge Thursday they expect the EIR completion in January. Since the state seems to delay spraying from January until June, this should give Health and environment advocates another year to get laws passed to permanently halt aerial spraying and to force CDFA to use non-aerial spraying non-toxic solutions such as the Targeted use of Sticky Traps. (1hope.org/nonspray.htm)"

So -- Our Skies are Safe for another year.

HOPE Executive Director David Dilworth said "This is the second time in 2 weeks a court has convicted A.G. Kawamura, California Agriculture Secretary, of violating California's a biggest environmental law, our California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)" HOPE believes that at least 14 other laws were broken in the unnecessary pursuit of eradicating this trivial moth.

CDFA protests they will seek an expedited Appeal.

Dilworth responded "Twenty three cities and two counties, dozens of community groups and a Senate Committee have told CDFA to stop; and now two Judges have told CDFA they broke the law, but they remain defiant. That's the definition of outlaw behaviour. ***What part of 'No' doesn't Governor Schwarzenegger understand? "***

For more info - www.1hope.org/checkmate

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