

Bringing you HOPE -
Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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**HOPE Files Motion to Halt California Dept of Food and Agriculture
From Spraying Pesticide on Peninsula Cities Planned for Tuesday**

HOPE filed papers in Monterey County Superior Court Friday to halt California Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) from **Spraying Pesticide on Peninsula Cities they planned for Tuesday Oct 9th.**

HOPE Chairman Terrence Zito said "This is lunacy. There is no emergency, aerial spraying is the least effective method of control, substantially more effective, safer and less costly methods exist including using the pheromone baited sticky traps that have caught virtually every one of the 8,000 moths found in California."

Since the original pesticide spraying of our Monterey Peninsula on Sept 9 – 12th, more than 107 peninsula residents have filed reports of serious symptoms. Several people have gone to the emergency room and one baby was hospitalized, returned home and now had a relapse. One woman spent \$300 to have her cat diagnosed with asthma, which was so severe she worried it would die.

Toxicology professor Richard Philp, D.V.M., Ph.D wrote this week "***There is ample evidence that many pheromones and semiochemicals possess significant toxicity for aquatic species***".¹ This backs up the disclosure in USDA's Environmental Assessment that these *chemicals can be deadly to aquatic invertebrates (such as abalone, crabs and krill) in parts per billion.*

HOPE sued because CDFA violated California's Environmental Quality Act by refusing to study and publicize the harm from the aerial spraying with an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). HOPE is asking that the spraying be halted now and non-spraying alternatives be used until an EIR is completed.

Zito added "There is no emergency if the moth is spread across 300 miles from Los Angeles to Napa, but USDA admits it is not spreading. In a lifetime the moth flies no father from its birthplace than you can throw a rock, yet it has been here for years, maybe decades. Finally, in Hawaii (where it has lived for a hundred years), it has done no serious damage."

HOPE trustee Vienna Merritt-Moore said "HOPE believes non-spraying alternatives such as pheromone baited sticky traps are more effective, less harmful to our families and our environment and cost less." She added "it is an outrage they have not tested the pesticides for harm to biota² yet they want to spray us."

¹ "Analysis of Toxicology Studies with LBAM and Related Lepidopteran Pheromones" Richard B. Philp, D.V.M., Ph.D, Emeritus Professor of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Western Ontario

² USDA and CDFA have never conducted a successful eradication of a lepidopterous insect that feeds on more than a single plant species.

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.

Bait and Switch Environmental Analysis

CDFG 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.³ 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 caused harm.

Dangerous Pesticide

CDFG knew and ignored that the pesticide could be deadly to aquatic invertebrates⁴ (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."

Zito said "CDFG's 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."

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

³ 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>

⁴ USDA's Environmental Assessment, July 2007, page 8