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**HOPE - Helping Our Peninsula's Environment**

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

Info7@1hope.org  
www.1hope.org

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More info: Mike Lynberg: 831-238-2084

**Hundreds Report Illnesses Following  
Recent Aerial Pesticide Sprayings**

Government agencies and public interest groups received 643 complaints of physical harm from citizens soon after the aerial spraying of untested pesticides<sup>1</sup> on Monterey Peninsula and Santa Cruz cities. Concerned citizens appeal to the Governor and State Legislature to put human health and safety first.

As of Dec 20, people in communities which were aerielly sprayed with pesticides in an attempt to eradicate the light brown apple moth have made 643 documented complaints of adverse reactions, says a report sent today to members of the California State Legislature and other government officials from a coalition of citizens groups<sup>2</sup>, **509 complaints are publicly reported here for the first time.**

Complaints include symptoms ranging from mild to severe asthma-like attacks and difficulty breathing, blurred vision, to chest pains, headaches, swollen lymph glands, and serious skin rashes; many required medical attention.

"The number of people reporting adverse reactions after the aerial pesticide spraying is alarming," said Santa Cruz City Council member Emily Reilly. "I believe further spraying must be halted until we can be certain it is safe."

Monterey City Council member Jeff Haferman added "Protecting those who are most vulnerable is a hallmark of our society, and while the aerial spraying might not adversely impact everyone, there is reason to believe it is harming some. The rights of these citizens need to be protected."

The report explains how there may be some complaint duplication, but documents how there is inevitable and potentially huge under reporting of people experiencing symptoms.

A public press conference to disseminate and discuss the report will be held at Santa Cruz City Hall, 809 Center Street, Friday Jan. 4<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. Participants will include Santa Cruz City Councilmembers Ed Porter and Tony Madrigal.

<sup>1</sup> The aerial spray is classified and treated as a pesticide by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

<sup>2</sup> This press release is presented by HOPE on behalf of several other public interest groups in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties, including Concerned Citizens Against Spraying, Pesticide Watch, Coalition for Sustainable Action, LBAMspray.com and StoptheSpray.org. For help filing complaints please see [1hope.org/checkmate](http://1hope.org/checkmate)

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