Spraying People with Untested, Unwanted Chemicals Doesn’t Happen in a Democracy

Beginning Sunday evening, Sept 9, 2007, for four days, three fixed winged planes sprayed unsafe, untested chemicals over a 60-square-mile area of densely populated cities of our Monterey Peninsula from Marina to Pacific Grove, across Pebble Beach next to the ocean and our bay and next to Carmel. This Peninsula aerial chemical spraying was done by US-Dept of Agriculture and Calif. Dept of Food & Agriculture.

The chemicals are planned to be sprayed not just this September and October, but potentially "every 30 days" until 2010. The chemicals are designed to be active for at least 30 days. As dry as our area is today, the drought will not last making it unreasonable to assume that we will not experience rain within 30 days after a spray.

- HOPE is alarmed that CDFA and USDA sprayed us after misleading sister agencies to approved this without permits. NOAA’s National Marine Sanctuary withdrew its support after finding out the truth.

Some required, but sidestepped, permits and approvals include a Biological Opinion or an Incidental Take Permit for potential harm to endangered species; a Surface Water discharge (pollution) permit for our National Marine Sanctuary; and preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

It is important to understand that the chemicals have not been tested at all; not for harm -- or for effectiveness. Worse, the little we know about the closest chemical relative is that it can be deadly in parts per billion (drops in a swimming pool) to "aquatic invertebrates" (e.g. abalone, crabs, shrimp, and krill).

- HOPE is also alarmed that even with the absence of most normal pesticide testing for these chemicals, the most closely related chemicals are known to kill aquatic invertebrates in these vanishingly tiny concentrations.

HOPE believes, that reasonable and much safer alternatives exist including "Mass trapping" with sticky traps (not ‘twist ties.’ This is because the target moth travels less than 100 meters in a lifetime.

HOPE also believes, based on evidence from UC entomologists (insect experts), the emergency is not justified, that the moths must have inhabited our area for years (because they only fly 30 yards in a lifetime and are widespread in Santa Cruz), not merely months; and in spite of that -- there is absolutely no (zero) documented harm to agriculture or our ecosystems.

For more information, the detailed science references and news updates please see –

1hope.org/pest or www.1hope.org/chkmate.htm
We Oppose the Aerial Spraying of Chemicals our Monterey Peninsula and Support Non-Spraying, Less Toxic Alternatives

Name       Mailing Address       Phone       Email
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

Please return Petition to -- Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (624-6500) www.1hope.org/pest
founded in 1998, is a non-profit, tax deductible, public interest group teaching Environmental Science and Law, and Public Participation to local citizens and advocating for protection of our Monterey Peninsula's natural land, air and water ecosystems.