

HOPE - Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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Monterey County Supervisors
Monterey County Planning Commissioners

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General Plan Needs *Informed-Consent Pesticide Safety Policy*

Good Day Supervisors and Planning Commissioners:

Because the potential harms from pesticides are so great, and because California provides each citizen with an Inalienable Right to Safety, the following groups officially support the inclusion of an Informed Consent Pesticide Safety Policy in Monterey County's General Plan.

- Helping Our Peninsula's Environment (HOPE), Carmel
- Pacific Grove Neighbors, Pacific Grove
- Concerned Citizens of Monterey Co, Salinas
- Say No to Ft. Ord's Toxic Burning, Marina
- Save Our Peninsula Committee, Monterey
- Vision Inspiring the Sanctity and Integrity of Nature (VISION), Pacific Grove
- Save Our Waterfront Committee, Monterey

Individuals supporting this policy concept include --

- Carole Erickson RN, PHN,
- Winston Elstob, and Lou Haddad.

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HOPE has prepared DRAFT language for an Informed Consent Pesticide Safety Policy in Monterey County's General Plan which includes --

- 1. Pesticide Use Requires Informed Consent: To prevent pesticide trespass, harm and activity interference to humans, wildlife and property, no activity, existing or proposed, is permitted which can cause any pesticide contact with any party unwilling or unable to give their consent.**

- 2. No Exemptions if Alternatives:**
Feasible alternatives to agricultural pesticides which have been used for centuries include crop rotation, cover crops, timed planting, crop residue tillage, land fallowing, field flooding, and use of native biota control such as ladybugs and spiders. Steam wands can be used to kill weeds and leaves only water. Hydrogen peroxide disinfectants degrade into water and oxygen after a few minutes.

Exemptions are allowed only when no less-toxic, non-pesticide alternatives exist --

- a. to alleviate an emergency, and**
 - b. for indoor disinfectant use.**

- 3. Fully Informed Consent: To adequately warn people about the potential harms to their health, prior to any pesticide use, each person whose consent is required, must be given a readable copy of a true declaration clearly describing all intended maximum pesticide use, times and durations and all potential harms to their health from the activity. Consent is only valid when a copy of the declaration is signed by the party affected by the potential for pesticide trespass. Proxy signatures are not valid.**

Please Note: While these groups support the informed consent pesticide safety concept, this specific draft language has not yet been approved by all the supporting groups and individuals.