

Bringing You Hope -
HOPE - Helping Our Peninsula's Environment

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CDFA Hiding Evidence from Courts

After California's Dept of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) broke their August 31, 2007 promise to take a more responsible look at the decision aerial pesticide spraying of Monterey Bay cities and wildlands, HOPE sued them for violating California law requiring environmental analysis preparation (CEQA) prior to the decision to approve the project.

The suit was filed Sept 24, 2007. HOPE's court date is set for March 9. HOPE has been waiting since September for CDFA to turn over copies of the evidence called the "administrative record" they used for their decision to approve aerial spraying.

CDFA yesterday announced they will again spray Monterey Peninsula cities, children, parks and wild lands beginning June 1. However, if HOPE wins the March 9 court case, the next aerial spraying will have to halt until an Environmental Impact Report responsibly analyzes safer and more effective alternatives.

"Its been four months, we are now less than a month away from court, and CDFA hasn't given us a single sheet of paper." said HOPE's Executive Director David Dilworth.

Unprecedented

Dilworth added "In my 20 years of CEQA experience, this is the first time I've ever heard of an agency withholding evidence for a CEQA case, literally all of the evidence. Usually they try to give you too much, to drown you in paper. This shows a breathtaking lack of good faith to comply with the law." He concluded "If CDFA thinks they can win this case by withholding the administrative record - they're wrong."

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