

LEGISLATION TO PROTECT COMMUNITIES FROM AERIAL PESTICIDE SPRAYING

INFORMATION AND INFORMED CONSENT

BACKGROUND

Aerial spraying of pesticides aimed at eradicating the Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM) in California started in fall 2007. The \$75 million campaign is being conducted by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). The pesticides are untested and have never before been applied on such a large scale and over human populations. Long-term environmental and health impacts have not been studied. Under an emergency exemption, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being conducted after the spraying has already taken place on the Monterey Bay peninsula. Hundreds of illness reports have been collected by physicians, citizens and environmental groups, because no adequate health monitoring system was in place.

CDFA plans to resume spraying on June 1st and to expand into the larger SF Bay Area with monthly applications until at least 2010. The following bills address many of the loopholes that facilitated the CDFA's aerial spray program for LBAM.

AB 2760 (Leno, Hancock) Full EIR Process

Would require that an Environmental Impact Report be completed before the state Department of Food and Agriculture can apply pesticide in an urban area for the eradication of the light brown apple moth.

AB 2763 (Laird) Invasive Species Planning

Requires the Department of Food and Agriculture to create a list of invasive species for which an eradication program might be appropriate, and hold public hearings on this information. It also calls for independent scientific review and full disclosure of pesticide ingredients.

AB 2765 (Huffman) Notifications & Disclosures

Sets new limits on the emergency powers of the Department of Agriculture. The bill requires a public hearing to receive testimony, full disclosure of pesticide ingredients and examination of alternatives to aerial spraying.

ACR 117 (Laird) Health & Efficacy Issues

Resolution calling on the State to address unresolved health, scientific, and efficacy issues of the LBAM eradication program.

SCR 87 (Migden) Moratorium on Spraying

Resolution calling on moratorium for further pesticide spraying until it is proven both safe and effective.

SUMMARY

Californians have the right to informed consent regarding pesticides sprayed in their communities, as called for by over 18,000 petition signatures on StopTheSpray.ORG. The bills introduced by Assemblymembers Laird, Leno, Hancock and Huffman strengthen the public's right to be informed, and restrict the powers of un-elected officials.

SUPPORTERS

Breast Cancer Action
California Church IMPACT
California Nurses Association
Citizens For Health
Coalition for Clean Air
Learning Disabilities Association of California
Natural Products Association West
Pesticide Watch
Planning and Conservation League
StopTheSpray.ORG

For more information:

www.StopTheSpray.org

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