

From: Max Ventura beneficialbug@netzero.net
To: mbarron@aidslifecycle.org
Subject: AIDS life cycle, Pesticide spraying 6/1
Date: Wed, 2 Apr 2008 00:05:09 -0800

It was suggested that I write to alert you to dangers related to the plan as we understand it to have hundreds of HIV+ cyclists camp out in Santa Cruz 6/1 for the beginning of your event. To retain that conference plan would be to have hundreds of immune system-compromised people exposed to toxic pesticides on a grand scale in the planned aerial spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth and the pre-treatments which would be expected of Permethrins painted on utility poles city-wide. In fact, if the California Department of Food and Ag's plans remain intact, they would be starting their next round of aerial spraying that very day. This would be disastrous for the cyclists.

We would encourage you to go to our website and click on Light Brown Apple Moth to start to explore the issue, then click onto links for websites of other grassroots groups which formed specifically around the LBAM issue (we've been around years working on other pesticides issues). Please take a look at www.DontSprayCalifornia.org and feel free to pass our site along to people planning to participate to help them understand the gravity of the situation.

At least many hundreds were sickened when Santa Cruz and Monterey counties were sprayed in 2007, with an 11 month-old baby going into respiratory arrest. Reproductive problems have abounded with post-menopausal women starting to bleed again in their 60's. You can catch a lot of the toxicology on our website.

Even if the state pulls back from aerial spraying, every one of their alternate and additional plans includes toxic pesticides. When the California Dept. of Food and Ag. refers to "pheromones" it is synthetic pheromones mixed with pesticides. Read all about it. And their other plans include "pre-treating" before aerial spraying, and in some areas doing this where no aerial spraying is planned, 3000 utility poles per square mile with Permethrins which are neurotoxins, called possibly carcinogenic by EPA, cause chromosomal damage, and more. The chemical twist ties being used in trees at the rate of 250 per acre where they are in use already are impregnated with the mix used in the aerial spray, as are the traps. Exposures lead both to acute and chronic health problems. In fact, people in Santa Cruz were told "pre-treatments" would start in March. While as far as we know they have not yet begun, people are on edge, waiting. Many are preparing to risk arrest, in fact, if "pre-treatments" are to be carried out.

We suggest that for the health of your constituency, you go elsewhere (check our site to find the areas to be pesticided and dates expected, or go straight to the CDFA site and see if you can get the info... constantly changing). And let the Mayor and supervisors of SC and any other areas you avoid KNOW why you are canceling your plans and finding a safe location. We assume that if this plan wasn't disclosed to you, as it has been all over the papers, and as it is a clear and present danger to your participants, you should be able to break a contract without financial burden. If Santa Cruz wants to sue the state over this angle of the issue, in addition to their present lawsuits against the state, they should find some financial recourse through the courts.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maxina Ventura,
Don't Spray California
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