

Moth

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County Superior Court by HOPE, or Helping Our Peninsula's Environment, a Carmel group. It lost its battle to stop the spraying earlier this month when Judge Robert A. O'Farrell ruled that HOPE failed to prove that another pesticide used by the state, CheckMate OLR-F, was linked to respiratory problems reported by more than 100 Monterey Peninsula residents after it was sprayed in late September. Spraying in Monterey County resumed on Wednesday and finished Friday.

The supervisors' 4-1 vote was held in closed session Monday afternoon, with Supervisors Beautz, Neal Coonerty, Ellen Pirie and Mark Stone in support.

Supervisor Tony Campos, taking part in the meeting via conference call from Mexico, voted no.

Coonerty wondered why the spraying is necessary now, when the moths are about to go dormant for the winter. Coonerty said he would prefer the agency wait until February to do any spraying, and in the meantime conduct an environmental review.

But agency spokesman Steve Lyle said the spraying is necessary now because the moths are mating, and the pheromone disrupts the mating cycle. If the state waits until spring, he said, there will be more moths to spray.

"The moth is mating now," Lyle said. "We want to get the pheromone in the environment to create the mating confusion that the pheromone achieves."

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