

Dear Senator Florez and Members of the Senate Food & Agriculture Committee.

We are unfortunately unable to attend today's hearing. As most of the members of Don't Spray California are disabled by chemical injuries, it is difficult for us to access many public meetings.

There are far too many errors in CDFA's Final Programmatic EIR to address in a brief public comment, including repetitive pictures of alleged damage, in one case the same, exact photo three times. CDFA has set aside no public comment period to respond to how commenters have been misquoted, and misrepresented in CDFA's responses.

It is especially disturbing that CDFA refused to respond to comments made at the hearing of this committee on August 25, 2009, which was specifically called to evaluate the sufficiency and factualness of the LBAM EIR.. In the FPEIR, CDFA responded that the transcript, which was submitted by legal counsel for Santa Cruz County, was disregarded, because it does "not constitute comments on the EIR itself", even though Senator Florez clearly stated that the intention of the hearing was to build an official record to be submitted to the CDFA's process, and that this committee has oversight over CDFA.

We are outraged that Secretary Kawamura certified the FPEIR yesterday, and a Notice of Determination was posted, pre-empting this hearing.

Even though the FPEIR document that has been certified continues to refer to the LBAM Program as an "eradication" program, in the CEQA Findings that preface Secretary Kawamura's certification letter, CDFA states that the agency is now implementing a "systematic, statewide program" to control and suppress, and in some cases eradicate, LBAM.

Since LBAM continues to be classified as an "actionable pest" which requires quarantines, the implication is that this program will likely become another permanent program similar to the "Gypsy Moth Slow the Spread" program that has been poisoning states back East for over a decade, following many decades of failed eradication programs. Such a gypsy moth program visited California a year ago, when CDFA bullied elders and disabled people in the Ojai Valley, injuring several with forced pesticide applications, actions which the FPEIR described as potentially necessary in the LBAM program as well.

While many have been most concerned about the aerial pesticide applications of the LBAM program, please understand that so-called "pheromone" pesticides are specifically designed to be constantly present in the environment, regardless of the application method. Both the industry and USDA describe this process as "saturating" areas with the chemicals.

This constitutes long-term, chronic exposure. The acute tests that were done on the synthetic LBAM "pheromone" resulted in alarming effects on the organs and immune systems of test animals. Another synthetic "pheromone", disparlure for gypsy moths, has been shown to persist in the human body for at least 17 years.

More information about this and other aspects of this program can be found on our website at DontSprayCalifornia.org

These are serious concerns, which CDFA's risk assessment approach regards as "negligible" and "acceptable risks". Those of us who have been injured by these, and other pesticides, regard such callous determinations, that some segments of the population are expendable, as violations of our human rights, and as threats to our lives.

We ask that you step in, and exert your power as a committee with oversight over CDFA, and prevent this agency from moving forward with this fraudulent and toxic program.

Thank you.