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August 14, 2015

Bijan Sartipi
District Director
Caltrans District 4
111 Grand Avenue
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Broadcast spraying in San Mateo County

Dear Mr. Sartipi:

As an organization protecting wildlife habitat and farmland, and a landowner in San Mateo County, Peninsula Open Space Trust is concerned with Caltrans' practice of broadcast spraying of herbicides along State Highways. I'm writing today to encourage you to work collaboratively with local stakeholders and government officials in San Mateo County on alternative vegetation management options.

In 2012, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors terminated broadcast spraying of herbicides along County-maintained roads. Since then, local agencies with road maintenance responsibilities have transitioned to mechanical mowing and spot application of herbicides.

Caltrans has engaged stakeholders in locations with similar restrictions to develop vegetation management plans that respect local ordinances, and we believe the same cooperation can be accomplished in San Mateo County. With the potential for California to receive heavy rain this winter, which we're all hoping for, now is the time to act.

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Walter T. Moore
President