



South Skyline Association
22400 Skyline Boulevard, Box 35, La Honda, CA 94020

Date: March 23, 2015

**To: Mr. Bijan Sartipi, District Director, Caltrans District 4
Mr. Haus, Public Information Branch Chief, Caltrans
Mrs. Navarro, Information Officer, Caltrans**

Re: Roadside spraying by Caltrans on State Highways 1, 35, 84, 92, San Mateo County, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties

Dear Mr. Sartipi,

South Skyline Association (SSA) recognizes that Caltrans is responsible for safety measures, such as clearing weeds around signs and guardrails, sight distance, establishing fire strips, and controlling invasive plants. However, our community is concerned that broadcast spraying of herbicides that Caltrans now employs poses a potential threat to the environment and people. Particularly when it is not announced in advance and people are not given advanced warning and the choice to opt out.

In 2012, the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors terminated broadcast spraying of herbicides along County-maintained roads. The County's reasons for eliminating broadcast spraying included concerns regarding impacts on health of residents and visitors, health of the County's sensitive habitats including wetlands, streams, and watersheds, and protection of wildlife species, particularly endangered species. As you may be aware, San Mateo County's natural habitats are home to over 40 endangered or threatened species, or species of special concern.

At the very least, Caltrans needs to provide advance warning in the affected region, and posted signs at Caltrans work areas. Without advanced notice at the site of spraying, bicyclists, motorcyclists, hikers, and property owners cannot make informed decisions to avoid the areas, or protect themselves from the herbicides as they pass through the work area. Consequently, the SSA respectfully requests that Caltrans cease unannounced broadcast spraying of herbicides in the Santa Cruz Mountains and allow property owners the choice to opt-out in areas in front of their property.

The SSA includes 1500 households, and fosters a sense of community spirit, keeps residents informed of public agency actions and other issues of concern in the South Skyline sphere of influence.

Sincere regards,

Michael Rowe, SSA President
On behalf of the SSA Board and Community