

Sent via a February 21, 2008 email:

Below is brief letter from a professional living and working in Santa Cruz, who was in spray zone in Santa Cruz in November 2007 relating their experience with the notification process and how difficult CDFA made it to escape the spray area.

Before reading the below: It should be noted that many people did not receive a letter notification so they did not know to sign-up for the email notices describe below (it appears that people who had taken them off some junk mail list were excluded from the original notification).

To Whom it May Concern:

I thought I would tell you the (brief) history of my experience with the spray and the "notification" so you will be in a better position to anticipate the routine. The way they did it in Santa Cruz was:

- * A general notice that they would spray between November 4 and 9 (don't remember the exact dates).
- * All complaints and inquiries were then directed to a USDA website and phone number that allowed one to sign up for "notification".
- * Each morning, November 4 through 9, I received an email saying that the government intended to spray that evening from 8pm-5am, weather permitting.
- * The next morning, I received an email indicating that the spray was cancelled due to weather or spraying was completed over named sectors.

- * Due to weather issues, namely heavy fog, the spray was delayed over and over and this process went on for something like 10 days. No way to know if they would spray or not until it was done.

A friend of ours left the area for a week, only to return right in the middle of the spray

We had to be here in the day for work and then tried to escape to Half Moon Bay, San Jose, or Milpitas each night, spending thousands of dollars on hotels and ultimately I was exposed to the spray once on the way out of town and Aaron was exposed twice.

The operation was also conducted in a very questionable way. For example, they first said they could not spray in the rain because water either dilutes the chemicals or makes it toxic (different stories from different sources). They seemed to be careful about this the first week or so, but the night of heaviest spraying, after reports of the expense of canceling the spray each night, they doused the area despite reports that it would rain the next day (which it did).

Santa Cruz Resident