



Vector Control

The board proposes to permit aerial spraying of insecticides, despite the CDC recommendation to not spray as it is highly ineffective, reaches only 10% of the mosquitos that are flying at that moment, and does not treat the larvae which are hatching all day long. Only larvacide applied to the source will treat the larvae.

The exemption criteria includes BMPs for mitigation of the impacts of aerial spraying. The document does not explain what BMPs would be used to limit the fatality rate of sprayed pesticides on other flying insects, nor the birds that rely on those insects for food, nor the loss of the pollinators for the native flowers. In fact, the proposed amendment permits activities such as aerial spraying that will significantly damage the fabric of the Tahoe ecosystem, killing more predator insects that kill mosquitos than the poison kills mosquitos.

Spraying and fogging are highly inefficient, according to the CDC, and were abandoned in most communities in favor of the much more effective source control with larvacide. Such practices were stopped in the Tahoe basin after the fogging started killing the pine trees due to the overwhelming deaths of the beetle that kept the aphid-type insect that preyed on pine trees under control.

The significant impact of spraying and fogging on the beneficial uses of pollinators, birds, mosquito-eating insects, and the native vegetation due to disruptions in the insect populations can be predicted from the extensive literature available to the Board. We have attached a link to a common list of impacts developed from the CDC.

The Board must assure the public that, despite the overwhelming evidence to the contrary that aerial spraying is more effective than source control, uses less pounds or gallons of pesticide, and that the spraying or fogging can be limited to areas that are immediately adjacent to water sources. The agency responsible for the spraying must provide a complete work plan and annual report that explains the methodology for studying the impacts of spraying or fogging on the insect and bird populations, the number of scientists that will be retained to do the baseline and after-project studies, the exact name and quantity of the pesticide used, and detailed maps of each application area.

In addition, implementation monitoring must include the extent of overspray in each application area, the time of day and weather conditions, the amount of drift into housing areas, and the specific telephone notification system for residents who may be impacted by the spraying or fogging.