

The ruling followed a similar decision in 2007 by another federal judge in San Francisco, Charles Breyer, to halt the nationwide planting of Monsanto's genetically engineered strain of alfalfa until the USDA conducted an environmental study. A federal appeals court upheld Breyer's decision last year.

The department's 2005 decision on sugar beets acknowledged that pollen from the genetically modified crop could spread to other beet crops. But the USDA said farmers would not be harmed because they would still be able to buy non-genetically modified

White, however, cited studies that said winds can carry sugar beet pollen at least 2 1/2 miles, much farther than the voluntary buffer zones between beet crops recommended by Oregon agriculture officials.

He said the department had failed to consider the economic effects of its decision and had provided no evidence for its conclusion that non-genetically modified sugar beets would remain available to farmers.

E-mail Bob Egelko at begelko@sfchronicle.com.

This article appeared on page D - 2 of the San Francisco Chronicle



About Top Homes

# REAL ESTATE



S.F. home makes most of steep Hundreds of people walked through Strachan Forgan's San Francisco

home the other weekend, but probably few.

- Old Home Days endures 110 years
- \$1 million going further in many markets
- Find million dollar propertyn in California

Search Real Estate »

### CARS



Gas dips below \$2.50 for first time in 2 months The average retail price for gasoline dipped below \$2.50 a gallon for the first time in two months Monday...

- A good ride while it lasted
- Chrysler midsize car plant to stay open
- Terrain offers room, fuel economy

Search Cars »

## JOBS



10 stages of unemployment We have all heard about the stages of grief, but recently I have been seeing a pattern in my attitudes that suggest..

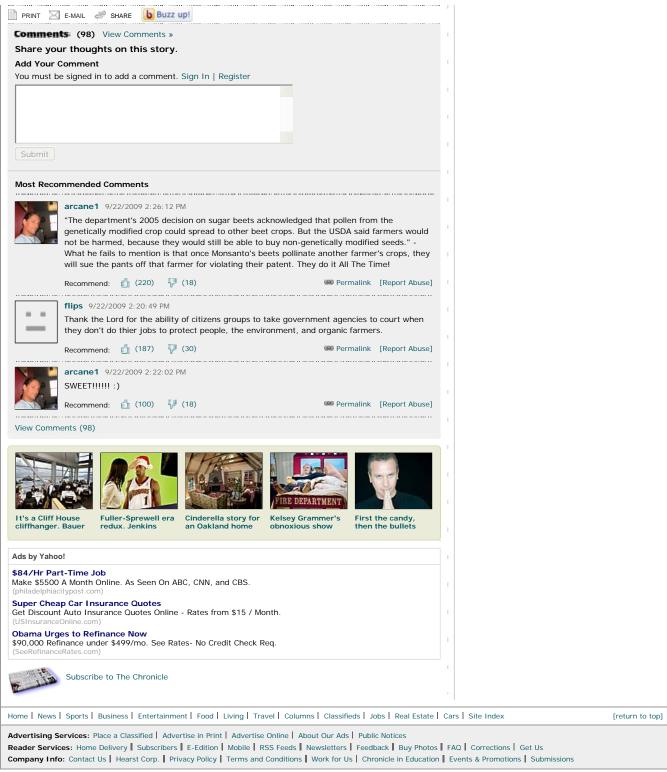
- Can't find work here, ready to travel?
- Applying online calls for a new resume format
- The future of Bay Area employment

Search Jobs »

# **ADVERTISERS**

Equifax can help you monitor your credit score

Hawaii Deals \$465+ 3 Nights with Air. Pleasant



© 2009 Hearst Communications Inc

HEARST newspapers