

Calif. courts strike down local sex-offender ordinances

By Sam Stanton, Sacramento Bee

The California Supreme Court has left intact a lower-court ruling that invalidates local ordinances aimed at restricting the movements of registered sex offenders in dozens of cities statewide.

The court's decision Wednesday not to hear a case involving a Southern California sex offender means city and county ordinances banning such offenders from public parks and other public areas no longer may be enforced, attorneys say. Instead, a state law governing where sex offenders on parole may live now stands as the main restriction.

"If I read the tea leaves correctly, it's probably dead everywhere in California," Susan Kang Schroeder, chief of staff to Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas said Thursday.

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