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MOSQUITOES INFECTED WITH WEST NILE VIRUS FOUND IN SACRAMENTO AND YOLO COUNTIES
--District's Ongoing Surveillance Program Detects First WNV-positive mosquito pools for the year

ELK GROVE, Calif., June 30, 2006 – Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that two mosquito pools, one collected from Sacramento County and the other from Yolo County, have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first confirmation for the presence of the virus in mosquito populations to date. In response to the West Nile virus-positive mosquito pools, the District will continue to implement its Mosquito-Borne Disease Management plan to protect public health and welfare. This plan may include ground and/or aerial treatments where virus activity has been detected. The District routinely collects and tests adult mosquitoes throughout Sacramento and Yolo Counties.

"We've stepped up our efforts across the board from educating the public to surveillance and control," District Manager, David Brown said. "We will continue to collaborate with many city and government agencies, as well as surrounding vector control districts to achieve our goal of protecting public health and welfare by reducing mosquito populations," Brown said.

The public is strongly urged to follow the District's **7Ds**: **DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outdoors. **DEFEND** yourself against mosquitoes by using an effective insect repellent, such as DEET, Picaridin or Oil of Lemon Eucalyptus. Make sure you follow label directions! **DOOR** and window screens should be in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home. **DISTRICT** personnel are also available to address any mosquito problem you may be experiencing by calling 1-800-429-1022 or visit the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

West Nile virus

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arboviral encephalitis in the United States. Originally discovered in Africa in 1937, WNV was first detected in the western hemisphere in 1999 in New York City. Since then it has caused seasonal epidemics of West Nile virus fever and severe neurological disease. West Nile virus is transmitted to humans and animals through the bite of an infected mosquito. Mosquitoes become infected with WNV when they feed on infected birds. The elderly, immune-compromised and diabetics are most susceptible to illness caused by WNV.

2006 West Nile virus activity update

Level II - This year, 3 birds, **2 mosquito pools**, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 equines and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

To report a dead bird call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Health Services online at westnile.ca.gov

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District provides mosquito and vector control services for Sacramento and Yolo Counties.