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FOUR MORE DEAD BIRDS TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS
--SYMVCD's Ongoing Surveillance Program Continues to Detect West Nile Virus Activity

ELK GROVE, Calif., July 13, 2006 – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD) received confirmation today that four additional dead birds, a Western Scrub-Jay from Antelope, a Yellow-billed Magpie from Elverta, an American Crow in Davis and an American Robin in West Sacramento have tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This reaffirms West Nile virus activity in the District's service area. "We need people to start paying close attention to the warning signs," District Manager David Brownsaid. "We've stepped up our efforts, but now we need assistance from the public. People can help by draining all sources of standing water that may support mosquito breeding habitats, adding mosquitofish to small ponds and bird baths, reporting un-maintained swimming pools to the District, and wearing an effective insect repellent. By taking these steps, you will be helping us out tremendously," Brown said.

7Ds

The public is strongly urged to practice 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 all 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. We can be reached at 1-800-429-1022 or visit us 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.

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **9** dead birds, **5** mosquito pools, **0** sentinel chickens, **0** equines and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

The District is at **LEVEL 2** of their response plan, for details visit us online at <http://www.fightthebite.net/mediacorner/plan.php>

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.

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