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MOSQUITO CONTROL CONFIRMS 19 WEST NILE VIRUS-POSITIVE MOSQUITO SAMPLES --District's Ongoing Surveillance Program Continues to Detect West Nile Virus Activity

ELK GROVE, Calif., July 25, 2006 – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that an additional 19 mosquito samples*, 18 from Yolo County and 1 from Sacramento County have tested positive for West Nile virus. In response to the West Nile virus-positive mosquito samples, 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.

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DRAIN any standing water that may produce mosquitoes. **DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors. These are the times when mosquitoes are most active. **DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside. **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.

**Mosquito samples: Mosquitoes are trapped and collected from the field. The collected females are then pooled together by species. Each sample contains a minimum of one to a maximum of 50 mosquitoes per sample. Each sample is tested for the presence of St. Louis Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalomyelitis and West Nile viruses by TaqMan real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR).*

***West Nile virus-positive mosquito sample locations**

Yolo County: Davis (11), the agricultural area between Woodland and Davis (4), Woodland (2) and Zamora (1)

Sacramento County: Galt (1)

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **15** dead birds, **35** mosquito samples, **6** sentinel chickens, **0** equines and **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

The District is at **LEVEL 3** of their response plan, for details visit us online at <http://www.fightthebite.net/mediacorner/plan.php>

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