

Contact: Jennifer Benito
Public Information Officer
Office: 916.405.2082
Cell: 916.416.6337
E-mail: jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net

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

ELK GROVE, Calif., August 24, 2006 – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District received confirmation today that 15 dead birds, 14 in Sacramento County and 1 in Yolo County have tested positive for West Nile virus. This reaffirms West Nile virus activity in the District's service area. "We have approximately two months left in our mosquito season so we must continue to work together," David Brown District Manager said. "While we do not anticipate aerial spraying over the urban areas of Sacramento and Yolo Counties at this time, we will continue to protect public health and welfare by conducting localized treatments in and around areas where virus activity has been detected or when mosquito populations exceed treatment thresholds," Brown said.

Residents are strongly urged to protect themselves and their families by practicing 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. The elderly, immune-compromised and diabetics are most susceptible to illness caused by WNV.

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **104** dead birds, **80** mosquito pools, **10** sentinel chicken flocks (presence of antibodies), **1** equine and **23** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

The District is at LEVEL 5 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

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

###