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### **MOSQUITO CONTROL HIRES NEW LABORATORY DIRECTOR**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.**, September 26, 2006 - The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District announced today that it appointed Dr. Paula Macedo as the District's new Laboratory Director. Macedo will be responsible for improving surveillance techniques, developing innovative vector control methods and strategies and delivering timely and relevant arbovirus information that will help guide the District's control efforts.

Prior to joining the District, Macedo worked as a postdoctoral research associate at Montana State University (MSU) in the Land Resources and Environmental Sciences Department. At MSU, Macedo's research focused on the human health risks associated with the use of insecticides designed to reduce vector populations and the prevention of disease transmission of vector-borne diseases such as West Nile virus, Malaria, Dengue Fever, Leishmaniasis, Rift Valley Fever and the Plague. Macedo is well known for a recent publication she co-authored with Robert K.D. Peterson and Ryan S. Davis titled *A Human-Health Risk Assessment for West Nile virus and Insecticides Used in Mosquito Management* (see attachment). She received her master's and doctorate degree in Entomology from the University of Nebraska and has a specialization in veterinary parasitology from the Federal University of Vicosa. She also speaks Portuguese fluently.

To schedule an interview with Dr. Macedo, please contact Jennifer Benito at 916.405.2082 or by e-mail at [jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net](mailto:jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net).

#### **7Ds**

**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 visiting us online at [FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://FIGHTtheBITE.net).

#### **West Nile virus**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (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.

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**West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties:** This year, **130** dead birds, **94** mosquito pools, **16** sentinel chicken flocks (presence of antibodies), **1** equine and **37** 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](http://westnile.ca.gov)**

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

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