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DEAD BIRD TEST POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS
--SYMVCD's ongoing surveillance program uncovers early warning sign

ELK GROVE, Calif., March 15, 2006 – Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD) received confirmation today that a dead bird found in Sacramento County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first confirmation of West Nile virus activity for 2006. "It is critical that residents of Sacramento and Yolo Counties heed this early warning sign," David Brown, District Manager said. "We are increasing our efforts across the board, from educating the public to larviciding. But what we truly need is public support and participation. One water-filled bucket in someone's backyard can literally produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week. People can start by draining all sources of standing water that may support mosquito breeding habitats, adding mosquitofish to small ponds and bird baths, and reporting stagnant swimming pools to the District. We need to work together as a community to reduce mosquito populations in our area," Brown said.

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 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 and the immune-compromised are most susceptible to the illness caused by WNV.

West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **1** bird, **0** sentinel chickens, **0** equines, **0** mosquito pools or **0** humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

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

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