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MOSQUITO CONTROL ANNOUNCES FIGHT THE BITE POSTER CONTEST
--SYMVCD continues to educate and inform the public about mosquitoes and West Nile virus

ELK GROVE, Calif., March 10, 2006 - In an effort to continually educate and inform our community of the imminent threat of mosquitoes and West Nile virus, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (SYMVCD) hosts the "FIGHT the BITE Poster Contest" for Sacramento-Yolo County youths, grades 4-12. Any and all students in the two counties are encouraged to express their creativity in posters that promote the theme "FIGHT the BITE and inspire the community to drain any and all standing water that may produce mosquitoes, to wear an effective mosquito repellent and to avoid being outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn and dusk.

Students will be segmented by county and placed into one of two grade categories: 4th-8th grade or 9th-12th grades for each county. The winners will be announced at the Second Annual Mosquito and West Nile Virus Prevention Day on Saturday, April 29, 2006 at the SYMVCD main location: 8631 Bond Road | Elk Grove. Winners will receive cash prizes that will be presented to them at the District's Mosquito and West Nile Virus Prevention Day: 1st place will receive \$150, 2nd place \$75 and 3rd place \$50. The winning entries will also appear on the FIGHTtheBITE.net Web site. Through the students' involvement and creativity, the District hopes to further their knowledge of the threat of mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

Entries must be received by 3:30pm on Wednesday, April 19, 2006. Posters may be mailed or hand delivered to one of the following locations:

Fight the Bite Poster Contest

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District
8631 Bond Road
Elk Grove, CA 95624

OR

Fight the Bite Poster Contest

Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District
1234 Fortna Avenue
Woodland, CA 95695

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.

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West Nile virus activity for Sacramento and Yolo Counties: This year, **no** birds, sentinel chickens, equines, mosquito pools or 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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