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MOSQUITO CONTROL TECHNICIANS ARE AT IT AGAIN!

--This 4th of July, Technicians Will Go Door-to-Door to Distribute West Nile Virus Info

ELK GROVE, Calif., July 3, 2006 – In an effort to further educate and inform the public about mosquitoes and West Nile virus (WNV), state-certified vector control technicians from the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District will hit the pavement this 4th of July holiday to distribute educational material to residents. The material provides information about mosquitoes including what to look for, how to protect yourself, and who to call for mosquito control issues.

"Warm summer evenings will lure thousands of local residents to parks, playgrounds and local picnic areas this upcoming fourth of July holiday," District Manager, David Brown said. "We can't stress this enough, if you plan to be outside when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn and dusk, make sure you wear an effective insect repellent. You cannot get West Nile virus if you don't get bitten by an infected mosquito. Also, if you open your windows to allow the cool delta breezes in while you sleep, make sure the screens on your doors and windows are in good working condition. This will prevent mosquitoes from entering your home."

For photo opportunity please contact Jennifer Benito at 916.405.2082 or by e-mail at jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net.

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.

2006 West Nile virus activity update for Sacramento and Yolo Counties

Level II - This year, 3 birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 equines, **2 mosquito pools** and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

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

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

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