

# MEDIA ALERT

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**October 3, 2007**

**MAILING ADDRESS**

**SACRAMENTO COUNTY**

8631 BOND ROAD  
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**YOLO COUNTY**

1234 FORTNA AVENUE  
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022  
FIGHTtheBITE.net

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**MOSQUITO CONTROL DISTRICT CONTINUES COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**  
**--Education and Awareness Is Still a Priority**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** – As part of Walk to School Week, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District has partnered with the Elk Grove Unified School District to host a West Nile Prevention Day at John Ehrhardt Elementary School on Thursday, October 4 from 7:15 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. During this event, students will learn how they can avoid contracting the West Nile Virus. Ehrhardt students will wear white – a color that helps repel mosquitoes – and a mosquito mascot will attend the event. “Although the weather is cooling down and the heavy mosquito season is coming to an end, engaging the public and promoting our awareness messages, especially among children is very important,” said District Manager David Brown.

Jane Alchorn, a West Nile virus survivor will also be at the event to talk to kids and parents about her experience living with the disease. In an effort to continue educating and informing the community about mosquitoes and West Nile Virus, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector District works closely with schools and teachers throughout the year. A curriculum is available addressing topics that inspire students to learn more about mosquitoes, the diseases they transmit and what they can do to prevent them.

During the month of October the District will be involved in various community events including the annual Harvest Festival in Elk Grove, the Salmon Festival in Rancho Cordova and will sponsor and participate in a Latino Health Summit. “Being visible in the community and reaching the public with our messages is key; together we can ensure a safe and healthy environment for all,” said Brown.

The District would like to remind the public that personnel is available to address any mosquito problems you may be experiencing including reports of abandoned pools in your neighborhood. Service requests can be submitted online at [www.FIGHTtheBITE.net](http://www.FIGHTtheBITE.net) or by calling 1.800.429.1022.

**District’s 7Ds of mosquito prevention:** **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 the District online at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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### **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.

To **report a dead bird or squirrel** call 1-877-WNV-BIRD (1-877-968-2473) or visit the California Department of Public Health 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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