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SAC-YOLO MOSQUITO CONTROL REMINDS THE PUBLIC TO DRAIN AFTER THE RAIN
--Late winter rains and persistent warm weather will produce mosquitoes

ELK GROVE, Calif., February 15, 2007 – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District reminds the public, "After the rain, remember to drain." Household water management is critical this time of the year, as late rains followed by warm temperatures create ideal breeding grounds for mosquitoes. "Be sure to empty objects around the house that may collect water such as buckets, tires or flower pots at least once a week to avoid developing mosquitoes around your home," District Manager, David Brown said. "One bucket of water can produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week, so draining these containers will go a long way at reducing mosquito populations." For those who plan to be outdoors when mosquitoes are most active, specifically at dawn or dusk, remember to apply an effective insect repellent.

The public is strongly urged to practice the 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 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 visiting 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.

2007 West Nile virus activity update

Level 1 - This year, 0 birds, 0 sentinel chickens, 0 horses, 0 mosquito samples and 0 humans have tested positive for West Nile virus to date.

2006 West Nile virus activity

Sacramento County: 15 humans, 1 horse, 89 dead birds, 34 mosquito samples and 13 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

Yolo County: 27 humans, 0 horses, 54 dead birds, 64 mosquito samples and 26 sentinel chickens tested positive for West Nile virus in 2006

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To sign up for the District's spray notification via e-mail log onto <http://www.fightthebite.net/ulv-signup.php>

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