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**SAC-YOLO MOSQUITO CONTROL IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN - AND WOMEN  
--Volunteers Are Needed Immediately For Mosquito Awareness Week!**

**ELK GROVE, Calif., March 8, 2007** — The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District is seeking volunteers for its second annual Volunteer Day. Volunteers are asked to help continue to raise public awareness this season by distributing educational material about mosquito prevention and West Nile virus during Mosquito Awareness Week. "We need to continue to work together this upcoming mosquito season," District Manager, David Brown said. "Volunteer day is a great way to do just that and I hope that many will participate." As West Nile virus becomes endemic to our area we must continue to reduce mosquito populations by dumping or draining standing water around the house which can serve as potential mosquito breeding sources, wearing insect repellent and calling the Sac-Yolo Mosquito Control for a free property inspection or mosquitofish delivery. Volunteer day is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25. For additional information or to sign-up please contact the District's Outreach Coordinator, Lanaya Black at 916.405.2051 or by e-mail at [lblack@fightthebite.net](mailto:lblack@fightthebite.net).

For **media inquires**, please contact Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer at 916.405.2082 or by e-mail at [jbenito@FIGHTtheBITE.net](mailto:jbenito@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: 16 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

**To sign-up** for the District's urban spray notification via e-mail log onto [FIGHTtheBITE.net/signup](http://FIGHTtheBITE.net/signup)

**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](http://westnile.ca.gov)

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