

Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer
Direct: 916.405.2082 | Cell: 916.416.6337 | Fax: 916.685.5464
E-mail: jbenito@fightthebite.net
Web site: FIGHTtheBITE.net

**SAC-YOLO MOSQUITO CONTROL ANNOUNCES FIRST-EVER ECOLOGICAL MOSQUITO
MANAGEMENT AWARD**

--New Program Recognizes Innovative Ways to Reduce Mosquito Populations

ELK GROVE, Calif., March 23, 2007 — The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District announced a new award program today designed to recognize individuals and/or organizations in Sacramento and Yolo counties for successfully reducing mosquito production on their property through the use of non-pesticide mosquito management practices. The District will bestow three prestigious awards, one for each of the following categories: agriculture, urban and conservation. To be considered, candidates must complete and submit the attached nomination form. Completed applications should be sent to the District via fax at 916-685-5464, mail c/o Ecological Mosquito Management Award, 8631 Bond Road, Elk Grove, California 95624 or by e-mail at EcoMan@FIGHTtheBITE.net. Nomination forms can also be obtained online at FIGHTtheBITE.net or by calling the District at 1-800-429-1022. Applications are due Friday, April 20, 2007. Postmarked applications will not be accepted after the deadline. All applications will be reviewed by District staff and the winners will be selected by the District's Board of Trustees. The award will be presented at the District's third annual open house currently scheduled for June 23, 2007.

For **media inquires**, please contact Jennifer Benito, Public Information Officer at 916.405.2082 or by e-mail at 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

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.