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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FIGHT THE BITE CONTEST HELPS AREA SCHOOLS

Children will learn about mosquito prevention and may bring money into the classroom

Elk Grove, Calif.— The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District's annual Fight the Bite Design a Calendar page contest for local students in grades K-12 is going on now! In an effort to inform the community about mosquitoes and West Nile virus prevention, the contest encourages kids to creatively design a calendar page inspiring everyone to practice any or all of the District 7 D's of Mosquito Prevention. "Involving the students is key to improving their knowledge about reducing mosquitoes and keeping them safe from West Nile virus," said David Brown, District Manager. "It's a fun way for kids to learn about an important topic and we encourage everyone to enter."

Since many area schools are struggling with budget cuts, this year, aside from prizes for individual winners, a cash prize will also be awarded to the classrooms of the winning students. There will be three first place classroom prizes of \$450.00 each, to be used on educational supplies! Fliers have been distributed through the schools and teachers are encouraged to make the contest a classroom project to get more children to participate.

Students will be divided into three grade categories: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12. Calendar pages will be based on the following criteria: creativity, originality and the ability to effectively communicate one or more of the District D's of prevention. Winners will be determined by a panel of judges and announced during Mosquito Awareness Week in April. Winning entries will be made into a calendar and distributed at District activities.

Contest entries are due to District offices by 3:00 pm on Wednesday, March 31st. Visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net to download a form and see complete contest details.

*****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY*****

WHEN: Thursday, March 11, 2010 at 9:15 a.m.
WHERE: Isador Cohen Elementary, 9025 Salmon Falls Dr. Sacramento,
WHAT: Children listening to a presentation and participating in the contest

Practice the District D's of Mosquito Prevention:

DRAIN standing water that may produce mosquitoes.

DAWN and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors.

DRESS appropriately be wearing long sleeves and pants when outside.

DEFEND yourself by using an effective insect repellent. Make sure to follow label directions!

DOOR and window screens should be in good working condition.

DISTRICT personnel are also available to address any mosquito problems. Call them at 1-800-429-1022 or visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net