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MAILING ADDRESS

SACRAMENTO COUNTY
8631 BOND ROAD
ELK GROVE, CA 95624

YOLO COUNTY

1234 FORTNA AVENUE
WOODLAND, CA 95695

1.800.429.1022
FIGHTtheBITE.net

SAC-YOLO MOSQUITO CONTROL ANNOUNCES FIGHT THE BITE COMIC STRIP CONTEST --SYMVCD Continues to Educate the Public about Mosquitoes and West Nile Virus

ELK GROVE, Calif., April 26, 2007 — In an effort to educate and inform our community about mosquitoes and West Nile virus, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) will host a FIGHT the BITE Comic Strip Contest for Sacramento and Yolo county students in grades K-12. Students are encouraged to express their creativity in the form of a comic strip that promotes the FIGHT the BITE theme and inspires our community to practice the District's 7Ds of mosquito control and prevention. Through the students' involvement in the contest, the District hopes to further their knowledge of mosquitoes and West Nile virus.

Students will be divided into the following three categories: K-3, 4-8 and 9-12 grades. Winners will be announced at the Third Annual Mosquito and West Nile Virus Prevention Day on Saturday, June 23 at the District's headquarters located at 8631 Bond Road in Elk Grove. Winners will receive cash prizes in the following amount: 1st place will receive \$150, 2nd place \$75, and third place \$50. The winning entries will also appear on the District's Web site at FIGHTtheBITE.net.

Entries must be received by 3:00 pm on Thursday, May 31, 2007. Entries may be mailed or hand-delivered to the following: FIGHT the BITE Comic Strip Contest, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District, 8631 Bond Road, Elk Grove, California 95624. Official entry forms are available online at FIGHTtheBITE.net, or request to have one mailed to you by calling the District at 1.800.429.1022.

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

For **media inquires**, please contact Jennifer Benito at 916.405.2082 or e-mail at jbenito@fightthebite.net.

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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

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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.

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