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FIGHTtheBITE.net

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**May 22, 2009**

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**MOSQUITOES BREED IN CEMETERY VASES**  
**--Vases Are Treated With Water Crystals and the Public is Urged Not to Dump Them Out**

**ELK GROVE, Calif.** May 22, 2009--- This Memorial Day weekend, many will visit local cemeteries to honor veterans and loved ones that have passed. Since mosquitoes can breed in the stagnant water collected in cemetery vases, Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District officials have been working with local cemeteries to fill the vases with water crystals that turn the water into a gel preventing mosquitoes from laying their eggs and keeping the flowers fresh. "We're asking for cooperation from the public," said David Brown, District Manager "Please don't dump out the crystals because they are there to protect you against mosquitoes and West Nile virus. Keeping the water crystals in the vases will go a long way in reducing mosquitoes" said Brown.

Over the last year the District has been working closely with 30 cemeteries in both Sacramento and Yolo County to treat vases with the water crystals and ensure vases that get dumped out are refilled promptly. For vases needing new water crystals, cemetery offices have additional packets of the material and the public can request them to use with their flowers.

The cemetery vase program plays an important role in keeping the public safe from mosquitoes and diseases such as West Nile virus (WNV). While no West Nile virus activity has been detected in our area thus far, the public needs to remain vigilant.

This week, neighboring San Joaquin County reported its first positive bird and throughout the state, WNV activity has been detected in the counties of Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Fresno, Los Angeles, Orange and San Diego. Last year, California had 445 human infections reported and 15 deaths related to West Nile virus.

**Follow the District D's of Mosquito Prevention:**

**DRAIN** all standing water around your home  
**DAWN** and **DUSK** are times to avoid being outdoors.  
**DRESS** appropriately by wearing long sleeves and pants when outside.  
**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.  
**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

DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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