

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MOSQUITOES BREEDING IN CEMETERY VASES **--Mosquito Control Reminds the Public Not To Dump Out the Crystals**

ELK GROVE, Calif. May 23, 2008--- This Memorial Day many will remember and honor loved ones by visiting the cemetery. Recently, the District discovered that mosquitoes were breeding in the stagnant water that collects inside flower vases from sprinklers and other water sources at the cemeteries. As a way to prevent mosquitoes, vector control officials began a cemetery vase program consisting of adding water crystals to cemetery vases. The crystals soak up the water and turn it into gel, preventing mosquitoes from laying their eggs and at the same time, keeping the flowers fresh. "You'd never consider mosquitoes would grow in cemetery vases, but they do" said District Manager David Brown. "And now that the vases have been treated with the crystals we're asking for the public's help in making sure they are not dumped out." The polymer crystals are non toxic and environmentally safe. In fact, many florists are using them to prolong the freshness of the flowers. "We hope get the cooperation from the public in making sure mosquitoes aren't breeding in the cemetery vases" added Brown.

Over the last few months, the District has been working closely with 30 cemeteries in both Sacramento and Yolo County to treat vases. This spring, approximately 40,462 vases have been treated with the water crystals. The District is working closely with cemeteries to ensure vases that get dumped out are refilled promptly. "Visitors to the cemeteries can help by preserving the gel they find in the vases when they bring new flowers" said Brown. For vases needing new water crystals, cemetery offices have additional packets of the material and mourners can request them to use with their flowers.

The cemetery vase program taking place in our area plays an important role in keeping the public safe from mosquitoes and diseases such as West Nile virus. To learn more about this innovative program and other District services, visit one of the educational community forums sponsored by the District. Upcoming forums will take place in Elk Grove, Sacramento, Folsom and Rancho Cordova. For dates and locations visit www.FIGHTtheBITE.net

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.

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DAVID BROWN, MANAGER

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