

MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DEAD BIRD TESTS POSITIVE FOR WEST NILE VIRUS
--Mosquito Control's Ongoing Surveillance Program Uncovers A Warning Sign

ELK GROVE, Calif., – The Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District (District) received confirmation today that an American Crow found in Sacramento County has tested positive for West Nile virus (WNV). This is the first confirmation of West Nile virus activity in the District's service area for 2007. "It is important that residents of Sacramento and Yolo counties heed this warning sign," David Brown, District Manager said. "We are increasing our efforts across the board, from educating the public to treating mosquito breeding sources. But what we truly need is public support and participation. One water-filled bucket in someone's backyard can literally produce over 1,000 mosquitoes a week. People can start by draining all sources of standing water that may support mosquito breeding habitats, adding mosquitofish to small ponds and bird baths, and reporting stagnant swimming pools to the District. We need to continue to work together as a community to reduce the mosquito population in our area," Brown said.

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 2 - This year, **1 bird**, 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 **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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